

Syllabus

The Psychology of Prejudice (PSYC12H3)

Dr. Michael Inzlicht

Winter 2010

Thursday 3:00-5:00 AA112

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Course Description

Martin Luther King jr. dreamed of a day when people of all colours and creeds would be judged as equals. Although we are closer to his dream, we have still not fulfilled it. This seminar will examine why that is by investigating the roots and effects of stereotypes and prejudice. Social categories, for example, are normal and helpful devices that allow perceivers to make quick inferences about group members; however, they also distort our judgment of individual people and lead us to overgeneralize. The course will examine discrimination from two distinct points of view: (1) From the people who hold prejudiced beliefs; and (2) From the people who are targets of prejudice. We begin the course by discussing how stereotypes form, why they persist, and why they often operate automatically. We then examine the impact of stereotypes on their targets, including how and when discrimination is perceived, how it affects performance and attributions of blame, and how people cope with it.

Required Text

- Nelson, T. D. (2006). The psychology of prejudice. Second Edition. Boston, MA: Pearson. Available at bookstore.
- Course Reader. The reader will contain five articles and chapters. Available online through Blackboard (under Course Documents)
- i-clicker remote clicking device. Available at bookstore. **Please note that if you buy both the Nelson text and the i-clicker from the bookstore, you will get a \$25 mail-in-rebate for the i-clicker.**

<u>Evaluation:</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Midterm	TBD (Feb 22 to 26)	All material through Feb. 11	40%
Term Paper	March 19	Discussion of conceptual issues	20%
Final (non-cumulative)	TBD	All material March 4 to Apr. 1	40%

Blackboard

I will use Blackboard to communicate with you (i.e. to make announcements) and so that you can each communicate with one another. Anything I hand-out in class will also be posted on the Blackboard; so the syllabus, class notes, class schedule, and reading list are all there. Blackboard is also the place you go to log-on to and participate in the discussion board. I recommend getting quickly acquainted with Blackboard and checking it on a regular basis throughout the semester for announcements and messages. Also, please make sure to update your Blackboard account so that your correct email address is noted. You do not need to apply for Blackboard access. If you are registered, you will automatically see this class when you log-on to the intranet. To access Blackboard, log onto <http://www.utoronto.ca/>, scroll to the bottom of the screen and click on the "Portal Login," on this next page, again, click on to the "Portal Login," and here enter your UTORid and password, and voila you have access!

Discussion Forum

To help foster communication between each of you, I've created a discussion forum on the intranet. The forum should also be the first place you go when you have questions about course material. Please feel free to use this space as our virtual classroom. So, post clarification questions! These posts are valuable because they may echo many people's concerns. Remember, however, to respond to questions as well as this will enhance the classroom experience and create a self-sustaining internet community.

Some important points to consider when posting:

- Discussions of prejudice can generate strong feelings and I ask that you to always be respectful of others even when you disagree with them. This holds both for those who may express views that may appear prejudicial, and to those who react to them.
- Excellent posts go beyond the information in the book or readings by relating what is learned in this class to other classes, to authoritative sources found in other books or the internet.
- Many folks will post clarification questions. Although these posts are valuable because they may echo many people's concerns, having someone from the class respond to the question is even more valuable and creates a self-sustaining internet community.

Lectures

The lecture slides will be posted on the web site before each class. The amount of overlap between lectures and required readings will vary across topics, so you should read and attend the lectures.

Weboption

The Weboption offers flexibility and control in the learning process. I will lecture face-to-face in the traditional manner and will be videotaped while I do this. Lectures are then digitized and uploaded to the Web where you can access them by streaming video. PowerPoint slides shown in class are presented side-by-side with the video of the lecture. The "option" in "Weboption" comes from the fact that you can choose on a lecture-by-lecture basis, whether to attend the lecture or watch it online. Some of you may even choose to watch lectures both ways, going to class to get an overview of the material, and then watching the lecture online where the lecture can be paused to take notes and to focus on more challenging aspects of the material.

Each lecture will be posted online, typically on the next day after class. For this class, you can access the lectures at www.uts.utoronto.ca/~psyc12/online.html.

i-clicker

To make the class more enjoyable for everyone and to add an element of interactivity in the large lecture hall, we will use i-clicker remote polling technology. Although I am not requiring it, I suggest that you buy an i-clicker device and bring it to class with you. During lecture, I will periodically ask you, the class, a multiple-choice question to gauge your knowledge, to spur conversation, or to demonstrate a concept. You will use your i-clicker to respond to my class questions. This promises to be a fun part of the class! As an incentive to both attend class and participate with i-clicker, I will be giving an extra 2% to all students who purchase, register, and use their i-clicker in class. As long as you respond to at least 50% of the i-clicker questions I pose in class, you will get your extra 2% automatically.

