Melinda Messineo joined the Department of Sociology at Ball State in 1999. Professor Messineo received her degrees from the University of California, Riverside, her MA and PhD in sociology. Professor Messineo's current research focuses on race, class and gender in the media and the scholarship of teaching and learning. In addition to teaching the introductory sociology course, Dr. Messineo currently teaches courses in the sociological of media, leisure, research methods, and the sociology major capstone. She is the recipient of the Lawhead Award in Teaching, the Excellence in Teaching Award twice, Outstanding Teaching Award all from BSU and the Schnabel Teaching Award from the North Central Sociological Association.