

PSY 310 Psychology/Sociology of Diverse Populations
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2014

Professor: Ms. Shannon Akin

Class Location: Online

Office Hours: TBA

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| COURSE INFORMATION |
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Course Description: The course is not going to be a typical cross-cultural psychology course in which we are going to compare and contrast, looking for universals and differences, in psychological functioning among various cultures. Instead, we will concentrate major theories in psychology and how they relate to diversity.

A main theme—diversity in psychological functioning—considers whether results from typical psychological studies are observed in more varied settings. Most studies in psychology are based on a limited range of world's people: predominantly young, middle-class, European-American, college students. But what will happen if the same studies are conducted with more diverse populations, such as people outside the USA, older adults, or people residing in rural areas in Texas?

The landscape covered will include topics: social psychological theory applicable to ethnic/racial relations, diversity in the workplace and educational settings, stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination.

We will be meeting online powerpoint lectures, journal articles, and mini-assignments each week. Frequently discussions threads will be posted on eCollege for discussion threads, posting course materials, posting lectures, assignment submissions, and administering exams.

**If this is your first time using eCollege, I encourage you to complete the student tutorials which are available online.

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| COURSE REQUIREMENTS |
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Grading:

1. Reaction Papers: Over the course of the semester all students are required to post online (in the discussion section for that week) TEN ½ page (single spaced) reaction papers. The papers are due Saturday by midnight for that week (see below for topics we are discussing). For example, if we discuss social identity theory the week of August 25th to August 30, you need to post your reaction by Saturday

August 30th at midnight. The purpose of the reaction paper is to apply the concepts in a given lecture/article to your own life (e.g., past experience, expectations, ideas of how the concepts can be applied in other areas of life, research ideas). There is no specific requirement for these papers except to show that you have thought about the concepts presented in lecture and article. You can write the paper about just the lecture, just the article, or both. Within each paper please write one multiple choice question on that topic. I highly recommend that you work ahead (e.g., post reactions a couple days in advance of when they are due) to avoid a last minute rush to post your reaction. Late reaction papers will be accepted, however points will be docked. Each paper is worth 10 points.

1A. One 1 page reaction papers will be due based on your reaction to a movie you will watch during this semester. This reaction paper may be turned in at any point during the semester but **MUST** be turned in by December 1, 2014 at midnight. Movies will be available to check out through the Psychology Department or may be viewed on NETFLIX or possibly YouTube. I am currently attempting to upload them into eCollege but have not received permission as of yet. You will be able to choose between several movies to watch related to social and/or cultural issues.

1B. This reaction paper is also due by December 1, 2014 and may be turned in at any point during the semester. The final paper will consist of a 2-page paper (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, left/right margins 1", top/bottom margins 0.8", saved as .docx .doc or .rtf). In this paper you will (1) define a concept or multiple concepts that you learned in this class, (2) describe the concept(s), (3) describe an issue that affects people in multiple countries (e.g., social injustice, environmental issue, political issue), (4) describe how the concept(s) you learned in this class apply to understanding the global issue (or how to mitigate possible negative outcomes of the issue). For this paper to be included in your ePortfolio you must earn 70% or higher on this paper. Please use APA format and be sure to cite any outside sources (e.g., newspapers, websites, journal articles). The paper is worth 70 points. The final paper is due (to the dropbox on eCollege) by December 1st by 11:59PM.

1C. ½ page reaction papers are due

2. Exams: There will be two online exams. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions, and are worth 50 points each. You will have 3 hours to complete each exam. Please allow yourself at least a full hour on the computer for each exam (you cannot start and stop the exam time).

Exam 1 is due by October 25

Exam 2 is due by December 11

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| Assessments: |
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Reaction papers: 130 points

Exams: 100 points

A = 207-230

B = 184-206

C = 161-183

D = 138-160

F = 137 and below

EXTRA CREDIT

There is a small amount of extra credit available for this course. 10 points are available for posting comments, thoughts, and reactions to other students' work online. These points are determined at the discretion of the instructor. In addition, I will offer another 10 points of extra credit for participation in online research studies. I will offer 2 points for each 0.5 credits of research (max 10 raw points or 2.5 experiment credits). You will be able to find more details about this in the doc sharing folder under SONA. If you would like an alternative assignment for extra credit instead of participating in research contact me. Additionally, the first time you log into SONA (the web system the psychology department uses to schedule participation) you will be asked to complete a prescreen survey. Completion of the rescreen is worth 0.5 experiment credits if done in the first two weeks of the semester.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor:

Please feel welcome to contact me for a meeting in my office or contact me by email. All email should receive a response within 48 hours. If you have not received a response then assume your email did not go through and please try again to make contact. All email should include student's last name, first name, course name, and brief description of the reason for contact.

