DESCRIPTION:
This online course provides a thorough theoretical review of the root causes of modern forms of prejudice and discrimination, which students are invited to consider through the lens of contemporary examples taken from everyday life. Using a valuable cross-cultural approach, we examine the social influence of individuals’ beliefs and judgments as well as perceptual errors we are prone to make and compare forms of discrimination in Europe and North America. We discuss examples of discrimination (age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation) and students have a unique opportunity to reflect upon their own person, community, and culture, and also identify personal areas of growth and change. We consider the current worldwide health crisis as an ongoing case study and use it to gain real-life insight on the psychological and sociological concepts studied (ingroup/outgroup, stigma, Realistic Conflict Theory, etc.). Students are encouraged to apply theories and research to areas of personal concern.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: Students are expected to commit 20 hours per week in order complete the course

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

INSTRUCTOR: Jennifer Ebner-Daigle

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS: Monday, 20:00 – 21:00 (CET)

PREREQUISITES: A minimum of 2 courses in psychology (or equivalent) or permission of the instructor.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
The methodology will be based on presentations and discussions, video excerpts, case studies, and group work. These will enhance our exploration of this contemporary area of social psychology. This course includes a weekly synchronous discussion. Though faculty will be available to interact and engage during the scheduled discussion period, the synchronous discussion is an optional component of the course for students. Other forms of communication with students will include announcements, emails, and virtual discussion forums. Students will have access to a weekly structure for the class and are expected to have completed all tasks by Sunday of every week.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Participation - 10%
- Midterm Exam - 20%
- Final Exam - 20%
- Journal Entries - 20%
- Term Paper - 30%

Midterm and Final Exam
The midterm and final exams require that students answer essay-type questions using concepts introduced in the course.

Written Assignment
The written assignment is an in-depth research and analysis paper on a subject selected by the student relevant to the course topic. The paper comprises two parts: a literature review and a personal analysis and reflection for a total length of 10-12 pages (including references).
Journal Entries
Students are assigned to small peer groups for weekly discussions about the assigned readings. Following these meetings, they will produce a weekly journal entry reflecting on the conversation, readings, and/or group dynamics.

Course Participation
Course participation refers to the extent to which students are involved, active, and prepared throughout the course. This includes reviewing the assigned readings before meetings, preparing relevant discussion questions for the session, and actively taking part in online discussions and activities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Have a basic understanding of the current stand of research in the field of prejudice and discrimination within the broader context of social psychology (with more emphasis on cultural components relating to the U.S. and Austria).
- Understand the nature of stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination and how pervasive they are, as well as examine the social, cognitive and emotional roots of these phenomena.
- Discuss case studies and experiences of stigmatized groups in various historical contexts based on specific forms of discrimination (age, race, gender, religion, sexual preference).
- Be aware of how prejudice and discrimination can be lessened (if not altogether avoided).
- Apply theories and relevant research to contemporary events, and areas of personal interest.

CONTENT:

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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| Week 1 | Introduction to the psychology of prejudice and discrimination | Required reading:  
- Social cognition  
- Social categorization  
- Stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination  
- Stigmatization  
- Antecedents of prejudice  
- Recommended reading:  
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<td>Week 3</td>
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**MIDTERM EXAM DUE**
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| Week 4 | Discrimination and dehumanization during the war  
- Anti-Semitism  
- Hate and the birth of evil  
- Genocide | Required reading:  
Recommended readings:  
| Week 5 | Ageism  
- Third and fourth age  
- The aged – disposable lives? | Required reading:  
Recommended readings:  
Term Paper |
Week 6  |  Social Influence & Coping Strategies  
---|---
- Can we prevent, reduce, or eradicate discrimination?  
- Concluding reflections

**Required reading:**

**FINAL EXAM**

**REQUIRED READINGS:**


**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**


**INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:**

Jennifer Ebner-Daigle has been teaching psychology classes at the undergraduate level for over 20 years. Her research interests have centered on the academic performance differentials of minority children in Austria and the health of homeless veterans. She works for the non-profit organization Teach for Austria as a trainer and supervisor and is a consultant and project manager for the Hill Foundation in the area of gender diversity. Jennifer is a native of Québec, Canada; she has resided in Austria since 2001.