

Social Psychology (830:321:B7)

Summer 2012

Instructor: David Stout, Ph.D.

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30pm-6:00pm. Otherwise, by appointment.

Textbook:

Myers, D. (2010). *Social Psychology* (10th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

Additional readings:

Your instructor will periodically supply you with additional supplemental readings.

Course Description:

Social Psychology is “the scientific study of how people think about, influence, and relate to one another” (Myers, 2010, p. 4). This course will provide an understanding of humans as biopsychosocial organisms that both influence, and are influenced by the social environment. Major themes to be investigated in this class include social thinking (e.g. social identity, judgments, attitudes), social influence (e.g. culture, conformity, obedience, persuasion), and social relations (e.g. prejudice, aggression, conflict, attraction, helping, conflict resolution). In addition to completing the required readings, students will watch movies, observe and record social psychology in everyday life, and perform activities to demonstrate understanding of social psychological concepts. Prerequisite: 01:830:101.

Learning Goals:

1. Students will learn to define social psychology and explain the major areas of social psychological research.
2. Students will learn to distinguish between and apply Social Psychologists research methods.
3. Students will learn to scrutinize research on a Social Psychology topic of their choice, and to propose a research study that would extend the scientific knowledgebase of this chosen topic.
4. Students will learn what the major historical Social Psychology studies have revealed about the conditions that influence human thought and behavior.
5. Students will evaluate the ethical implications of major historical Social Psychology studies.
6. Students will learn to identify examples of social thinking (e.g. social identity, judgments, attitudes), social influence (e.g. culture, conformity, obedience, persuasion), and social relations (e.g. prejudice, aggression, conflict, attraction, helping, conflict resolution) in the media and in their own lives.
7. Students will analyze the relevance of social psychology in their own lives.
8. Students will analyze the ways in which their thinking about their own behavior and the behavior of others has changed as a result of taking this course.

Web Resources:

Sakai: Go to Sakai.rutgers.edu; log in using netID and password; click on class website. Check the website frequently for any announcements, supplemental readings, etc.

Text Website: <http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073370665/sitemap.html>

Contains videos, interactivities, practice quizzes/tests, and other resources.

Grading:

Final grades will be based on class participation, unit exams, and a comprehensive final exam. The breakdown will be as follows:

Class Participation: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Attendance will be monitored. Failure to attend classes without a legitimate documented excuse will result in the deduction of points from the participation portion of your grade. Additionally, active participation is an essential part of this course. All students should come to class prepared to discuss the readings and to participate in class activities. Several activities will be done in class at random times during the term. These in-class activities cannot be made up if class is missed. Participation constitutes 10% of your final grade (maximum of 50 points).

Active Learning Portfolio: Throughout the course, all students will develop a portfolio of brief active learning assignments. The portfolio will consist of Parts A, B, and C explained below:

Part A (ALP Part A due 6/7/12)

1. In a one page narrative, explain how social psychology fits into your educational and career goals.
2. Locate at least two examples of Unit 1 concepts in the media. Post these examples on the Unit 1 Pinterest Board. Describe your submissions in a one page narrative.
3. In a one page narrative, identify and explain examples of Unit 1 concepts in your life.
4. Include all completed activities assigned, including surveys, inventories, and other homework.

Part B (ALP Part B due 6/21/12)

1. All materials submitted in ALP Part A.
2. Locate at least two examples of Unit 2 concepts in the media. Post these examples on the Unit 2 Pinterest Board. Describe your submissions in a one page narrative.
3. In a one page narrative, identify and explain examples of Unit 2 concepts in your life.
4. Include all completed activities assigned, including surveys, inventories, and other homework.

Part C (ALP Part C due 7/5/12)

1. All materials submitted in ALP Parts A & B.
2. Locate at least two examples of Unit 3 concepts in the media. Post these examples on the Unit 3 Pinterest Board. Describe your submissions in a one page narrative.
3. In a one page narrative, identify and explain examples of Unit 3 concepts in your life.
4. Include all completed activities assigned, including surveys, inventories, and other homework.
5. In a one page narrative, explain how social psychology has affected your perception of the behavior of other people since you started this class.

The portfolio should be submitted in a three-ring binder labeled with your name and the course title. After the Unit 1 and 2 Exams, this binder will be returned with graded work so that it can be reused. Each part of the portfolio should contain 2-3 double-spaced pages of written work in Times New Roman (size 12) font. Document the sources of all examples using APA style citations and a reference page.

The portfolio will be graded based upon compliance with assignment directions, quality of writing, articulation of points, and relevance to social psychology. This assignment will be worth a maximum of 100 points (20% of final grade). Late submissions will result in the deduction of 10 points per class session beyond the scheduled due date. No portfolio material will be accepted for credit after 7/5/12.

Exams: There will be 3 in-class exams to measure your knowledge and understanding of the material, as well as your ability to apply course concepts. All exams will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Questions will cover material from the Myers text, supplemental readings, and in-class discussions. *Please note:* If the University is closed on a day when an exam is scheduled (e.g. due to inclement weather), the exam will be held during the next scheduled class. Otherwise, there will be no cancellation or postponement of exams. *Warning:* If you find a note outside of class or hear a rumor about class being canceled, don't simply trust this information – verify all such messages by checking Sakai. If you don't see an announcement regarding postponement or cancellation of an exam, call the Psychology Department (445-4036).

