

PSYS 325 | PSYCH OF PREJUDICE & DISCRIMINATION

SPRING '26

Instructor Name: Dr. Andy Luttrell [He/Him/His]

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Office hours: Wed 2:00 – 3:30 or by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor Name: Dr. Andy Luttrell [He/Him/His]

Course Description: Psychological perspectives on prejudice and discrimination, including stereotyping, individual differences, the development of prejudice, social factors in prejudice, the experience of prejudice, and reducing prejudice and discrimination.

Prerequisites: PSYS 100

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. describe and evaluate the evidence for people’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviors surrounding diverse social identities.
2. understand prevailing theories regarding why and how people can engage in stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination.
3. connect the results of studies to basic principles about social psychology and apply those principles to real-world examples.

Course Modality / Structure: This course is planned as an in-person lecture-based course. During each class period, we will meet to discuss course material. You are advised to also read any assigned textbook readings alongside coming to class (but you are not required to have read anything prior to class unless otherwise noted). Other resources, activities, quizzes, and exams will be available on Canvas. All assignments or exams will be submitted online and are generally due by midnight on Sundays. There is a Canvas module for each week of class.

Course Time Commitment: It is expected that students will spend approximately 2 hours of study time outside of class for every one hour in class. Since this is a 3-unit class, you should expect to study an average of 6 hours outside of class each week.

Attendance Policy: Attending in-person lectures is strongly encouraged although not officially required. We may discuss information that you will otherwise not have access to and go into more depth on topics than would be possible through reading or reviewing lecture slides along. If you will be absent from class for health or official university reasons, please notify me in advance and make arrangements to get notes from a peer.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Basis of Final Grades

Exam 1	40	points
Exam 2	40	points
Exam 3	40	points
Exam 4	40	points
Writing	45	points
<u>Activities</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>points</u>
Total	240	points

Exams. There will be four exams in this class. Each exam will have a mix of multiple-choice and essay questions. Exams will be administered in class.

Make-up Exams. If you cannot take an exam in the scheduled window for a PRE-approved reason, you will be allowed to take the exam one week before or after the testing window. You are responsible for scheduling this arrangement with me. No make-ups will be administered for unapproved reasons. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in denial of an opportunity to make up the exam. For any exams that you must miss due to foreseeable conflicts (e.g., traveling for an athletic event), you must give at least one week’s notice to get full credit for the exam. At the instructor’s discretion, make-up exams may be granted for reasons that were not pre-approved but with a 10% penalty.

Writing. There will be three reflection papers due throughout the semester, worth 15 points each. Reflection papers are meant for you to think deeply about the issues that come up in this class and how they relate to the world you live in. You’ll get more detailed information in the form of reflection prompts with each assignment. Turning in your papers any time after the due date will result in an automatic 2-point deduction, with an additional point deducted for each additional day late.

Activities. Each week (other than exam weeks or weeks when a writing assignment is due), you will complete a brief activity to encourage you to engage with class material. These may include participation in discussion boards, quizzes, and brief reflections. Activities will be worth 5 points and graded primarily on effortful completion. **I will drop the lowest 2 activity grades from your final grade.** (Effectively, this also means you can skip any 2 activities.) As a result, **I do not accept any late activities.** Rather than individually adjudicating a bunch of extension requests throughout the semester, and to avoid unfairly penalizing students who do not think to ask for an extension, I give two freebies starting Day 1.

Extra Credit. Okay, this is a tiny bit convoluted, but bear with me. The highest activity grade that I drop will be treated as extra credit. This means everyone receives one true freebie on the activity grades, but you can earn up to 5 points of extra credit by keeping up with them throughout the semester. (E.g., if you do 8 out of 9 activities throughout the semester, you’ll get all 35 activity points + 5 extra credit points.)

Grade Distribution

A	≥ 93%	C+	≥ 77%
A-	≥ 90%	C	≥ 73%
B+	≥ 87%	C-	≥ 70%
B	≥ 83%	D	≥ 60%
B-	≥ 80%	F	< 60%

COURSE STATEMENTS AND POLICIES

Communication Plan

I will primarily communicate important information to you personally via Canvas messenger. Weekly newsletters and class-wide announcements will be sent using Canvas announcements.

