

The Psychology of Oppression and Liberation- PSYC 142

Summer 2016

Mondays and Wednesdays 1-4:30 pm

Social Sciences 1, Rm 161

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COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides various interdisciplinary theoretical frameworks for understanding interlocking systems of oppression primarily from the perspective of the oppressed—those who have been marginalized nationally and internationally. The voices of the oppressed are often silenced; this course works towards breaking that silence. Course perspectives will go beyond mainstream (traditional) psychology and emphasize critical psychological perspectives that include micro and macro-level theories of oppression. This course will be guided by a Black Feminist, Intersectional perspective, and will be writing intensive. Please note, although this course is writing intensive, it cannot be used to fulfill writing requirements for graduation (e.g., “W” or “DC” requirements). Prerequisite(s): course 3 or 100 or feminist studies, sociology, community studies, or politics majors. (General Education Code(s): E.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate awareness and an understanding of the social and psychological experience of the oppressed.
- Interrogate systems of oppression and move toward conversations of liberation.
- Promote a high level of critical thinking about important social issues such as racism, sexism, heterosexism, homophobia/transphobia, classism, stigma, discrimination, and how they affect the psychological wellbeing and growth of oppressed groups.
- Employ communal and experimental learning experiences.

CLASS RULES

RESPECT IS A MUST!

RECORDING LECTURE IS NOT PERMITTED!

PLEASE TURN ALL MOBILE DEVICE TO SILENT OR AIRPLANE MODE
LAPTOPS ARE PERMITTED BUT DO NOT LET IT BECOME A DISTRACTION
PLEASE ASK FOR PERMISSION BEFORE TAKING ANY PHOTOS IN CLASS

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

David. E. J. R. (2014). Internalized oppression: The psychology of marginalized groups. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company. **ISBN:** 9780826199256

*hooks, b. (1984). Feminist theory: From margin to center. Boston, MA: South End Press.
(*The first edition will be used by the Professor and a link will be provided to the text via email.)

Sidanius, J. & Pratto, F. (1999). Social Dominance: An Intergroup Theory of Social Hierarchy and Oppression. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. **ISBN:** 9780521805407

****All additional readings will be distributed by the Professor either in class or via email.**

COURSE EVALUATION, ASSIGNMENTS, AND POLICY

Explanation of Final Grade Calculation

Attendance/Participation: 80 possible points

Daily Reactions to the Assigned Readings: 80 possible points

Weekly Quizzes or Reflection Papers: 60 possible points

Midterm Exam: 100 possible points

Final Exam: 100 possible points

Final Paper: 100 possible points

Total Possible Points: 520

To get final score, divide total points earned by 520.

*****These totals and/or assignments may change at the Professor's discretion. You will be notified of any changes in class.**

ASSIGNMENTS

*****ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN*****

Double Spaced

Times New Roman 12pt Font

1. Daily Reactions to the Assigned Readings

Students are required to submit 3-5 questions in reaction to, or inquiry of, the daily assigned readings. The first assignment will be due on the second day of classes. Daily reaction questions will be scored on a 10 point scale.

2. Weekly Quizzes or Reaction Papers

There will either be a quiz on the material at the end of the week, or a reaction paper due responding to a film shown in class. Quizzes or Reactions Papers will be scored on a 10 point scale. Reactions Papers must be type written and double spaced.

3. **Midterm Examination**

The midterm examination will be comprised of a combination of short answer, essay, and fill in the blank questions. The Midterm Exam will be scored on a 100-200 point scale.

4. **Final Reflection Paper**

The final reflection paper will be a 5-8 page paper exploring one of the theoretical or conceptual topics from the course, and will discuss or connect your experience in the course to the topic. The Final Paper will be scored on a 100 point scale and must be APA style.

5. **Final Exam**

The final exam will be comprised of a combination of shot answer, essay, and fill in the blank questions. The Final Exam will be scored on a 100-200 point scale.

