

## ***Prejudice and Conflict -- Psych 375***

Your Host: Rob Foels, Ph.D.

His Office: 313 Tillett

His e-mail: rob.foels@rutgers.edu

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Drop in office times:

see Announcements on Sakai

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### **Course Goals:**

- 1) To develop and improve critical thinking skills.
  - critical thinking is the dispassionate examination of factual evidence
- 2) To develop and improve writing and communication skills.
- 3) To acquire insight into multiple factors that influence negative thoughts, feelings, and behavior toward outgroups, and how those negative factors affect the targets of prejudice.

**Your Text:** Kite, M. E., & Whitley, B. E. Jr. (2016). *Psychology of Prejudice and Discrimination (3rd ed.)*. New York: Routledge.

**Your Work:** Your grade will be determined based on the points you earn from assignments and exams. Each of these will be discussed more fully during class. Average work earns you an average grade of C, only truly excellent work will earn an excellent grade of A.

Source	Count	% of Grade
Quizzes	5	10%
Papers	3	20%
Section Exams	3	55%
Final Exam	1	15%

Percentages may be adjusted to better capture student performance.

A = >92   B+ = 87-92   B = 82-87   C+ = 76-82   C = 70-76   D = 60-70   F = <60

### **Important Notes**

- 1) No late work is ever accepted. Ever.
- 2) If you miss class I will not spend time catching you up without a valid documented reason.
- 3) Class discussion is an integral part of this course. I expect true discourse, which means disagreement, but done in a respectful manner. Insulting language will not be tolerated.
- 4) You may be tested on anything you read, anything I say, or anything your classmates say.
- 5) Take notes on what you read. Highlighters are a complete waste of time. Throw them away.
- 6) If you cheat, which includes plagiarism, you will fail the course. Not the assignment, the course.
- 7) Electronic devices are forbidden. First offense is removal from that class, second offense you fail.
- 8) If you are not performing as well as you would like it is your responsibility to meet with me. Grades can still change dramatically up to mid-semester, but have less chance to change after the second exam. Do not put off a meeting in the hope that you can fix your grade yourself. I am here to help you learn.

**Academic Integrity:** Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles (Oxford English Dictionary, 2016). Any form of cheating, fabrication, or plagiarism violates university rules as well as expectations for human decency.

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students (Rutgers Policy 10.2.13). Even minor violations of the Academic Integrity policy allow me to fail you for the course. And I will. (See <http://policies.rutgers.edu/PDF/Section10/10.2.13-current.pdf> for specifics) Any instance of cheating or plagiarism will earn you an "F" for the course. It is that simple.

**Academic Accommodations:** If you require academic accommodations (e.g., additional testing time), you must file a request with the Office of Disability Services (Kreeger Learning Center 151 College Avenue, Suite 123, [disabilityservices.rutgers.edu](http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu)). It is your responsibility to self-identify with the Office of Disability Services and to provide me with the appropriate documentation from that office at least two weeks prior to any request for accommodations.

### Assignments and Exams

**Quizzes:** Very brief question given at the beginning of class. Be on time.

**Current Events Application Paper:** One page single spaced paper. Explain a current event through terminology and insight gained from the course. This will require important caveats:

- 1) any event that has been covered by the media in terms of prejudice is not allowed
- 2) any event that is obviously about prejudice is not allowed
- 3) you must use tangible examples of behavior as evidence
- 4) you must link behavior to theory

Form of the paper:

Paragraph 1 = Description of the event

Paragraph 2 = Description of the relevant psychology of prejudice

Paragraph 3 = Application of psychology to help reader understand the event through the lens of prejudice

**Exams:** The exams will cover material from assigned readings and class discussions. Exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. In these exams you must be able to apply what you have learned to issues and areas that we have not explicitly discussed in class. Exams will be given during class time. Students who miss a scheduled exam for reasons other than **severe** illness or **extreme** emergency will receive zero credit and have no opportunity to take the exam.

**Final Exam:** Cumulative and integrative across the semester. The final is designed to help you improve your grade by giving you an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge from all three sections of the course.

### Study habits that you should adopt

**Chapter Definitions:** Define, *in your own words*, the terms from each chapter. These definitions should be concise but complete and written to be understood by anyone (write them for your relatives). By putting a definition in your own words, you have processed it more deeply.

**Chapter Mapping:** Create an image of the material based on how *you* organize the chapter. Your map will be most effective if you develop your own categories rather than simply follow the book. Develop an image that you can use to envision the information for organization and recall.

**Section Mapping:** Create a map of all the chapters included in a section of the course. These maps should focus on links across chapters. Section maps that are simply an amalgam of chapter maps are not effective, you need to integrate the information across chapters.

### All Course Material is Copyrighted

As the instructor for this course, I own the copyright for all material that I create related to the course. This includes any handouts, templates, instructions, exams, or any other materials provided to you whether in written or electronic form. This also includes the syllabus. Posting any material from this course on any website, ANY website, is a violation of federal law. I repeat: posting any material from this course anywhere on the web is a violation of federal law. Photocopying or printing any material from this course to provide to another individual is a violation of federal law. I repeat: providing any material from this course to anyone, in any form, is a violation of federal law.