If you need to communicate with me outside of class, you can use Canvas messages to contact me directly or email me (alluttrell@bsu.edu). I make a habit of checking these messages regularly and responding within 24 hours during the school week. Please be aware that my replies might be delayed on weekends.

When sending me a message, please practice good email etiquette. Begin the message: “Dear Dr. Luttrell...” and end it by signing your name. Be as detailed as possible about the question you have to help me get to the bottom of the question quickly. *Specify which class you’re emailing about.*

If you need immediate assistance and cannot access Canvas or email, you may call or text me directly at: 224-392-0288. (But please reserve this mode of communication only for emergency situations.)

Disability Services Accommodations

If you are eligible for recognized accommodations, please *email* me a copy of your accommodations letter from the Office of Disability Services at the beginning of the semester or when you first receive that letter.

Whenever you email or message me about accommodations as they relate to an individual exam or assignment (e.g., if you’re requesting an extension on an assignment that’s allowed by your official accommodations), please (1) be specific about what you’re requesting and (2) directly refer to your accommodations letter in the request. I receive many emails from students, and it’s hard to keep track of everyone’s unique situation. A brief reminder will go a long way toward avoiding misunderstandings.

For example, if you’re requesting an extension on a writing assignment, you could write something like: “Dr. Luttrell, may I please have two extra days to complete Reflection Paper 1? This is covered by the DSD accommodations letter I sent you earlier this semester.” This gives me a clear sense of what you need and a reminder as to the policies under which we’re operating.

Copyrighted Material

Audiotaping, videotaping, photographing, or any other method of recording lectures or class content of any kind shall be done only with my prior express permission. Recordings and other material that I distribute is restricted to the personal use of the students enrolled in the course. Note also that the textbook and the PowerPoints I present in class are copyrighted material and, as such, information from these sources cannot be sold to other students. It is also against university policy to use the class list to e-mail students with the purpose of selling course notes or study guides. Selling (or sharing) your prepared “cheat sheet” is also plagiarism. So is using one from previous semesters. Therefore, information based on the text or my PowerPoints should not be sold or purchased through vendors such as Notehall. If someone contacts you about purchasing any course material, let me know as soon as possible.

Artifact Collection

From time to time, I may make copies of the work you do for this class (e.g., written assignments, exams, extra credit assignments) for department assessment purposes. I will remove all identifying information on these assignments before making your work available. Unless you decline in writing, I will assume that you are allowing me permission to keep copies of your work for this class. See me if you have questions.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

University Statement

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse.

Disability Services Statement

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact Disability Services as soon as possible. The [Office of Disability Services](#) coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Freedom of Expression

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's [Statement on Freedom of Expression](#), the resources on Ball State's [Freedom of Expression webpage](#), and [Ball State's Beneficence Pledge](#).

Title IX

Ball State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment – including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident, please visit bsu.edu/titleix or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-285-1545 or at titleix@bsu.edu.

As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter under the Title IX policy and required to report any information I receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations.

What happens after I report? The Title IX Coordinator will email the person who experienced sexual harassment (complainant) and invite them to schedule a meeting. If the complainant chooses to meet with the Title IX Coordinator,

- Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures (e.g., counseling, extensions on deadlines, course-related adjustments, changes to work or class schedules, and/or referrals to campus offices), review the policy, and discuss options to move forward.
- If a complaint is filed by the complainant or the University, an investigation will begin following University policy.

University Grade Appeal Policy

If you believe you received a final course grade that does not reflect your performance due to fairness or a procedural issue, you have the right to file an appeal within 5 school days after final grades are posted by the Office of the Registrar. Review the [University Grade Appeal Policy and Process](#).

Student Academic Ethics Policy

Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the VPAA's [academic integrity website](#) (Students tab) for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. To learn about BSU's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University [Student Academic Ethics Policy](#).

