

PSYC 375: Prejudice & Conflict
MTWTH 1010am – 1205pm
Livingston Classroom Building (LCB) 110
Summer 2013

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1-2pm OR by appointment.

Description

This course is designed to provide an overview of the psychological bases of prejudice and conflict. Although we will primarily adopt a psychological approach to these phenomena, the material is inherently interdisciplinary and thus draws on a number of related fields such as political science, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, and history.

Structure

This course will be structured around: reading assignments, lectures and discussions, movies, and a final paper. You are expected to read all of the assigned material by the end of the week. The success of this course depends on your participation and preparedness for class.

Please take responsibility for your performance.

Reading Assignments: There are two assigned texts for this course (see below). In addition to these texts you will also be assigned journal articles to read each week. All materials will be posted in the Resources section of Sakai.

Lectures: The lectures will blend discussion and material that gives a solid foundation of that topic area. You are strongly encouraged to participate and comment during class.

Movies & Group Discussion: Periodically we will set aside a meeting to watch a movie which provides a different medium for observing the topics discussed in lectures and in the readings. The following meeting will be set aside for group-based discussions of this movie and how the course material applies and/or explains the examples of prejudice and conflict portrayed.

Weekly Question: Each week a question drawing on the readings will be assigned. The response to this question is due at the start of Monday's meeting the next week. Responses should be 3-5 pages (meaning: no shorter than 3 pages and no longer than 5) double-spaced and written in APA format. Responses to the assigned questions may be printed out and handed in at the start of Monday's meeting OR they may be uploaded to your dropbox on the course's Sakai site.

Texts

Berreby, D. (2008). *Us and Them: The Science of Identity*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Haidt, J. (2012). *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion*. New York, NY: Pantheon.

Assigned Articles (available on Sakai).

Final Paper & Presentation

You are expected to write a 10-15 page paper (APA Format, minimum of 10 references) at the end of this course. Broadly, the paper should apply one or more of the psychological theories covered in the course to an instance or example of prejudice and/or intergroup conflict. This can be an ongoing or a historical event. You are also expected to give a 15 minute powerpoint presentation on your paper. The final week of the course is set aside for paper presentations. **Your final paper is due at the end of class on 7/3. THIS MEANS IT IS DUE NO LATER THAN 12:05 PM. No late submissions will be accepted.**

Attendance

Attendance and class participation are important for a class of this nature. Attendance will be taken via a sign-in sheet passed around at the start of class.

It will be graded as follows: in total we have 22 meetings. If you attend 19 or more of these meetings you will receive the full attendance grade. In other words you have **3 absences** before they start impacting your grade. If you miss more than 3 meetings your attendance grade will simply be the number of times you attended divided by the total number of meetings. For example, if George misses 5 class meetings his attendance grade is: $17/22 = 77\%$.

Grade Breakdown

Attendance – 5%

Group Discussion – 10%

Final Presentation – 20%

Weekly Questions – 25%

Final Paper – 40%

Week 1:

5/28 – Course outline & introduction; History of the psychology of prejudice

5/29 – Psychological bases of prejudice I

5/30 – Psychological bases of prejudice II

Readings:

Berreby, Chapters 1-5.

Additional Readings:

Jordan, C.H., & Zanna, M.P. (1999). How to read a social psychology article. In: R.F. Baumeister (Ed.), *The Self in Social Psychology*. Philadelphia, PA: Psychology Press.

Allport, G.W. (1954). The normality of prejudgment. In: G.W. Allport, *The Nature of Prejudice*. Garden City, N.Y: Doubleday Anchor Books.

Duckitt, J. (1992). Psychology and prejudice: A historical analysis and integrative framework. *American Psychologist*, 47, 1182-1193.

Week 2:

6/3 – Realistic Conflict Theory (Sherif); Social Identity Theory (Tajfel)

6/4 – Self Categorization Theory (Turner); Integrative Threat Theory (Stephan)

6/5 – Symbolic Politics (Sears)

6/6 – *Movie: Crash*

Readings:

Berreby, Chapters 6-9.

Additional Readings:

Brewer, M. (1999). The psychology of prejudice: Ingroup love or outgroup hate? *Journal of Social Issues*, 55, 429-444.

Fox, R. (1992). Prejudice and the unfinished mind: A new look at an old failing. *Psychological Inquiry*, 3, 137-152.

Week 3:

6/10 – *Group Discussion: Crash*

6/11 – Authoritarianism; Social Dominance Theory; Collective Security and Social Conformity Models of Authoritarianism

6/12 – System Justification & Motivated Social Cognition; Terror Management Theory

6/13 – *Movie: American History X*

Readings:

Berreby, Chapters 10-15.

Haidt, Chapters 1-4.

Additional Readings:

Haidt, J., & Graham, J. (2009). Planet of the Durkheimians, where community, authority, and sacredness are foundations of morality.

Week 4:

6/17 – *Group Discussion: American History X*

6/18 – Moral Cognition & Social Intuitionism

6/19 – Moral Foundations Theory

6/20 – *Movie: The Believer*

Readings:

Haidt, Chapters 5-8.

Additional Readings:

Graham, J. & Haidt, J. (2010). Beyond Beliefs: Religion Binds Individuals into Moral Communities. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 14, 140-150.

Uhlmann, E.L., Pizarro, D.A., Tannenbaum, D., & Ditto, P.H. (2009). The motivated use of moral principles. *Judgment and Decision Making*, 4, 476-491.

Week 5:

6/24 – *Group Discussion: The Believer*

6/25 – Racism

6/26 – Sexism & Homosexuality

6/27 – Institutional Discrimination

Readings:

Haidt, Chapters 9-12.

Additional Readings:

Henrich, J., Heine, S.J., & Norenzayan, A. (2010). The weirdest people in the world? *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 33, 1-23.

Week 6: Presentations

7/1 – Paper Presentations

7/2 – Paper Presentations

7/3 – Paper Presentations

*****FINAL PAPERS DUE AT THE END OF CLASS ON 7/3*****