6. **Class Attendance/Participation**

Three or more absences will lower your final grade for the course by one full letter. Every absence after two will result in an -10 from your overall final score. Attendance is critical because a significant part of the learning process is related to the nature of class discussions. Attendance will be taken daily. Class Participation will be measured by how actively you engaged in class.

Grading Scale

98 – 100 = A+	94 – 97 = A	90 – 93 = A-
87 – 89 = B+	83 – 86 = B	80 – 82 = B-
77 – 79 = C+	73 – 76 = C	70-72 = C-
60-69 = D	59-below = F	

Class Work Load

This course is equivalent to the same 150 hours of course work as the Fall, Winter, or Spring quarters, thus, the readings require approximately 14 hours per week, the assignments require approximately 15 hours per week, and the in class time requires approximately 6 hours per week.

Deadlines

All assignments must be submitted on time! No late assignments will be accepted! No Make-up examinations will be given!

Disability Access

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please get an Accommodation Authorization form from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and submit it to me in person outside of class (e.g., office hours) within the first two weeks of the quarter. Contact DRC at 459-2089 (voice), 459-4806 (TTY) or <http://drc.ucsc.edu> for more information on the requirements or process.

In the space below, please write the contact information of at least 2 people in this class whom you can contact in case you need notes or information regarding this class. Please do not email me questions such as, “what did I miss today in class?”, instead, ask your classmates! ☺

TENTATIVE COURSE READINGS & DISCUSSION SCHEDULE
[Schedule subject to change at Professor’s discretion]

Week 1: Tearing Out the Root: Identifying and Exploring the Layers of Oppression

6/20-6/22 Introductions/Course Overview

What is oppression? What does oppression feel like? What does oppression look like?

In class reading assignment followed by discussion: Toni Morrison’s *Whiteness and the Literary Imagination* (1993)

Homework Assignments: Write 3-5 questions on the readings

Historical oppression in psychology: Robert Guthrie’s *Even the Rat was White* (1976)

Explore Whiteness: Peggy McIntosh’s White Privilege: Unpacking the invisible knapsack (1990)

Black Feminist Foundations: Combahee River Collective’s Intersectionality (1982)

bell hooks’ Chapter’s 1 & 6.

6/22 Discussion of the readings, historical systems of oppression

Videos

Assignments: Write 3-5 questions on the assigned readings. Write a 1-3 page Reaction Paper to the videos shown in class and readings. The paper should address your reactions and discuss your thoughts about

oppression coming into the class and what you are thinking now as we lay the foundation for exploring oppression.

Readings: David (2014) Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2: Race, Racism, Ethnicity, Ethnocentrism, and Inter/Intragroup Relations

6/27-6/29 Discussion of the readings, race, and racism

Videos

Assignments: Read David (2014) Chapters 5, 6 & 7

Write 3-5 questions on the readings; Write a reaction paper on the videos.

6/29 Discussion of the readings, race continued...

Exercise

Videos

Assignments: read David (2014) Chapters 8 & 9; write 3-5 questions; write a reaction paper to the videos.

Week 3: Gender, Sexuality, Subjugation, and Oppression

7/4 **HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY! NO CLASS!**

7/6 Discussion of the readings, gender, sexuality, and oppression

Videos

Assignments: STUDY

Week 4: Social Dominance and the Need for Oppression

7/11 **Midterm Exam**

Assignments: read Sidanius & Pratto (1999) Chapters 1-3; write 3-5 questions

7/13 Discussion of the readings, social psychology and social justice study of oppression

Videos

Assignments: Read Sidanius & Pratto (1999) Part III and Chapters 5-8. Write 3-5 questions on the readings.

Week 5: Ending Oppression and moving Toward Liberation

7/18 Discussion of the readings, systems and cycles of oppression
Videos
Assignments: Read Sidanius & Pratto (1999) Chapters 9 & 10
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Speech, *I've been to the Mountaintop*
Additional readings TBA.

7/20 Discussion of the readings, and closing thoughts on the course

Final Exam 7/25 or 7/27

Best of Luck and Thank You!