Academic integrity violations include giving or receiving an unfair academic advantage (cheating), presenting someone else's ideas or work as your own (plagiarism), and falsifying academic records. Unless otherwise indicated, you must work independently by yourself. Check with me if you are

unsure whether something constitutes academic dishonesty. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to:

- Using resources not authorized by the faculty member (including devices, AI tools, hidden notes, and open books)
- Using commercial study websites to find answers to graded assignments (Chegg, Course Hero, StudyPool, OneClass, etc.).
- Without the instructor's written permission, giving away, buying, or selling graded assignments class notes, exams, study guides, or other course materials to other students or to third-party vendors (Course Hero, Chegg, 24HourAnswers, etc.).
- Working with another person on any assignment other than authorized group projects.
- Sharing or allowing others to access your files, whether done with permission or not.
- Reusing your own work from another semester, course, or section.
- Sharing answers with others during exams (passing notes, texting, whispering, gesturing)
- Discussing exam questions and answers with students who have not taken the exam.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Learning Center

The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments. To make an appointment, visit myballstate.bsu.edu and click on "Navigate" in the Academic Tools section, or just go directly to bsu.navigate.eab.com.

Testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available for students who have received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center.

Supplemental Instruction is available in select courses. If you have an SI leader for your course, that person will provide students with information the first week of school regarding weekly study sessions. For more information about Learning Center programming, visit bsu.edu/learningcenter or call 765-285-1006. Follow us on Instagram: [BallStateLC](https://www.instagram.com/BallStateLC).

The Writing Center

All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center (in Robert Bell 295 during weekdays, Bracken Library First Floor West in the evenings, or online during any of our regularly scheduled hours) to get additional feedback on your writing. The Writing Center offers free planning, feedback, and accountability sessions (in person and online) to all students composing essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts. To schedule a free appointment to discuss your writing, go to bsu.edu/writingcenter. Online and in-person appointments are available; however, plan ahead because appointments book quickly!

The Basic Needs Hub

If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the [Basic Needs Hub](#). The Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a [Basic Needs Assistance Form](#).

The Counseling Center

The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact us at 765-285-1736. Ball State also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at 765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with any mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide.

At the Ball State Counseling Center, we see students for a variety of reasons, some of which include homesickness, relationship concerns, anxiety, and depression. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with resources that best fit your needs. We assist students with getting connected to therapy at our Center as well as connecting students to self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand, self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All of these resources, including a direct link to our website, can be found [here](#).

BSU African American Studies Value Statement

(*This course counts toward BSU's African American Studies program.)

As Ball State's African American Studies program, we carry out the University's stated commitment "to cultivate inclusivity within our pedagogical, scholarly, and creative pursuits." We are especially committed to educating students about our nation's past and present and, more specifically, Black experiences within it. Chief among those experiences has been a persistent disregard for Black people's humanity, which includes not only macro-aggressions such as chattel slavery, Jim Crow laws, lynchings, and the relentless killings of unarmed Black men, women, children but also the daily micro-aggressions that accompany walking through the world as an individual marked "other" by a society dominated by people of European descent. When oppressive incidents occur, whether on a macro- or micro-scale, we must take them seriously. We must seize these teachable moments that, however painful, also give us an opportunity both to recognize the ways in which our nation's history informs the present and to devise a future in which we all feel safe and included – at work, home, school, church, parks, the streets of our towns and cities, and all of the other settings that characterize what it means to exercise the full rights of American citizenship. As a program, we welcome these conversations about where we have been and where we are going because they are part of our shared Beneficence Pledge to "act in a socially responsible way," as well as "to value the intrinsic worth of every member of the community."

In sum, African American Studies is a program committed to supporting one another in our efforts to promote equality and justice. In 1970, the eminent writer James Baldwin expressed it this way in an open letter of support for the then-incarcerated social activist Angela Davis: "If they take you in the morning, they will be coming for us that night." Indeed, we are each other's keepers, and our solidarity is the key to resisting oppressive acts, both on Ball State campus and the world over.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE STATEMENT

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.