PSY 5403F SOCIAL COGNITION: STEREOTYPING, PREJUDICE, AND DISCRIMINATION
University of Toronto
Fall 2012

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Meeting Time and Location: Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 P.M., Sidney Smith 560A

Course Overview: This course will examine contemporary issues in stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination, both from the perceiver’s and the target’s perspective. The focus will be on understanding current trends in the field by focusing on what has been recently published over the past few years. Connections with classic issues and research will be made through weekly presentations and discussions led by discussion facilitators.

Course Requirements:

Thought Papers – 25%. Over the course of the term, you will submit 4 papers, of 1-2 pages each. Papers must be submitted at the beginning of class. In the paper, you will raise a question, discuss a critical issue, or present an idea for future research based on the readings assigned for that week. Thought papers must not be summaries of the readings. You must sign up for 2 dates prior to October 24th and for 2 dates including and after October 24th. You are responsible for keeping track of the dates on which your thought papers are due (to be determined through a sign-up process after the first class).

Presentation & Discussion Facilitator– 30%. Each student will be involved in presenting an analysis of research on one of the topic areas to be discussed in class. The focus of that analysis should be on work published prior to 2010 and should make connections to classic issues, theories, and papers in the area of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. Thus, the discussion facilitator’s presentation will provide a sense of the evolution of the current research that is being discussed in class. You are welcome to meet with me to discuss your ideas about what to include in your presentation.

The number of presentations and type of presentations (individual vs. team; length) will depend on class size and composition (i.e., number of students). In general, presentations should not simply summarize sets of related findings, but rather, should provide an interesting, creative, integrative overview of work in the topic area. Presentations should not focus on readings assigned for the week. Presenters will also be responsible for leading the discussion for the remainder of the class. To assist the rest of the class in their preparations, presenters should
email a set of 8-10 discussion questions to the entire class on the Monday before they present. This will be done via the Blackboard system. You are responsible for keeping track of the date on which your presentation is due (to be determined through a sign-up process after the first class).

**Participation – 10%**. This course will follow a seminar format. As such, it is crucial that students attend class, read the assigned articles and participate in the weekly discussions in order to receive full participation marks.

**Research Proposal – 35%**. All students will write a research proposal paper for this course. The proposal will be modeled after SSHRC postdoctoral grant applications. This means the paper must include a program of proposed research (at least 3 studies) that addresses an issue in stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. You can write the proposal on any topic related to the focus of the course, and that can include a topic you covered for your presentation or for a thought paper. However, you cannot propose a grant on a topic you are studying as part of your MA and/or PhD research. Please see the SSHRC website for more information. The grant must consist of an 8-page double-spaced proposal in 12-point font (please print double-sided if possible). The paper is due **December 5th** and the late penalty is 5% per day. You must have your topic approved by me by **November 7th**.

Course Communication: I am using the U of T Blackboard Portal. I will likely be sending out important course information (e.g., discussion questions for an upcoming class) via email in Blackboard. Please make sure you have a valid UofT email address and check that account for course-related email.

**Course Schedule and Readings**

**September 12 - Organizational Meeting**

**September 19 – The Complexity of Person Perception I: Features & Phenotypes**


September 26 – The Complexity of Person Perception II: Biracial Individuals


October 3 – The Complexity of Person Perception III: Concealable Identities & Multiple Categorizations


October 10 - The Era of Obama: Implications for Perceivers & Targets


**October 17 – Interventions for Perceivers I: Approach Behaviors, Mimicry, & Confronting Prejudice**


**October 24 – Interventions for Perceivers II: Intergroup contact, Perspective-taking, Multiculturalism vs. Color-blindness**


**October 31 – Intergroup Interactions: Perceiver’s Perspective**


**November 7 – Intergroup Interactions: Target’s Perspective**


**November 14 – Experiencing & Coping with Stigma I: Perceptions of Discrimination, Intragroup Effects**


November 21 – Experiencing & Coping with Stigma II: Group Identities


November 28 – Stereotype Threat: Pervasiveness, Mechanisms, & Interventions


December 5 – PAPER DUE BY 4 P.M. TO ALISON IN SS4057