
PSYC 4389.115 Special Topics in Psychology: Race and Ethnic Relations
Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00 to 8:45 PM.

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Sanfrenà Britt

Office: Founder's Hall, 429E

Phone: 254-519-5790

Email: sanfrena.britt@tamuct.edu

Office Hours: *By Appointment Only*

Mode of instruction and course access: This is a hybrid course, meaning this course contains both face-to-face and online components. Texas A&M University-Central Texas (A&M Central Texas) uses the Canvas Instructor System and can be accessed using your A&M Central Texas username and password at: <https://tamuct.instructure.com>

Student-instructor interaction: The normal interaction time for questions emailed via Canvas or tamuct.edu email is 24 hours on weekdays (weekends may be as long as 48 hours). The preferred method of email correspondence is: sanfrena.britt@tamuct.edu

UNILERT: Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas UNILERT is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in UNILERT through their myCT email account. Connect at <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/security/unilert.php> to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in UNILERT, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and description:

PSYC 4389.115 Special Topics in Psychology: Race and Ethnic Relations
Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00 to 8:45 PM.

This course examines the diverse nature of race and ethnic relations in today's society.

Course Objective:

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand why we attach meaning to diversity, race, and ethnicity, including the socio-historic constructions of race and ethnicity and contemporary socioeconomic trends
2. Understand how the idea of race changes over time and place and why diversity is an important concept
3. Understand diversity as inclusive demographics in America to include stereotypes and social structures
4. Understand the psychological concepts and theories of diversity, race, and ethnic relations

Competency Goals Statements

Student Mastery:

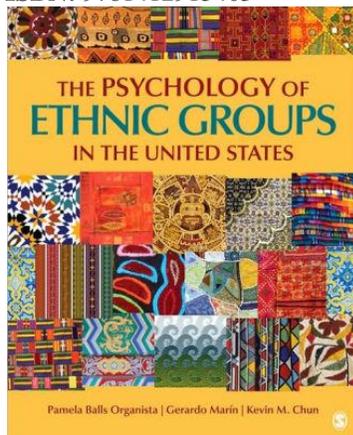
1. Students will use critical thinking to evaluate interpersonal perspectives of diversity, race, and ethnicity different from their original definitions.
2. Students will research various demographics such as gender, age, sexuality, race, and ethnic groups and use behavioral statistics to analyze similarities and differences among various cultures.
3. Students will build comprehensive dialogs with their peers through class projects, presentations and writing assignments.
4. Students will develop online dialogs through weekly discussion questions and interactions utilizing Canvas as a virtual classroom setting.

Required Reading and Textbook(s):

