

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF STEREOTYPING AND PREJUDICE
TUESDAYS 10.40-11.30, THURSDAYS 10.40-12.35, PSYCH 130

Instructor: Dr. Kate A. Ratliff **Office:** Psych 222 **Contact:** ratliff@ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the social psychology of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. In other words, we will examine beliefs about members of social groups (stereotypes), evaluations of group members (prejudice), and behaviors toward members of social groups based on their group membership (discrimination). Also, we will study how these issues shape the experiences of social group members, especially when they are members of low-status and/or minority groups. Rather than relying on anecdotal evidence or cultural or lay beliefs to address these issues, we will examine theories of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination through empirical research findings.

COURSE GOALS

1. Students will develop an in-depth and integrative understanding of how approaching stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination from a social-psychological perspective improves our understanding of intergroup relations and human behavior.
2. The course will highlight the value of thinking about politically sensitive issues from a scientific perspective. The purpose of this class is to engage thinking about stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination, not to proselytize others to a particular worldview.
3. This course will help students identify and understand how psychological processes affect human behavior between members of different groups in the real world. In other words, the application of findings and theories should help students “make sense” of why people do the things they do. These insights should help students better understand the events they see in the news, with their friends, in their families, and within their communities.

COURSE MATERIALS

Whitley & Kite (2010). The psychology of prejudice and discrimination, 2nd Edition.

LET'S TALK

I am happy to answer your questions. You may stop by my office any time the door is open. You may also send me an email. Please allow at least 24 hours for a response to your email. Include “SOP 4704” in the subject line. If you email me a question that requires an elaborate answer, don't be surprised if I ask you to come to my office or to give me a call. Please check the syllabus before emailing with questions about course policy.

COURSE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Because much of the work for the class will take place during in-class discussions, you are strongly encouraged to attend class. The material that we cover in class will not be redundant with what is in the course readings, and will be on the exams. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes and other information that you missed from a classmate – I will not provide them to you. To encourage regular attendance, I will add one point (out of 200) to your final grade if you miss two or fewer class meetings.

Meaningful, in-depth discussion is critical to this seminar and students are expected to be engaged and to participate fully. Please keep in mind that sensitivity is important. Science tolerates and critically evaluates all points of view when they are advanced with sensitivity for those who do not share them. Do not assume that your classmates share your religion, political beliefs, cultural backgrounds, economic, ethnic, or sexual orientations. If you don't want to be exposed to ideas that challenge your beliefs, this is not the class for you.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

First-Half (25% of final grade) and Second-Half (25% of final grade) Exams

There will be two exams. The first-half exam will be held in class on October 15th and the second-half exam will be held on December 3rd. Each exam will be comprised of multiple-choice and short-answer questions based on assigned readings, and class lectures, films, and discussions. Makeup exams will be offered only in case of extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical emergency, death in the family) at the instructor's discretion. If you have an unexpected emergency and miss an exam, you must contact me within 24 hours of the original exam time and provide written documentation that explains your absence.

Paper 1 (20% of final grade) and Paper 2 (20% of final grade)

You will write two papers during the semester (due September 22nd and October 29th). Your papers should be approximately three pages in length and will require you to analyze real-world situations involving prejudice and stereotyping. Papers are due at the beginning of class and you will receive one extra point on your paper if you are willing to share your topic with your classmates. Papers submitted late will be penalized by 25% on the first day and 10% each day thereafter. I will not accept electronic copies of papers sent via email, only hard copies. Plan accordingly by working on your papers ahead of time. More information will be provided in class and on the course website before the due date.

Occasional Assignments (10% of your final grade)

I will often assign (relatively) low-effort assignments to be completed outside of class (e.g., take a survey, find a news article) and turned in at the next class meeting. These cannot be submitted by email and may not be made up if you miss class on the day that they are due or if you don't know about them because you were absent on the day they were announced.

COURSE GRADES

Your final course grade will reflect how many total points (out of 200) you accumulate on the First-half Exam (50 points), Second-Half Exam (50 points), Paper 1 (40 points), Paper 2 (40 points), and occasional assignments (20 points).

A	186 or above	C	146-153
A-	180-185	C-	140-145
B+	174-179	D+	134-139
B	166-173	D	126-133
B-	160-165	D-	120-125
C+	154-159	F	119 or below

Please note: the grade book on the course website may present your grade to you as a percentage, but that percentage is not relevant for this course. We are using a points system. These point cutoffs are real and non-negotiable. If you want an A, get enough points for an A; I will not give you extra points or round your grade simply because you want me to. Also, I do not give extra credit so please do not ask. Do keep in mind, however, that you can earn one extra point on your final grade by attending class regularly and you can earn one extra point on each paper by being willing to discuss your paper in class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

CHEATING AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: *I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.*

COMPUTER POLICY

Empirical evidence suggests that laptops in the classroom are a detriment to student success (Fried, 2008). I encourage you to put your devices aside during class and to take notes by hand. If you choose to ignore this advice, know that taking notes is the only allowed use for your laptop during class. Checking email and browsing the Internet are not acceptable.

STEREOTYPING AND PREJUDICE COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note that this schedule is tentative and subject to change. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class and through the Canvas system. The most up-to-date schedule will always be available to you on the course Canvas website.

Date	Topic	Reading
August 25 (T)	Introduction to the Course	--
August 27 (TH)	Definitions and Background	Chapter 1
September 1 (T)	Definitions and Background	Chapter 1
September 3 (TH)	Definitions and Background	Chapter 1
September 8 (T)	Methodology	Chapter 2
September 10 (TH)	Categorization/Stereotyping	Chapter 3/Chapter 4
September 15 (T)	Categorization/Stereotyping	Chapter 3/Chapter 4
September 17 (TH)	Categorization/Stereotyping	Chapter 3/Chapter 4
September 22 (T)	Paper 1 Due	--
September 24 (TH)	No Class	--
September 29 (T)	Stereotyping and the Media	Ray (2014)
October 1 (TH)	Stereotyping and the Media	Ray (2014)
October 6 (T)	Forms of Prejudice	Chapter 6
October 8 (TH)	Forms of Prejudice	Chapter 6
October 13 (T)	"Spillover Day"; Exam Review	--
October 15 (TH)	First-Half Exam	--
October 20 (T)	Exam Debrief; Hate Crimes/Hate Groups	--
October 22 (TH)	Hate Crimes/Hate Groups	--
October 27 (T)	Hate Crimes/Hate Groups	--
October 29 (TH)	Gender Stereotyping and Prejudice	Glick & Fiske (2001)
November 3 (T)	Gender Stereotyping and Prejudice	Glick & Fiske (2001)
November 5 (TH)	Gender Stereotyping and Prejudice	Glick & Fiske (2001)
November 10 (T)	Paper 2 Due	--
November 12 (TH)	The Experience of Discrimination	Chapter 11
November 17 (T)	Reducing Prejudice and Discrimination	Chapter 14; Harris (2014)
November 19 (TH)	Reducing Prejudice and Discrimination	Chapter 14; Harris (2014)
November 24 (T)	No Classes (Thanksgiving)	--
November 26 (TH)	No Classes (Thanksgiving)	--
December 1 (T)	"Spillover Day"; Exam Review	--
December 3 (TH)	Second-Half Exam	--