

**SYLLABUS for PSYCH 2401 – Psychology of Diversity**  
**Fall 2009**  
**11 AM – 12:15 PM T/TH, ROOM J-156**

**INSTRUCTOR** Dr. Jamye Hickman  
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**OFFICE HOURS** Mon/Wed 2-3pm, Tue/Thurs 1:30-3pm or by appt.  
**TEXTBOOK** Bucher, R.D. (2010) Diversity Consciousness: Opening our minds to people, culture, and opportunities. Columbus, OH: Prentice Hall. ISBN-10: 0-13-501463-8

### **COURSE GOALS**

The student will be able to:

1. Understand the meaning of diversity, issues of intolerance, and solutions to intolerance at the group level and entire cultures
2. Describe the basic theories, principles, and concepts of psychology as they relate to diversity
3. Apply psychological theories, principles, and concepts to how and why social class, disabilities, age, culture, ethnicity, and gender influence thought processes, emotions, motivation and behavior.
4. Make sense of their own beliefs and environment as it related to their openness to other people and cultures.
5. Compare and contrast materials from, and information about, other cultures.

### **GENERAL POLICIES**

1. Late assignments will not be graded; no exceptions. Please turn them in at the **beginning** of class.
2. Students are expected to read the corresponding chapters prior to class.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance will be taken. Your attendance at the lectures is expected and will be necessary for achieving the best performance on the exams. Therefore, 10% of your grade is class attendance. Lectures will provide a greater understanding of the material that may not be available simply by reading the book. Also, there will be many

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES**

I welcome and encourage your participation in class. It is usually helpful and informative for your fellow students, being involved helps you to learn more, and class participation stimulates me to do a better job of teaching. Class participation on a regular basis will earn you one (1) point extra credit that will be added to your final GPA.

### **IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES & HOMEWORK**

Certain class periods will be used to practice a certain skill or complete a task/assignment. You will also have assignments to be completed at home and turned in before the next class period. Because of the cost of printing you may turn in assignments as a PDF via email, [jhickman@spsu.edu](mailto:jhickman@spsu.edu) or post on WebCT. These assignments are 15% of your final grade. If you miss an assignment, there is no make-up.

## **EXAMS**

There are no exams in this course.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES AND LIFE DIFFICULTIES**

Excused absences **MUST** have documentation. If you are sick and stay home your roommate, spouse, parent sending a note with you is **NOT** an excused absence. If you are sick, go to the doctor/health center/urgent care/ER, otherwise come to class.

Life can get difficult. Schedule a meeting and talk to me or send me an email explaining your circumstances. If you are going to miss a month of class you need to talk to me and you really need to talk with your academic advisor about the appropriate route to take to continue your academic journey.

## **DIVERSE PAIRS PROJECT**

Exploring the Psychology of Diversity

You and another student will be paired together; the pairs will be matched on differences, think of it as a mini version of the TV show “Wife Swap”. Think about living in your partner’s shoes. To do that you need to know where those shoes have walked, where they are currently, and where they want to go. You will write your own paper based on your partner. Document your partner’s genealogy, focus on the question “What are you?”. How and where did he/she grow up? I want you to research their lives and cultures. In the more formal part of the project you will apply psychological theories, principles, and concepts to how and why social class, disabilities, age, culture, ethnicity, and gender influence thought processes, emotions, motivation and behavior as they pertain to your partner. Your project grade is worth 50% of your course grade and will be made up of the grade of your paper outline, individual final paper (in APA format), pair presentation, and group member evaluation. Each group member will anonymously give a grade and evaluation of each individual member based on that member’s effort and contribution, plus aspects of openness and honesty.

## **DIVERSITY JOURNAL**

Student journals will consist of on typed page responses to material read in the book, class discussions, and interactions during the Diverse Pairs Project. These are to be turned in weekly and returned to the student. Students are required to have at least two journal entries a week, the semester is 16 weeks long, therefore at least 38 entries should be in your journal at the close of the semester. Your journal is worth 15% of your grade.