Changes to Class:

Minor changes may be made to this schedule; modifications will be announced on eCollege.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the best way to study for the test?

A: Print out and read over the articles. Also, look over the lecture slides one more time (they are in the doc sharing section of eCollege). The questions on the test will be based on the questions students post in the reaction papers. Thus, it is a good idea to study those questions.

Q: I forgot to post my reaction paper can I still post it?

A: Yes, I will take late papers. However, I will take a couple points off for being late. The one exception to this is that all work in the class must be completed by 11:59PM of the Friday before finals week. I will not accept any late work after that time.

Q: Why were points taken off my reaction paper?

A: In eCollege there is a way to see any comments I may give. If points are taken off the paper I will put a comment. The two most common reasons for deducting points are (1) the paper is too short (i.e., less than ½ page single-spaced) and (2) the response is missing the multiple-choice question.

Q: Do I need to understand the statistics in the articles?

A: No, the purpose of the articles is to expose you to actual research and theory. I do not expect you to understand everything in the article (however, you may have to google some of the terms to gain a fuller understanding of the article).

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Student Behavior:

My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. (1) Immaturity will NOT be tolerated! If a student's behavior is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to stop. (2) Respect: Given the nature of this course, we may discuss issues that some of you may find embarrassing, uncomfortable, and/or even "inappropriate." To remain in this class, you must be respectful of others and maintain a mature and professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course. (3) The Student's Guidebook addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions. It's simple. Do NOT cheat (to cheat is to act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage) or plagiarize (to plagiarize is to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one's own)!

Procedure 34.05.99.R1 now prohibits the use of vapor/electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff and chewing tobacco inside and adjacent to any building owned, leased, or operated by A&M – Commerce.

Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio tape lectures, on the condition that these audio tapes are only used by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

PLEASE DO NOT DISTRIBUTE THE POWERPOINT LECTURES. THESE ARE JUST FOR YOU FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library-Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Tentative Course Schedule

Week Date Lecture Topic Readings Assignments

1: August 25-30 Introduction /Syllabus/PowerPoint Foundations of a Multicultural Education

Introduction to classmates (you must respond to at least 3 posts)

Give name, major, any interesting relevant information for this course

2: September 1-6

Myth of the Cave/Allegory of the Cave Paper 1 ½ reaction paper

PowerPoint: LANGUAGE

3: September 8-13 Identity

Tajfel & Turner (1979) Paper 2 ½ reaction paper

PowerPoint: CLASS

4: September 15-20

Culture Adams & Markus (2004) Paper 3 ½ reaction paper

5: September 22-27

Merchants of Cool Paper 4 ½ reaction paper

6: September 29-October 4

Stereotypes Jussim & Harber (2005) Paper 5 ½ reaction paper

PowerPoint: Ethnicity/Race

7: October 6-11

Prejudice Leyens, et al. (2000) Paper 6 ½ reaction paper

PowerPoint: PREJUDICE

8: October 13-18

Discrimination Hebl et al. (2007) Paper 7 ½ reaction paper

9: October 20-25 Exam 1 – Covers all Journal Articles and PowerPoints

10: October 27-November 1

Reducing Prejudice Park & Judd (2005)

11: November 3-8

Ageism Kite et al. (2005) Paper 8 ½ reaction paper

PowerPoint: AGE

12: November 10-15

Gender Swimm & Hyers (1999) Paper 9 ½ reaction paper

PowerPoint: GENDER

13: November 17-22

Sexual Orientation Herek (2000) Paper 10 ½ reaction paper

14: December 1-6

Diversity at School Steel (1997) Paper 11; 2 pg reaction paper for course

15: December 8-11

Diversity at Work Adams et al (2008) Paper 12

EXAM2: 12-11 - Covers all Journal Articles and PowerPoints

Movies

The Stoning of Soraya M

Remember the Titans

Crash

Broke Back Mountain

Monsters Ball

Hotel Rwanda

If These Walls Could Speak 2