Unit 1 and 2 Exams: The Unit 1 Exam will assess your understanding of Social Thinking (Myers Chapters 1-4). The Unit 2 Exam will measure your understanding of Social Influence (Myers Chapters 5-8). Each unit exam will be worth a maximum of 100 points (20% of final grade).

Final Exam: The final exam will be taken in class according to the University's final exam schedule (<http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/fallfinals.shtml>). The first half of the final exam (Part A) will be a third unit exam, measuring your understanding of Social Relations (Myers Chapters 9-12). Part A of the Final exam will be worth a maximum of 100 points (20% of final grade). The second half of the exam (Part B) will be comprehensive, covering material from the Unit 1 and 2 exams. Part B of the Final exam will be worth a maximum of 50 points (10% of final grade).

Exams may only be made up by appointment if the student has a legitimate documented excuse for missing a class on a date when an exam has been scheduled. Legitimate excuses include illness, bereavement, and travel to away games for University athletes. Acceptable documentation includes a doctor's note, confirmation of a death in the family, or a note from the Athletic Department. In these cases, an alternate, but equivalent version of the exam given in class may be taken.

Grade Calculation: Following, you will find the weights of each required assignment, the distribution of points for each required class activity, and the number of points necessary to earn each grade:

Assignment	Total Points	Weight
Unit 1 Exam	100	20%
Unit 2 Exam	100	20%
Final Exam (Part A)	100	20%
Final Exam (Part B)	50	10%
Active Learning Portfolio	100	20%
Participation	50	10%

Points needed for each grade:

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	450-500	90-100%
B+	435-449	87-89.9%
B	400-434	80-86.9%
C+	385-399	77-79.9%
C	350-384	70-76.9%
D	300-349	60-69.9%
F	0-299	0-59.9%

Special Notes regarding Grading:

- The point and grade distributions noted above are not flexible.
- I am happy to meet with students individually to discuss any assignments. Also, if you're having difficulty in the course, meet with me during my office hours as soon as you recognize the problem. Don't wait until the end of the term when it may be too late to rectify the situation.
- Any questions regarding your final grade must be addressed and resolved within one week of your final grade being posted. After one week, your final grade cannot be changed for any reason.

Extra Credit Assignments: Students who are present and actively involved in the entirety of each class may earn a maximum of 10 extra credit points during the term. All extra credit assignments must be submitted by 6/28/12. No extra credit assignments will be accepted after this date. One extra credit activity will be offered for each unit.

Academic Honesty:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Read and become familiar with the University's academic integrity policy (<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>). All breaches of the academic integrity policy will be reported to the University's Academic Integrity Facilitators and the Office of Student Conduct. Sanctions for such violations may include any of the following, depending on the level of violation:

1. Required participation in a noncredit workshop or seminar on ethics or academic integrity.
2. An assigned paper or research project related to ethics or academic integrity.
3. A make-up assignment that is more difficult than the original assignment.
4. A failing grade on the assignment.
5. A failing grade for the course.
6. Disciplinary warning or probation.
7. Suspension for one or more semesters.
8. Permanent expulsion from the University with a permanent notation of disciplinary expulsion on the student's Rutgers transcript.

Violations of the academic integrity code include use of impermissible materials, fabrication of information/citations in an academic work, representation of another person's work as your own, and/or deliberately impeding the progress of another student.

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This course schedule is tentative. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Sakai.

Date	Topic	Reading	Due
Tues. 5/29/12	Introduction & Self in a Social World	Myers Chapters 1 & 2	
Thurs. 5/31/12	Social Beliefs & Judgments	Myers Chapter 3	
Tues. 6/5/12	Behavior & Attitudes	Myers Chapter 4	
Thurs. 6/7/12	UNIT 1 EXAM¹; Genes, Culture, and Gender	Review Chapters 1-4; Read Myers Chapter 5	ALP Part A ²
Tues. 6/12/12	Conformity & Obedience	Myers Chapter 6	
Thurs. 6/14/12	Persuasion	Myers Chapter 7	
Tues. 6/19/12	Group Influence	Myers Chapter 8	
Thurs. 6/21/12	UNIT 2 EXAM; Prejudice	Review Myers Chapters 5-8 Read Myers Chapter 9	ALP Part B
Tues. 6/26/12	Aggression	Myers Chapter 10	
Thurs. 6/28/12	Attraction and Intimacy	Myers Chapter 11	EC ³
Tues. 7/3/12	Helping	Myers Chapter 12	
Thurs. 7/5/12	FINAL EXAM	Review Myers Chapters 1-12	ALP Part C

1. Exams may only be made up if there is a legitimate documented excuse for missing the exam.
2. ALP (Active Learning Portfolio) Late submissions will result in point deductions (see grading section above).
3. EC (Extra credit). Extra credit can only be earned by students who attend all classes in full. No extra credit will be accepted after 6/28/12.