The Psychology of Ethnic Groups in the United States / First Edition

Author: Organista

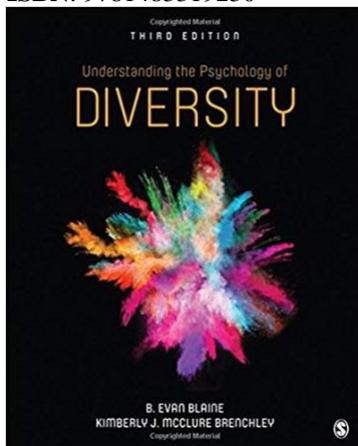
ISBN: 9781412915403



Understanding the Psychology of Diversity 3e / Third Edition

Author: Blaine

ISBN: 9781483319230



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading assignments, Team Building, and weekly online folders: Readings from the textbooks are listed in the course schedule below. Please complete the weekly readings before you attempt to take a quiz or reply to a discussion posting. **Additional readings will be posted online in the course folders entitled “Online readings”.** Please treat these as you would textbook chapters. We will have one team project to enhance your learning experience in the course. It will entail working with your team, choosing a topic to explore, then creating a team experiment and reporting the results to the class.
2. Weekly Journals: Five journals, worth 10 points each, are due on designated dates (see calendar below) to create an area to discuss your thoughts about your classroom and online conversations. Only you and I will see your submissions, they are completely private. Your journals must contain reflections of at least three of your classmates’ responses or information you learned during my lectures on the topics of the preceding weeks and how your opinion of these responses pertain to the text. You must be specific and include complete concepts from each discussion you choose.
3. Discussion postings: There will be six discussion postings due (30 pts each). You will be required to submit your initial post to the discussion question provided by me that week and then respond to **TWO** of your classmates’ posts.
4. Online Quizzes: Reading quizzes (dates on schedule) are assigned at regular intervals throughout the course. You will find these quizzes in the Quizzes section of Canvas. These quizzes will cover the same material as the discussion postings, however, they will auto grade and auto post to the Grades section. Questions from the quizzes will help you prepare for the exam. The first quiz (Q0) is a practice quiz for extra credit to make sure you are familiar with the quiz taking format. It will cover the syllabus material.
5. **There are no makeup quizzes.** You must ensure you have a secure Internet connection. Once you begin an assessment you must complete it in one sitting or the submission will be graded as is. It will not be reset or retaken due to outages or interruptions with the Internet unless you are in the University Library and technical difficulties are documented by a librarian. I will plan to have the computer lab in Founder’s Hall available for those who would like to use University computers. Prior notice is required.
6. Mid-Term Exam: One mid-term exam will cover readings, quizzes, and discussion posts from the prior weeks. The exam will follow a similar format to the quizzes but have many more questions and cover more material. The mid-term will be available the night of class only. Check the schedule for the date/time. Students will have three hours to complete the exam and will have only one attempt. A make-up exam will be made available for students who miss the mid-term and have a documented excuse such as illness or injury (see full policy below). The same rules apply for the midterm as for quizzes. You must ensure you have a secure Internet connection. Once you begin the exam you must complete it in one sitting or the submission will be graded as is. It will not be reset or retaken due to outages or interruptions with the Internet unless you are in the University Library and technical difficulties are documented by a librarian. I will plan to have the computer lab in Founder’s Hall available for those who would like to use University computers. Prior notice is required.
7. Final paper: Your final/only paper is due Thursday, **March 1, 2019 at NOON** in Canvas. This paper should be no less than four (4) pages and no longer than seven (7) pages in length; double-spaced; and 11pt. Times New Roman font. Please use APA formatting guidelines for margins and spacing.

Initial, Primary Response (10 pts)—due Fridays at Noon.

Students are expected to read the assigned materials *prior* to responding to threaded discussions. **Please devote the first part of the week to reading and understanding the assigned reading. Note taking and outlining is recommended.**

The *initial response* must reflect familiarity with the readings and answer the question completely. Responses must have substance beyond agreement with a statement or the mere expression of opinions. Students must support responses with references to the assigned reading.

Additional Secondary Response (10 points each/totaling 20points)—due Sundays at Noon.

After initial responses, you must make *additional secondary responses to classmates' posts*. The secondary response must entail a substantive comparison or contrast to the initial post. This secondary response must also support the readings. *Your response is primarily to enrich the conversation using your classmates' responses to substantiate my original discussion post.* Simply stating that you agree with someone is unacceptable; you must provide some reasons for this agreement. Also remember that *your primary task is not to agree but to analyze response to the topic with constructive and critical thinking.*

After posting three discussions for the week, you have complied with the requirements of the course. However, you may continue to post responses to other students.

There are no makeups for discussions from previous weeks.

Please avoid procrastinating on your posts. Post as early as possible. If your post is inadequate, I or someone else may tell you, and you should have time to revise your post for credit before the deadline. If you wait until the last minute to post and your post is inadequate, you may not have time to resubmit your post. ***You will not receive credit for deficient posts.***

This type of interaction should foster a critical evaluation and understanding of concepts. In conjunction with classroom discussions, this type of activity will provide a forum for the expression of ongoing ideas among students.

Points are awarded to students, based on the quality and content of their participation in these threaded discussions. Quality participation pertains to students responding in relevant, meaningful ways, based upon the assigned readings for that week.

My Responses.

I will grade and respond to discussions progressively, meaning you will receive points for each post up to the total number of points allowable for the week. It is the student's responsibility to read my responses and respond accordingly. Sometimes inaccurate information is presented by students that should be corrected, and the purpose of some of my response is to alert the class to such information. You may ask relevant questions regarding my responses within the discussion to clarify information, however, my intent is to make sure the concept has been covered adequately not to engage in a debate on the topic.

