PSYC 375: Prejudice & Conflict
MTWTH 1005 – 1155am
Livingston Classroom Building (LCB) 110
Summer 2012

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

Description
This course is designed to provide a basic overview of the psychological bases of prejudice and conflict. You will learn about present and historical conflicts and what psychological underpinnings may have fueled them. There will be an emphasis on evolutionary theories that help us understand the reasons why humans are driven to discriminate. Each week will cover a different major topic in the area of prejudice.

Structure
This course will be structured around: readings assignments, lectures and discussions, weekly 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: You will be assigned 5-6 articles to read each week. Please have the readings completed by the end of the week as you will be expected to submit a summary of each article (more detail below). All materials will be posted in the Resources section of Sakai.

Lectures and Discussions: 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. Additionally, there will be in class activities that enhance your understanding of that day’s topic.

Weekly Movies: I have selected a movie for each week that demonstrates the topics covered. You are encouraged think critically about the topics discussed in class and the movie.

Summaries
A written summary of all the readings is due each week on Sunday at 5pm. They should simply summarize the reading in no more than a page. Focus on the important points and demonstrate that you read the article. Summaries will be graded on a four point scale: 0 = No summary turned in; 1 = Partial summary turned in; 2 = Complete summary turned in; 3 = Exceptional summary.

The summaries are not reaction papers so please do not comment on whether you liked the article, that it was too long, etc. The one exception to this requirement is if you simply did not understand the article. In this situation however, you will still need to submit a summary that describes the aspects of the article that you did not understand. In other words your summary cannot simply say “I didn’t get it” (or anything along those lines), if it does it will be marked as a 0. All summaries should be submitted through the course Sakai site. Submissions via email will only be accepted under specific circumstances. No late submissions are allowed.
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 intergroup conflict. This conflict can be ongoing or a historical event. You are also expected to give a 15 minute presentation in class 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 8/15. 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 23 meetings. If you attend 20 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: $18/23 = 78\%$.

Grade Breakdown

- Summaries – 20%
- Attendance/Class Participation – 10%
- Paper Presentation – 35%
- Final Paper – 35%
**Week 1: Introduction & Psychology of Genocide**

**Readings:**


*American Psychologist, 47*, 1182-1193.


Stanton, G.H. (2002). What is genocide?


**Course Overview:**

7/9 – Course Outline & Introduction

7/10 – Genocide I

7/11 – Genocide II

7/12 – Movie: Hotel Rwanda
Week 2: Psychological Bases of Prejudice

Readings:


Course Overview:

7/16 – History of the Psychology of Prejudice
7/17 – Categorization and Stereotypes
7/18 – Stereotypes and Social Perception
7/19 – Movie: Crash
Week 3: Politics & Religion

Readings:


Course Overview:

7/23 – Psychological Foundations of Political Ideology

7/24 – Ideology and Social Perception

7/25 – Morality, Politics, and Religion

7/26 – Movie: The Believer
**Week 4: Racism**

*Readings:*


7/30 – Historical Overview; Types of Racism

7/31 – Implicit Racism

8/1 – Institutional Racism

8/2 – Movie: American History X
Week 5: Sexism & Other –Isms (Ageism, Sizeism)

Readings:


Course Overview:

8/6 – Sexism

8/7 – Homosexuality

8/8 – Ageism & Sizeism

8/9 – Movie: Shallow Hal

Week 6: Presentations

8/13 – Paper Presentations

8/14 – Paper Presentations

8/15 – Paper Presentations

***FINAL PAPERS DUE AT THE END OF CLASS ON 8/15***