This seminar will explore intergroup relations from a social psychological perspective. We will examine motivational, cognitive, and sociostructural factors that contribute to intergroup harmony and conflict. In addition, we will explore factors that influence groups’ mobility within a social structure, and we will evaluate efforts to reduce intergroup conflict. The primary goal of the course is to cultivate students’ abilities to use and contribute to the theory and research within the area of intergroup relations.

**Materials**
Any readings that are in electronic format are available on the PSY630 Blackboard website (under assignments). All other readings will be located in a box labeled PSY630 in the grad lab. Please return these originals when you are finished making copies. You must bring hard copies of the readings to class with you.

**Policies**
**Respect for others:** I respect each of you as a student who can bring a unique perspective to the study of intergroup relations. I expect that you will respect my goals, and I expect that similar respect will be given to your fellow students. Because of the nature of this class, we will be discussing some controversial topics that are potentially challenging to people’s beliefs and values. Everyone has the right to express his or her opinion, and this right will be strictly upheld in all class-related activities. At the same time, we will maintain an atmosphere of intellectual respect for the opinions of others, no matter how they might differ from our own.

**Attendance:** Your attendance is expected at each class, and participation points can only be earned by being present in class. Any behavior that disrupts the ability of the class to learn (e.g., late arrival, cell phone ringing, etc.) will detract from your grade.

**Late assignments:** No makeup exams will be given, and discussion questions will not be accepted after class. Other work will be penalized 5% for every business day late.

**Academic honesty:** Cooperative work will be part of this class; however, it is expected that anything you specify as your own work is truly your own work. Dishonesty in academic work and the penalties for such dishonesty are outlined in the Student Handbook. Please review the policy: [http://www.miami.muohio.edu/documents_and_policies/handbook/academic_regulations/acadregspsv.cfm](http://www.miami.muohio.edu/documents_and_policies/handbook/academic_regulations/acadregspsv.cfm)
Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade for this course, as well as the AD designation on your transcript.
Overview of Course Schedule
8/24        Introductions
8/31 – 9/28 Conflict & cooperation; proposal #1 due on 9/28
10/5 – 10/19 Social identity
10/26       Midterm exam
11/2 – 11/23 Mechanisms; proposal #2 due on 11/16
11/30 – 12/7 Social change
Finals week Final exam

Assignments

Participation (50 points)
An important part of conducting quality research, teaching others, or engaging in a scientific community is learning to express your ideas (even those ideas that are still in the formation stage). If you do not participate by sharing your reactions to the articles we are discussing, you will not earn points for this component of the course.

Discussion Questions (50 points)
Each week, you should pose one or two questions that reflect your careful reading and consideration of the papers for that week. These questions should be emailed to me and to the discussion leader for that week by 7:00 p.m. Monday evening before class. You are free, of course, to email your discussion questions earlier.

Leading Class Discussions (25 points each; 50 points total)
You will be asked to lead two class discussions throughout the semester. It is not your responsibility to summarize the readings or to teach others about them. Instead, you should come up with a plan to guide the discussion for that day: What are the important contributions of these papers, how do they relate to each other, and how do they relate to other topics we have discussed? How do they relate to other research or to current events? If the papers relate to your own work or area of expertise, you should certainly share that with the class.

Brief Research Proposals (25 points each; 50 points total)
You are required to turn in 2 brief (no more than 5 pages) research proposals on September 28 and November 16. For each proposal, you should choose the topics that are most interesting to you or relevant to your own work. In these proposals, you should very briefly explain the problem and why your question is interesting, give your hypotheses, sketch the methodology you will use, explain your predicted results, and summarize what the implications of your projected findings. Part of your grade will include a brief presentation (no more than 5 minutes) to the class.

Exams (125 points total)
You will complete a midterm exam (50 points; October 26) and a cumulative final exam (75 points; scheduled final time for the course). These closed-book, in-class exams will consist of short answer and essay questions.

There are 325 points possible in the course. If you wish to protest a grade that you receive, you need to turn in a written proposal explaining the question or assignment, your answer, and why you should receive credit. This proposal must be turned in within 3 weeks of the due date of the assignment. No grades will be revised after this time period.
Weekly Topics and Readings
Readings marked with an asterisk are available on the Blackboard website (under Assignments). All other readings are available for copying in the PSY630 box in the grad lab.

Section 1: Conflict and Cooperation
Week 1  Introduction  (August 24)

Week 2  Historical roots  (August 31)
Chapter 1 “What is the problem?”
Chapter 2 “The normality of prejudgment”
application:

Week 3  Conflict  (September 14)
application:

Week 4  Contact hypothesis  (September 21)
application:
Week 5  Nonconflictual but unequal relations  (September 28)
*commentary by Petrocelli, Sax, Glick & Fiske

application:

Section 2: Social Identity

Week 6  Social identity   (October 5)

application:

Week 7  Categorization   (October 12)

application:

Week 8  Ingroup favoritism/outgroup derogation   (October 19)

application:
Section 3: Mechanisms

Developmental processes (November 2)


application:


or


Week 10  Developmental processes  (November 2)


*Commentary by Sidanius & Pratto; Schmitt & Branscombe

application:


Week 11  Personality and individual differences  (November 9)


application:

Week 13  Affective processes  (November 23)

application:

Section 4: Social Change
Week 14  Responses to inequality  (November 30)

application:

Week 15  Race relations in the U.S.  (December 7)

application: