# Course Information

* PSY342: Stereotypes, Prejudice, & Discrimination
  + Tuesdays/Thursdays, 2:40-4:00
  + Brody Hall 112
* Professor: Joseph Cesario
* Office Hours
  + Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00
  + 255 Psychology Building
* 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:
  + *Why do we care about groups and what are the consequences of doing so?*
  + *How and why do we store information about groups?*
  + *How do we understand group outcome differences?*

# Course Objectives

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

# Lectures

* I will post lecture slides on D2L before 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, 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 laptop to do anything other than take notes, please sit toward the rear of the room. This will minimize distractions to other students.

# Readings

* There is no required textbook. Original source material is posted on D2L. Required and optional readings are on the d2l calendar.

# Evaluation

* Philosophy
  + You will be tested on how well you are able to master the material presented and apply principles to novel questions and situations.
* Grade Calculation
  + There are three section exams worth 50 points each, one final exam worth 100 points, and a variety of extra credit opportunities. Simply add your total points earned and divide by 250 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.
* Section Exams
  + There are three non-cumulative section exams. These are multiple-choice and will take place during the regular lecture times.
* Final Exam
  + The final exam is a cumulative exam, similar in form to the section exams. The final exam will be in Brody Hall 112 on **Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10:00am - 12:00pm**.
* Extra Credit Opportunities
  + *Perspectives (Constructive Dialogue Institute) Platform*
    - You can earn 5 extra credit points by completing the Perspectives online learning program.
    - Perspectives is a program that explores the inner workings of the mind and the psychological roots of ideological differences. The program will provide you with insights to help you better understand yourself and others, and it will equip you with skills to navigate challenging conversations more effectively.
    - The program contains 6 interactive lessons, each ~30 minutes. You must complete all six lessons before the end of October.
    - See the relevant section on d2l for login instructions.
  + *In-Person Attendance*
    - I will take attendance at random times throughout the semester. You will get one additional point for each attendance day.
  + *Final Extra-Credit Paper*
    - You can earn 15 points of extra credit by writing a 10-page research report on any topic of your choosing related to the presented course material. This will be a counter-argument paper to any finding or set of findings presented in the course. An important element of a general liberal arts education is developing the ability to grapple with hard questions of human life in a reasonable, empirical manner. Moreover, for any complex topic, it is unlikely that there is a single "answer" or that all data point in a single direction. So, you will write an essay in which you summarize data or writings that are **contrary** to the material presented in class, building a case against the course material. The essay must be empirical and analytic in nature; it is not a paper about your feelings or opinions on some topic, but instead the paper should marshal data and analysis to create a logical and reasonable argument. Thus, the extra credit paper meets the twin goals of (1) developing your ability to do empirical research and (2) sharpening your logical reasoning skills. The paper should be written in a professional manner using APA or MLA format.
  + *Extra Credit Assignments*
    - There will be additional writing assignments throughout the semester, as opportunities arise. Often these will be prompted by real-world events but will always be relevant to the material at hand. The purpose of these assignments is for you to demonstrate your ability to analyze real-world problems and apply the material you are learning in a logical manner.

# 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. 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.

# Make-Up Tests and Exams

* No makeup exams will be given unless you have a valid, documented excuse. Any notes must explicitly state “This student was unable to take the exam on (dates) because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” If you cannot get a note or if your excuse involves something that is private, you must get approval from the Dean. **You must notify me that you have a valid excuse by the end of exam day or you will not be allowed a makeup**.
* If you cannot take the exam because of a university-scheduled event or some other acceptable event that you could have foreseen, you must notify me **at least one week before the 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.) 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 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 learn more about the Spartan Code of Honor at https://asmsu.msu.edu/home/initiatives/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 belief 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****!*
* On the d2l calendar, required readings are listed for each week. *Optional* readings are also listed.
* The listed readings should not be thought of as the "final word" on a topic or even a summary of everything relevant to a given topic. Instead, the readings should be understood as starting points for your further exploration of these complex topics.
* No class dates:
  + Tuesday, October 22
    - *No Class, Fall Break*
  + Thursday, November 28
    - *No Class, Thanksgiving Break*