

830:321

Social Psychology

Fall 2014

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Textbook: Myers, D. G., SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, McGraw Hill,
11th ed. ISBN: 978-0-07-803529-6

The ISBN number may vary somewhat; as long as you have the 11th edition you will be fine – whether hardcover or loose leaf.

Two copies of the text are on reserve at Kilmer Library.

Overview

This course surveys the major topic areas within social psychology. Social psychologists study how the thoughts, feelings, and actions of individuals influence and are influenced by the behavior of others. The goal of the course is to introduce you to theories and research that study social interaction.

Topics are organized into 3 units with an exam following each. The first unit covers chapters 1-4 of the text. Topics include research methods, social cognition, and self-concept. The second unit (chapters 6, 7, 11) concentrates on social influence and includes persuasion and interpersonal attraction. The third unit (chapters 8, 9, 10, 12) examines social relations such as prejudice, aggression, helping, and behavior in groups. Chapters 14 and 15 apply social psychology to the legal and clinical realms. These chapters are divided across the 3 units. Specific topics, reading assignments, and exam dates are on the last page of the syllabus.

Because the text covers more material than I have time to address in class, there will be some topics discussed in the text that I will not cover in class. On the other hand, I will develop some of the material in greater detail than what is presented in the text as well as introduce some theory and research not touched on in the text. The aim of the class lectures is to be an extension, not a clone, of the text.

Power point slides covering some of the lecture material will be posted in Resources at the Sakai site for this course. I encourage you to print the slides before class with room to supplement them with additional material presented in class. Sample exam questions as well as announcements will also be posted at Sakai.

Evaluation: Your grade will be based on the total number of points accumulated from 3 exams (two class exams plus a noncumulative final exam), a few class exercises, and a short paper.

Class Exams: Exams 1 and 2 will each consist of 70 multiple choice questions. The final exam (exam 3) will contain 80 questions. Exam questions will be drawn chiefly from material that is available from both lecture and text (rough breakdown of questions for each exam: 60% from material covered both in class and text; 20% from material unique to class; 20% from material unique to text. Total: **140 points**

Final Exam: The final exam (exam 3) will be cumulative. It will contain 70 multiple choice questions from material covered during the last third of the course. There will also be 20 questions (multiple choice or fill in the blank) that draw on material presented throughout the semester. Total: **90 points**

Class assignments: There will be a few 5 point assignments – some in class and some posted as homework exercises – over the course of the semester. You must be present on the day of any in class 3 point assignments; there is no make-up opportunity for them. Total: **20 points.**

Total points for course: 230 (exams) + 20 (class exercises) = 250

There is NO extra credit.

Grades: Your final grade will be determined as follows – the highest total number of points accumulated by a student will be used as the 100% benchmark. The cutoff for an A will be 90% of that benchmark; 80% for a B; 70% for a C; 60% for a D. (Ex: Total possible points is 250. If the highest obtained points is 220, then the cutoff for an A will be 90% of 220 (198); for a B 80% of 220 (176); and so forth.)

Make-up exams: If you miss an exam because of illness or family emergency, contact the teaching assistant to schedule a make-up and provide the TA with a signed excuse (e.g., doctor's note, accident report). I will be available outside of class to discuss the content of the course, your performance on exams, and any other academic matters. The TA will handle missed exams.

SAS Final Exam conflict policy:

“A student shall be said to have an exam conflict if that student has:

- More than two (2) exams on one calendar day.
- More than two (2) exams scheduled in consecutive periods (e.g., a student has exams scheduled for 4:00 -7:00 pm and 8:00 -11:00 pm on one day and 8:00 - 11:00 am on the following day.)
- Two exams scheduled for the same exam period.”

If you meet any of the conditions of the Final exam conflict policy, you may make arrangements with the TA for an alternative exam date. You will be asked to provide proof of the conflict.

Class dates, Lecture topics, and Chapter assignments:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Text Chapter</u>
9/3	Overview, Research Methods	
	What is the field of social psychology? What are some common assumptions that social psychologist make about human behavior? How is social psychology different from simple common sense? How do social psychologists conduct research?	
9/8	Research Methods, Self	1
	What are the primary research paradigms used in social psychological research? What are their strengths and weaknesses? How does the use of statistics contribute to decision making? What is the self-concept? Is the self a single or multiple construct?	
9/10-15	Self, Self-esteem	2
	How does the sense of self develop? How is it influenced by others? What are benefits and drawbacks of high self-esteem?	
9/17-22-24	Social Beliefs and Judgments	3, 14 (522-540) 15 (556-566)
	What is automatic and controlled thinking? How do schemas and cognitive heuristics influence social judgments? How do we make attributions about the causes of behavior? How accurate are our social judgments? How can this research be applied to clinical and legal topics?	
9/29-10/1	Behavior and Attitudes	4; 14 (541-545)
	When are people likely to act in agreement with their attitudes or beliefs? How do people respond when their beliefs or actions are inconsistent with one another?	
<u>10/6</u>	<u>Exam 1</u>	
10/8-13-15	Conformity and Obedience	6
	Why and when do people follow orders or conform to the opinions of others? What factors promote an increase in obedience and conformity? What factors promote resistance to orders and pressure to conform?	
10/20-22-27	Persuasion	7
	What is the difference between conformity and persuasion? What are some major psychological theories of persuasion? How do people effectively resist persuasion?	