Netiquette.

All students are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all messages and threaded discussions. Students may wish to refer to the Student Handbook (located under Student Affairs/Student Conduct on the Texas A&M University-Central Texas website) for further information along these lines. Inappropriate or offensive messages or remarks may result in expulsion from the course.

Coursework	Points
Exam (1 @ 100pts)	100
Weekly Journals (5 @ 10pts)	50
Discussion postings and Team Experiment (6 @ 30pts)	180
Quizzes (4 @ 75pts)	300
Final paper and Team Project	300
<i>Total:</i>	930

Makeup policy

This is a hybrid course, meaning you will have online and face-to-face components for successful learning. You are responsible for managing your time to make sure you complete all assignments on time. **There are no makeups for discussion posts or quizzes.** Students may make-up the mid-term exam if illness or an injury occurs. Other excuses must be approved through a meeting with me and all excuses must be documented. If the mid-term is missed due to illness, injury or something out of the student's control three contingencies must occur:

The student must provide documentation (doctor's note, police report, etc.),

The student must notify me as soon as possible of intent to take the make-up exam, and

The student must prepare to take the makeup exam within 1 week of the excused absence, if possible.

Students who miss the mid-term exam with no excused absence will receive a zero on the exam. If circumstances

dictate an inability to complete the course, the course should be dropped and only the student can initiate this action. Otherwise the posted grade must be accepted.

Instructor's Personal Statement

World citizens understand the need to reach beyond cultural differences and find commonalities that allow global collaborations. The beauty of each ethnic group is a demonstration of the uniqueness of the human experience. The ability to see physical and cultural differences as an asset, rather than a premise for prejudicial inequality is at the core of this course. The goal is not to ignore racial uniqueness, ethnic diversity, and the relationships that develop as a result of understanding the richness offered by each; the goal is to explore and redefine preconceived perceptions of these differences and discover that we have more in common than we do in contrast.

Psychological research is a fundamental component to understanding human behavior and assisting those who suffer dysfunction in mental and emotional processing. Multi-Variate analysis assists with understanding underlying issues that contribute to not only dysfunction, but also to maladjustment to societal norms and underachievement in areas fundamental to economic success, such as education and vocation. Each individual who seeks to address the various differences in how the world is perceived should have the assurance that a label of dysfunction does not identify the totality of successful outcomes and possibilities. Research assists in preparing society to adjust and to explore various initiatives and approaches tailored to individuals who need assistance; and should not merely follow a path identified by the systematic diagnosis as the map for successful assimilation.

Therefore, thorough exploration of cognitive processing, detailed psychological assessment, family and community history, and innumerable research connections to similar societal situations offer the elemental foundation for understanding how we learn and what hinders the successful transition of knowledge to wisdom. There must be a bridge built that connects experience with understanding and understanding with application.

"We all do better when we work together. Our differences do matter, but our common humanity matters more."

— Bill Clinton

Final Paper Rubric

Score Levels	Content	Conventions	Organization
300 - 250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoughtful and supports the topic Reflects the application of critical thinking Has a clear goal related to the topic No spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level use of vocabulary and word choice Information is organized and follows a progressive pattern 	Information is constructed in a logical manner to support the topic
249 - 200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoughtful and supports the topic Has an apparent application of critical thinking Has a clear goal related to the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few (1 to 3) spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors Good use of vocabulary and word choice 	Information supports the topic
199 - 150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the topic Has apparent application of critical thinking Has no clear goal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal (3 to 5), grammatical and punctuation errors Low-level use of vocabulary and word choice Topic is focused but might stray at times Information appears to have a pattern, but not consistent 	Information loosely supports the topic
149 and below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides inconsistent information for the topic Has no apparent application of critical thinking Has no clear goal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information has no apparent pattern More than 5 spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors Poor use of vocabulary and word choice Content is unfocused and haphazard 	Information does not support the topic

Technology requirements and support.

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address) Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](#)

[https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity.

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

Academic Accommodations.

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring.

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center.

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) at [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu for any assistance needed with scheduling.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

If you have any questions about the UWC, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library.

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas.

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

Copyright Notice.

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.