

SYLLABUS
PSYCHOLOGY 3CD3: INTERGROUP RELATIONS
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour
McMaster University
Summer Term, 2009

Please note: The contents of this syllabus (dates, assessments) are subject to change if circumstances warrant.

Lectures: MW 1:30
Tutorials: M or W 3:30pm (see below for details)
Course location: BSB-120

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Professor:

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Course Description: The purpose of this course is to use social psychology research and theory to help us better understand intergroup relations. We will focus on stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination, the three major components of poor intergroup relations.

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Readings (required):

Jones, M. (2002). *Social Psychology of Prejudice*.
Intergroup Relations readings book (packaged with the Jones textbook)

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Website: This course has a Blackboard website. You are responsible for all information posted on the website. You are expected to check the website regularly for announcements, changes to our schedule, discussion board postings, and other valuable information.

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Assessment: Your final mark will be based on the following.

- (1) Tutorial Participation = 10%
- (2) Tutorial Assignments = 20%
- (3) Midterm (13 July) = 30%
- (4) Final Exam (5 Aug) = 40%

The midterm will test material covered during the first half of the course. The final exam will be cumulative. The midterm and final will be written (short and/or longer essays), with no multiple choice. *Note:* You will receive a large demerit on your final mark if your cell phone should ring during either test.

Tutorials: You will be assigned to tutorials by last name at the end of the first week of class. Assignments will be made alphabetically, by last name; see our website for assignments. Each student will attend four (4) tutorials. Here are the dates:

Tutorial A: 29 June; 8, 20, 27 July

Tutorial B: 6, 15, 22, 29 July

Be sure to check under “Important Information” for your assignment, and for location of your tutorial meeting.

Participation: Participation marks will be assigned by your tutorial leader. Please see the course website, under “Important Information” for the scoring rubric and for details on effective participation.

Participation in tutorials will enhance your learning experience and your enjoyment of the course. Because we all have bad days, your participation mark will be based on your performance in your 3 best sessions.

Assignments: You are required to hand in 3 short “seed papers” this term. *Extra papers will be ignored, no matter how good they are.*

Please see the course website, under “Important Information”, for details on these assignments (from format to content to marking considerations).

Seed papers are due at the *beginning* of each tutorial. If you hand in the paper after tutorial, even if you hand it in on the correct date, you will be docked for lateness. *Late assignments* will be docked a partial letter grade per day, beginning the day of your tutorial after 4:30pm (so, if you hand in your paper late but on its due-date, an A paper becomes an A- paper; if you hand it in one day late, then an A paper becomes a B+ paper; etc.). If you must miss tutorial, then you must email your paper to your TA (in Word or PDF format), with an explanation of your absence, *by noon on the day of your tutorial.*

Missed Tests and Assignments: You are strongly encouraged never to miss a test or assignment. If something comes up that will interfere with your ability to write a test or to hand in an assignment, then you must immediately contact me (for tests) or your tutorial leader (for assignments) – before the fact, if at all possible. If you do not contact us in a timely manner, then your mark in the course will suffer.

Make-up assignments will not be considered. You have four opportunities to hand in three papers; use your time wisely. If you hand in only two papers, even if you were ill one day, then you will get a zero for the third paper, except under exceptional circumstances.

If you miss a test and/or makeup test, then you must provide a doctor’s certificate (or equivalent for non-medical situations) to your Dean’s office, or you will receive a grade of zero on that test and/or makeup test. Makeup test information will be provided on the course website.

Final Grade Calculations: Your final grade will be converted to a letter grade, according to the following scheme:

<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>
90-100 (A+)	77-79 (B+)	67-69 (C+)	57-59 (D+)
85-89 (A)	73-76 (B)	63-66 (C)	53-56 (D)
80-84 (A-)	70-72 (B-)	60-62 (C-)	50-52 (D-)
			0-49 (F)

Academic Integrity: You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g., a grade of zero (0) on an assignment, loss of course credit with a notation on the transcript (“grade F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on academic dishonesty, please refer to Mac's Academic Integrity Policy, at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>.

SCHEDULE AND READINGS

A note on the readings: Extra readings may be assigned as we go. These will be announced on Blackboard; it is your responsibility to keep track of extra materials.

Course Outline and Readings

- Please note: Exact dates are not given. The amount of interest and discussion generated by each topic will affect how long we spend on it. Please keep up with the readings; they will help you in lecture and in tutorials.

Origins and Maintenance of Stereotypes and Prejudice

- Categorization
- Stereotype Development (Effects of Media, Parents, Direct Experience)
- Stereotype Accuracy
- Stereotype Efficiency
- Stereotype Maintenance

Read Jones Ch's 1, 4

Old-School Theories of Prejudice

- Realistic Group Conflict Theory
- Social Identity Theory
- Relative Deprivation Theory

Read Jones Ch 6

Read Sherif, "Experiments in group conflict" (readings book)

Effects of Affect, Cognition, and Motivation on Activation and Use of Stereotypes

Read Jones pages 102-110

Read Wittenbrink et al., "Evidence for racial prejudice at the implicit level..." (readings book)

Personality and Prejudice

Read Jones Ch 5

Modern Views of Prejudice

Read Jones Ch 3

Read Dovidio, "On the nature of contemporary prejudice..." (readings book)

Discrimination at its Worst: War & Genocide

Read Einstein & Freud, "Why war?" (readings book)

Read Milgram, "The dilemma of obedience" (readings book)

Reducing Prejudice

Read Jones Ch 8

Read Gilbert, "No one left to hate..." (readings book)

Read Aronson & Bridgeman, "Jigsaw groups and the desegregated classroom..." (readings book)

Read Burnette, "Talking openly about race thwarts racism in children" (readings book)

Read Dovidio & Gaertner, "Reducing prejudice..." (readings book)

