

## Psychology 367: Psychology of Minorities

Spring 2010

MW: 1:30-2:50pm

BUS 143

Professor: Lisa M. Gunderson, Ph.D.

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Office hours: MW: 10:30-11:30 am  
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TTh: 2:30-3:00 pm

Welcome to Psychology 367. Throughout the semester, please use this syllabus as your source of information regarding the class. Any major changes to the syllabus will be discussed. If my office hours are not convenient for you, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone to make an appointment.

### REQUIRED TEXT

Gunderson, L. (Ed.). (2009). *Psychology of Minorities* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). San Diego: Montezuma Press.

### COURSE SLOs

#### (Student Learning Outcomes)

This course studies the individual and collective impact of minority group status on an individual and group's behavior and mental processes. Specifically, through lectures, class discussions, readings, panels, and videos you will become familiar with the psychological issues, concerns, and needs of "minority" persons. "Minority" persons include African-Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, gays & lesbians, and persons with disabilities. All assignments have been designed to:

- (1) increase your ability to describe and analyze specific psychological and social issues among minority populations;
- (2) increase your ability to define and distinguish between culture, ethnicity, race, privilege and other key terms;
- (3) increase your ability to recognize, understand and analyze issues related to individual and institutionalized stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination, while recognizing your own stereotypes, prejudice, and privilege;
- (4) demonstrate an understanding of and critical analysis of the impact of culture and minority status on basic psychological processes;
- (5) increase your understanding of how issues of minority populations are interwoven with social and political institutions;
- (6) increase your understanding of how diversity issues (e.g., ethnicity, gender, ability, age, and sexual orientation) relate to physical and mental health;
- (7) increase your knowledge of culturally appropriate interventions;
- (8) increase your skills in critical thinking and analysis, which you can utilize daily and in future courses.

### COURSE FORMAT

Each class begins with an overview of the class, including the objectives of the day. Lecture may include group work, video, and class demonstrations to highlight various theories and concept

### REQUIREMENTS

#### **I. Attendance and Group Participation**

**This is not a typical "lecture and take notes" class, and much of what we learn comes from in-class discussions, panels, speakers, videos, and other activities. If you are expecting a traditional class, this may not be the class for you.**

You are expected to attend all classes. This is a **highly interactive class and your participation is key to its success**. Your group assignment is determined by the second week of class. There are approximately 15 graded in-class & take-home assignments designed to emphasize certain topics discussed in class. You may make up in-class/group assignments for full credit if you miss class due to a

conflict with a religious observance, traveling for an officially approved activity, or a verifiable medical excuse. If you miss class for any other reason, you will receive a maximum of **50% credit** for the assignment. You have **only one week** to make up the assignment for credit. Please note that some in-class/group assignments **cannot** be made up because they require your actual presence in class (e.g., group discussion). Finally, your overall group participation score is determined by the number of group and in-class activities you completed throughout the semester.

## **II. Weekly Reaction Papers (250 points)**

Over the course of the semester, you will have to write 10 weekly reaction papers to topics discussed in class (@ 25 points each). These 1 page, single spaced, papers reflect your views and thoughts on the specific topic discussed (e.g., able-bodied privilege). We will discuss in class the criteria for an A reaction paper. If you turn in your assignment late, you will lose 5 points for each class session that it is late. No papers will be accepted after 2 weeks.

Please note EVERYONE is given one class grace period (i.e., you may turn in a paper **one class period** late for no penalty ONCE in the semester). If you do not use your grace period during the semester, you will receive an additional 5 points to your overall paper grade at the end of the semester. These additional points are separate from the extra credit discussed below.

Further, since this class is dependent on you writing your reaction papers, you will be **penalized** for papers you do not complete. If you only complete 5 out of 10 assignments, you will have 50 points deducted from your final grade at the end of the semester. If you complete 6 out of 10 assignments, you will have 35 points deducted from your final grade. The penalty is designed to not allow someone to pass this class without having written at least 60% of the assigned reaction papers.

## **III. Examinations (170 points)**

**YOU MUST READ.** For your midterm exams, you will complete 2 sets of questions based on the main points of the readings. These are open book exams and your exam is due at the beginning of class. If your exam is late, but turned in on the day it is due, you will lose 5 points. If you turn in the exam during the next class period, you will lose 25% of your overall score (i.e., 36/40 would become 27/40). Each exam is worth 40 points. **No exams are accepted after one week.**

Your final exam is worth 90 points. The first 40 points are exactly like your midterms. The final 50 points are two additional reaction papers – one to your readings and one to the class.

### **Extra Credit – up to 20 points**

Unless otherwise noted, all extra credit is **worth 5 points** each. You can complete a **maximum** of 20 points (i.e., 4 assignments). These points can be received by attending special events, chats, a psych club meeting, or writing your opinion on topics in class and movie reviews. I will inform you of these opportunities as they become available. You can turn in extra credit at any time. However, **ALL EXTRA CREDIT IS DUE BY WEDNESDAY, May 5<sup>th</sup>.**

### **FINAL COURSE GRADE**

Your final course grade will be determined by your performance on all assignments.