Please remember to register your i-clicker. To do so, go to <http://www.iclicker.com/registration/Register.aspx> and enter your first and last name, clicker id (the number above the bar code in the back of the device), and your student id. **For student id, you must enter your UTORid.** If you enter your regular student number, you will not have properly registered. Please enter your **UTORid**. Also, please note that it is OK to use a used i-clicker (or to borrow one from a friend). The only necessity is that it is an i-clicker brand clicker and that you register the device under your own name and UTORid.

Since some of you will be taking this class as a weboption, you will not be able to use i-clickers from home. If you are interested in using the i-clickers (and getting points for your use of them), I suggest you attend class regularly. Another option for those who prefer the weboption and want to get the 2 bonus points, is that you can write a short (2-4 pages) paper on a topic that I will assign within the first few weeks of class. I will clarify this later in the semester. Note that you cannot write the bonus paper AND get i-clicker points; only one or the other.

Course Readings

The number of readings will vary per week and will sometimes include assigned chapters in the text plus additional articles that you can find on Blackboard under "Course Documents." Other weeks will focus solely on additional articles from the course reader.

Exams

Both midterm and final will consist of multiple-choice questions and short essays (50% lectures, 50% readings). The mid-term is worth 40% of your grade and the final, 40%. PLEASE NOTE there will not be a deferred mid-term exam. If you provide valid medical documentation on a UTSC Student Medical certificate that documents your absence from the mid-term, your final exam will be re-weighted and worth 60% instead of 40% and your paper 40% instead of 20%.

Given the size of the class, both midterm and final will take place outside of regular class time, on a date and location to be determined. The midterm will be held during the week of February 23rd, most likely some time between Monday February 22nd and Friday February 26th.

The midterm will cover all material through February 11th, so chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and Bodenhausen & Macrae (1996) and Greenwald, McGhee, & Schwartz (1998) from the course reader.

The final will be non-cumulative and will cover all material March 4th through April 1st, so chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and Brewer (1991), Steele (1997), and Glick & Fiske (2001) from the course reader.

Term Paper

You will have the option of writing this by yourself or with one other person. Each person or pair will submit a 6-8 pages, typed, double-spaced term paper in which you will address a discussion question by reviewing a body of literature, and proposing a coherent and informed argument. Details of the assignment will be specified later in the semester, but you may want to arrange something with a partner as soon as possible. **The paper is due in my office on March 19th by 12pm (noon).** E-mail copies of papers will not be accepted (although you will need to send a digital version to turnitin.com in addition to the paper copy). Late papers will be docked 5% for each day that they are late. Although I encourage you to work with one partner on this, you also have the option of working on this alone, without a partner.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site

Guidelines for Writing Assignments:

- Use APA style
- All works that are referred to (directly or otherwise) must be cited in the text, and in a reference page at the end of your work.
- Omit needless words. Quoting Strunk and White (1957):

“Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all of her or his sentences short, or that s/he avoid all detail and treat subjects only in outline, but that every word tell.”

- Avoid quotes, especially lengthy ones.
- Spelling, grammar, and sentence structure are important and figure into the grading

Email Policy

My policy is to respond to emails within 2 *working* days of receipt. I am available to all my students and encourage you all to visit me during office hours (Mondays 4:00-5:00) even if it's to have a casual chat. However, given the size of the class and my already overflowing inbox, I am less encouraging of email. If you have questions or concerns, always check the course syllabus and Blackboard site first. If you can't find what you need, get to know your neighbour (get his/her phone number and email) and ask him/her. You could also try posting a question in the discussion forum. If that doesn't work, contact your TA. If issues remain, come to my office hours.

Grading Summary

Midterm—40%

Term Paper—20%

Final—40%

i-clicker participation or bonus paper—extra 2%

Course Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Week 1: Jan 7	Introduction, Definitions, & Concepts	Ch 1
Week 2: Jan 14	Development & Maintenance of Stereotypes	Ch 2
Week 3: Jan 21	Cognitive, Affective, & Motivational Approaches	Ch 3; Bodenhausen & Macrae (1996)
Week 4: Jan 28	Class TBD	
Week 5: Feb 4	Modern Prejudice	Ch 5; Greenwald, McGhee, Schwartz, 1998
Week 6: Feb 11	Prejudiced Personality; Review for Midterm; Term Paper Guidelines	Ch 4
Feb 18	Reading Week; No Class	
Week 7: Feb 22-26	Midterm	
Week 8: Mar 4	Intergroup Relations; Writing Guidelines	Brewer (1991)
Week 9: Mar 11	Experiencing Prejudice I: Stigma	Ch 6
Week 10: Mar 18	Experiencing Prejudice II: Stereotype Threat	Ch 6; Steele (1997); term paper due
Week 11: Mar 25	Ageism & Sexism	Ch 7 & 8; Glick & Fiske (2001)
Week 12: Apr 1	Reducing Prejudice; Review for Final	Ch 9 & 10