## **DIVERSATWEETS**

DiversaTweets is something new I am trying out this semester. Follow our class on Twitter under the user name of DiversaTweets. The difficulty with journaling diversity interactions is that they can happen quickly and at the end of the day you may forget them. Using Twitter as a mode to transmit those random moments not only reduces your chance of forgetting them or the chore of later compiling these daily moments, but you get to capture the moment. Most people are aware of a new social blogging community called Twitter. Twitter is described as the following:

**Twitter** is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as *tweets*. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author’s profile page and delivered to the author’s subscribers who are known as *followers*. Senders can restrict delivery to those in their circle of friends or, by default, allow open access. Users can send and receive tweets via the Twitter website, Short Message Service (SMS) or external applications. While the service costs nothing to use, accessing it through SMS may incur phone service provider fees.

To make this work each student needs to make a new twitter account, restrict access to that account (Settings>Account>check "Protect my tweets"). Each class member will follow each other (meaning you need to join each other's username that is set just for this class). Diversatweets are worth 15% of your grade and you need to tweet at least 5 times a week. This is an experimental teaching technique therefore expect some adjustments and tweaking as the semester continues.

## **DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

<http://www.spsu.edu/catalog/ugrad/regulations.html#behavior>

A faculty member reserves the right to remove any student from his or her course if the student's behavior is of a disruptive nature or if there is evidence of academic dishonesty. In instances of disruptive behavior and/or academic dishonesty, the faculty member will discuss the circumstances with the student(s) before taking final action. In the event the student cannot be reached, he or she will be given the grade of "Incomplete" until such time as he or she can be reached. The student shall have the right of appeal of the faculty member's decision

- first to the faculty member's Department Chair
- then to the appropriate school dean,
- and, if necessary, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Removal from a course under this provision will result in a grade of "F". A grade of "F" issued under these circumstances shall not be superseded by a voluntary withdrawal, and will be included in the student's cumulative grade point average calculated for graduation purposes.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the counselor working with disabilities at 678-915-7244 as soon as possible to better assure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

## **EMERGENCY PLAN**

In the case of an emergency, such as H1N1 Flu outbreak, or some type of emergency where the campus is shut down for more than 2 days, I will execute my emergency course continuation plan. During this time it is vitally important that you continue to check your SPSU email because the university and I will use that medium as a first line of contact. I will conduct our classes via Skype, where you can login, see me, and have discussions. Also, the PowerPoint slides will be emailed to you prior to the beginning of class. To access Skype all you need is an internet connect and to download the software. It is just like Instant Messaging, but with greater flexibility because outside phone lines can call in as well. My Skype ID: drjamyehickman

## **EXTRA CREDIT**

The Department of Social and International Studies has a wonderful Foreign Film series this fall semester. Because this course is centered on understanding the psychology diversity these films are a great addition to the curriculum, however they are not mandatory. There is also an INTERFACE lecture series this fall semester. These lectures are focused on topics that highlight the relationship between technology and social sciences/humanities. Attendance and a short reflection essay will earn you points. I will further discuss the details as these I will further discuss the details as these opportunities arise and the extra credit points they are worth.

## **GRADING**

Your final grade is determined as follows:

100-90 is an A  
89-80 is a B  
79-70 is a C  
69-60 is a D  
below 60 is failing

Your final grade will be determined based on the following weightings:

- Diverse Pairs Project 50%
- Diversity Journal 15%
- In-class assignments/Homework 15%
- DiversaTweets 10%
- Attendance 10%

## **ANTICIPATED COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

**Complete the readings first, then do the assigned homework**  
(subject to change; updates will be distributed in class or web)

**Week 1 (August 25, 27): Introductions, Chapter 1**

**Week 2 (September 1, 3): Chapter 2**

**Week 3 (September 8, 10): Chapter 3**

**Week 4 (September 15, 17): Chapter 4**

**Week 5 (September 22, 24): Chapter 5**

**Week 6 (September 29, Oct 1): Chapter 6**

**Week 7 (October 6, 8): Chapter 7**

**Week 8 (October 13, 15): Chapter 8**

**Week 9 (October 20, 22): Diverse pairs presentations**

**Week 10 (October 27, 29): Diverse pairs presentations**

**Week 11 (November 3, 5): Diverse pairs presentations**

**Week 12 (November 13, 15): Diverse pairs presentations**

**Week 13 (November 20): Diverse pairs presentations (no class on Thursday – Thanksgiving)**

**Week 14 (November 27, 29): Diverse pairs presentations**

**Week 15 (December 1, 3): Diverse pairs presentations**

**Week 16 (December 8, 10): Diverse pairs presentations**