<input type="checkbox"/> In Class Group Work	150 points	26.3%
<input type="checkbox"/> Examinations	170 points	29.8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Reaction Papers	250 points	43.9%

There are 570 points possible. There is no curve. At any point in the semester you can determine your grade to date simply by figuring out the percentage. Final grades will be based on the point distribution below.

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
511 or higher	A (90%)
454-510	B (80%)
397-453	C (70%)
340-396	D (60%)
339 or below	F (50%)

### **Final Notes**

#### **Cell phones, PDAs, pagers**

Texting and the use of electronic devices, including cell phones, pagers, and any headphone-related musical device is prohibited in this class. Leave electronic devices **off** unless you have someone in the hospital or someone in your care. In the two latter cases, put your cell phone on silent mode. If your cell phone/pager goes off or I catch you texting in class or during group work, you will receive a warning first. If it happens a second time, you will be asked to give up your device for the remainder of class or leave. **If you are completing group work, you will be asked to complete the group work on your own for 1/2 credit.** DO NOT make calls or text others at any time during this class, including during a video or DVD.

#### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

Everyone is an adult and cheating and plagiarism is not tolerated – period. Every effort is being made to minimize an environment for cheating. If you are caught cheating during an exam or plagiarizing your paper, at the minimum you will receive a 0 for that test/paper and will be penalized according to SCC regulations. Please read and familiarize yourself with the student’s code of conduct definitions, rules, and regulations for cheating and plagiarism. You can find this information in SCC’s student guide-student code of conduct (<http://wserver.scc.losrios.edu/~matric/guide/stuconduct.html>).

#### **Waste Reduction**

In an effort to do my part, I will only supply one hard copy of your syllabus; you can retrieve additional copies of the syllabus off of my website after February 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, please feel free to double-side your assignments. For one-sided extra credit assignments, if you use the second side of a used paper, please put a line across the used page.

All students are expected to participate in SCC’s waste reduction program. Please reduce and reuse when possible and always recycle appropriate materials in the blue receptacle. We have a beautiful campus. Please help us keep it that way.

#### **Withdrawal from the class**

The deadline to withdraw from class for Spring 2010 is April 18<sup>th</sup>. I will withdraw any students who do not attend class regularly **until February 8<sup>th</sup>**. After February 8<sup>th</sup>, it is **YOUR** responsibility to withdraw from class.

#### **Be Responsible**

Keep track of all your assignments. When you write your papers **SAVE** a paper copy **AND** a computer disk copy. Keep the hard copy of your chapter summaries and your exam scantrons. You will not receive credit for something you said you did if you do not have proof.

**KEEP ALL YOUR WORK UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR FINAL GRADE.**

### **Come Fi A Chat!**

We will be discussing many interesting and controversial topics in class. Unfortunately, we do not have time to discuss them in depth. So, once a month, come and join me for lunch to discuss a particular psychology topic (e.g., “discrimination”). This is a great time to discuss and share your views. Specific dates and topics will be determined in class. I hope you come “fi a chat”.

### **The Student Is...**

“...the most important person on the campus.  
Without students there would be no need for the institution.  
...not a cold enrollment statistic but a flesh and blood human being  
with feelings and emotions like our own.  
...not someone to be tolerated so that we can do our thing. They are our thing.  
...not dependent on us. Rather, we are dependent on them.  
...not an interruption of our work, but the purpose of it.  
We are not doing them a favor by serving them.  
They are doing us a favor by giving us the opportunity to do so.”  
Author unknown



I hope you will find this course a valuable, challenging, and enjoyable learning experience.

## COURSE OUTLINE

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ARTICLES as assigned in class</b>
<u>Week 1: January 20</u>	<b><u>Psychology of Minorities</u></b> Introduction & Course Review	
<u>Week 2: January 25-27</u>	<b><u>What is a Minority</u></b> Key Definitions & Terms Theories, Prejudice, Stereotypes & Discrimination (TPSD)	US CENSUS BUREAU A1 (pages 1-5)
<u>Weeks 3-6: February 1-24</u>	<b><u>Gender</u></b> Demographics Brief History TPSD	Articles 2-8 (pages 5-33)
<u>Weeks 7-8 March 1-17</u>	<b><u>Sexual Orientation</u></b> Demographics Brief History TPSD	Articles 9-12 (pages 37-55)
<u>Weeks 9-14: March 22-April 28</u>	<b><u>Race and Ethnicity</u></b> Demographics Brief History TPSD	Articles 13-38 (pages 59-177)
<b>SPRING BREAK March 29-April 4</b>		
<u>Weeks 15-16 May 3-12</u>	<b><u>Disability</u></b> Demographics Brief History TPSD	Articles 39-40 (pages 181-187)

**Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
FINAL EXAM @ 12:45-2:45pm**

**CONGRATS TO ALL  
GRADUATES**



**HAVE A  
WONDERFUL  
SUMMER**