

## Course Information

- PSY342: Stereotypes, Prejudice, & Discrimination
- Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 11:30-12:20; 103 Erickson Hall
- Professor: Joseph Cesario
- Professor Office Hours: Mondays, 3:30-4:30, 255 Psychology
- Teaching Assistant: Eric Chantland
- TA Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00-12:00, 208 Psychology
- Email: psy342cesario@gmail.com
- Website: d2l.msu.edu

## Course Overview

- This course covers the intra- and inter-personal processes underlying stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. Emphasis is placed on understanding these processes in light of human evolution. Topics are organized around three broad questions: *What are groups and how do we understand group differences? Why do we care about groups and what are the consequences of doing so?* and *How and why do we store information about groups?*

## Course Objectives

- The primary objective is to learn the principles governing intergroup cognition, affect, and behavior.

## Lectures

- I will post lecture slides on D2L at the end of each lecture. I use lecture slides to highlight main points, present data, and illustrate difficult concepts. Most of the material presented in class will *not* appear on the lecture slides, so *you must pay attention and take notes during class*.
- Research on effective note-taking and electronic devices is somewhat limited; however, the existing data suggest that students learn more effectively when taking notes by hand rather than on a laptop.
- If you think it is likely that you will use your phone or laptop to do anything other than take notes, please sit toward the rear of the classroom. This will minimize the distraction to other students.

## Readings

- There is no required textbook. Original source material is posted on D2L. Required and optional readings will be listed each week on the d2l calendar.

## Evaluation

- Philosophy
  - You will be tested on how well you are able to master the material presented each lecture and apply principles to novel questions and situations.
- Weekly Tests
  - There are weekly 10-question tests covering the week's lecture material and readings plus, occasionally, material from prior weeks. Although the weekly tests will be open notes, *you must study prior to the test* because you will not have enough time to finish if you do not know the material well.
  - The tests are on D2L and will be open for you to take ***anytime Friday 5:00pm through Sunday 11:59pm*** each week. ***Once you open the test, you have 20 minutes to complete the test.*** You cannot return to the test at a later time in the weekend. You must complete the test alone and without having discussed test items with other students. Grades will be released after the open period has ended.
  - There will be a test every week (14 in total) beginning Jan. 17-19 and running through April 24-26. The only exception is the weekend at the end of Spring Break week (no quiz March 6-8).
- Final Exam
  - The final exam will be in 103 Erickson Hall and consist of multiple-choice questions, similar to those found in the weekly test. The final exam is **Thursday, April 30, 12:45 – 2:45.**
- Extra Credit: Human Participation in Research
  - You can earn extra credit in this course by participating in psychology research. You will receive 1 course point for every 30 minutes of research participation, with a maximum of 5 course points (2.5 hours) of extra credit added to your final grade. *You must see the documentation posted on D2L for instructions on research participation!* All research must be completed by Friday, April 24 at 5:00pm.
  - If you would like to complete an alternative assignment (5-page literature review) instead of research participation, you must inform me before February 1. After February 1 you will no longer have the option of doing the alternative assignment.
- Calculating Your Final Grade
  - The 14 weekly tests are worth 10 points each. Your top 12 test scores count toward your final grade; the lowest two test scores (*including any missed tests*) are dropped. The final exam is worth 80 points. The point total for the course is therefore 200 points.
  - Simply add your weekly test total + final exam total + any extra credit points and divide by 200 to get your percent for the course. 89.5% and above = 4.0, 84.5% - 89.4% = 3.5, 79.5% - 84.4% = 3.0, etc.
  - ***There will be no adjustments to your grade merely because you are close to the next grade.*** I will never, ever, *under any circumstance*, change your grade for any reason other than a calculation error, nor will I give you any special assignments so you can get a grade higher than the one you earned. Please do not ask.

## Accommodations

- Students who need accommodations during class or exams should see me immediately.
- Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](http://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or **two weeks prior to the accommodation date** (test, project, etc.). Requests received without sufficient lead time will not be honored.
- If you require testing accommodations (additional time, less disruptive room, etc.) you must contact me and **present your VISA at least two weeks before the exam date** to schedule an alternative exam. Typically, you will take the exam during a special exam session offered by the Psychology Department. Those exams occur in small group settings and are offered every Tuesday at 4:00pm and Thursday at 3:00pm in Giltner 346. If you are unable to make either of those times, or that option does not meet your VISA accommodations, you may be able to schedule to take your exam at the RCPD office. In either case, the exam must be scheduled well in advance, so you need to adhere to the two-week prior notification requirement.

## Make-Up Tests and Exams

- No makeup tests or exams will be given unless you have a valid, documented excuse. Any notes must explicitly state "This student was unable to take the test/exam on (dates) because \_\_\_\_\_." If you cannot get a note or if your excuse involves something that is private, you must get a note from the Dean. **You must notify me that you have a valid excuse by the end of the day of the test period/exam or you will not be allowed a makeup.**
- If you cannot take the test/exam because of a university-scheduled event, a religious holiday, or some other acceptable event that you could have foreseen, you must notify me **at least one week before the test/exam.** (See the homepage of the Ombudsperson's office for acceptable non-emergency absences.) If you do not notify me within this time frame, you will not be allowed to take the makeup.

## Academic Honesty

- The following is the academic honesty statement from the Office of the Ombudsperson; all students are required to adhere to this statement:
  - Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the Psychology department adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, *Protection of Scholarship and Grades*; the all-University Policy on *Integrity of Scholarship and Grades*; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See *Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide* and/or the MSU Web site: [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu).) Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments,

including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the [www.allmsu.com](http://www.allmsu.com) Web site to complete any course work in PSY 342.

Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including -- but not limited to -- a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <https://www.msu.edu/~ombud/academic-integrity/index.html>)

- If you break the academic honesty agreement in any way, ***you will receive a 0.0 for the course***. There are no exceptions.
- I encourage you to visit [honorcode.msu.edu](http://honorcode.msu.edu) to learn more about the Spartan Code of Honor:
  - “As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.”

## The Most Important Part of This Syllabus

- This course covers difficult, challenging, and controversial topics. The stance that all students are required to adopt for this course has two principles: (1) respect for each individual person and (2) free inquiry and intellectual integrity. In other words, personal attacks and demeaning attitudes or behaviors against any person are not allowed, and neither are attempts to curtail questions or critical thought.
- Criticism, exploration, and scrutiny ***of all topics and ideas*** are *requirements* for a free and open society as well as for meaningful intellectual development. In this classroom, such criticism will be undertaken with the *highest standards of intellectual integrity and respect for the person*. Free inquiry is not only the cornerstone of science and scholarship but is also the foundation for treating people with respect: To critically evaluate someone else's beliefs is a sign that you respect that person enough to take their claims seriously and treat them as an intellectual equal, rather than patronizing the person by shielding them from criticism.

## Calendar

- ***You must check d2l weekly for the current calendar!***
- Topics and readings for each week will be listed on the d2l calendar.
- The course follows three sections:
  - ***Section I: Why do we care about groups and what are the consequences of doing so?***
  - ***Section II: What are groups and how do we understand group differences?***
  - ***Section III: How, when, and why do we store and use information about groups?***
- The following are known dates when we will ***not*** have class:
  - Friday, Jan. 10: Conference
  - Monday, Jan. 20: MLK Holiday

- Friday, Feb. 28: Conference
- Monday, March 2 - Friday March 6: Spring Break
- Friday, April 3: Conference
- **FINAL EXAM: Thursday, April 30, 12:45 – 2:45; 103 Erickson Hall**