



Social Psychology

830:321:H6

Summer 2014

Instructor: Sara Manuel

Office: Tillett Hall 331

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 2:00-3:00pm, or by appointment

Contact Information: sara.manuel@rutgers.edu

Meeting Times: Monday & Wednesdays 6:00-9:40pm

Location: SEC 208

Course Overview:

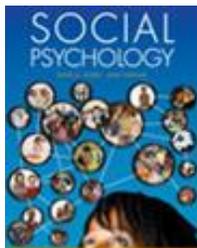
This course surveys the major topic areas within social psychology. Social psychologists study how the thoughts, feelings, and actions of individuals influence and are influenced by the behavior of others. The goal of the course is to introduce you to theories and research that explain aspects of social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

Course Objectives:

- Gain a general knowledge of the major theories and research findings in social psychology.
- Understand basic scientific methods used in social psychological research.
- Apply social psychological theories and principles to everyday experiences.
- Critically evaluate psychological topics and research.

Required Textbook:

Myers, D. (2013). *Social Psychology* (11th Ed.). New York, NY: McGraw Hill.



Course Pre-requisite:

PSYC 101 (General Psychology)

Course website:

If you are properly registered for the course, you have access to the course website through Sakai. There you will find copies of all slides, resources, and assignments. Lectures, assignment instructions, etc. will be posted before each class.

You are responsible for all the information contained in this syllabus and for all changes to the syllabus that I announce in class or post on Sakai. It is important to note that the syllabus is subject to change, so please consistently check the syllabus on Sakai so that you are aware of these changes. The schedule of class topics and/or assignments is subject to change as necessary. Changes will be made known via emails, Sakai announcements, and/or lectures slides. You are responsible to check these resources.

Required readings:

All readings should be completed prior to the assigned class day. You should come to class prepared to discuss the readings. I encourage you to take notes as you read and bring any questions that you might have on the material to share with the class.

Class discussion:

Social psychological topics can be easily applied to people's own experiences and thus, discussion is common (and highly encouraged). You will have many opportunities to ask questions and/or share your thoughts. However, you are never required to share any personal experiences. Most importantly, please be respectful of other students' opinions and the information they share in class.

Office hours:

I welcome and encourage any student to visit me if he or she has any questions or concerns about an assignment or something covered in class. Office hours are a time that I set aside to be available for you, so you do not need to worry about bothering me. If you cannot meet during my office hours or after class, email me to arrange another time to meet.

Laptops:

Bringing a laptop to class is highly encouraged. Several in-class assignments may require internet access and online submission. If you cannot bring a laptop to class, please let me know.

Course Evaluation

Attendance & in-class assignments: Attendance in this course is essential. As each class meeting will cover a great deal of material, missing class may set you behind. Additionally, some of the material discussed in class will not be covered in the readings. In lieu of consistently monitoring attendance, there will be several in-class assignments included in your grade. There will be no make-up opportunities for missed in-class assignments, however, I will drop your lowest score, and so if you must miss class during an in-class assignment, you will not be penalized. Additionally, if you cannot come to class, make sure you get the lecture notes from a classmate.

Response papers: Throughout the course, you will be required to write 4 short response papers. These will be due each Monday. Response papers should discuss any of the material we covered the previous week. The papers should be 1.5 to 2 pages long. Response papers can take three different forms:

- *Application of theory:* Does this theory help you make sense of a specific interaction or situation? You may choose an experience from your own life, or you may analyze a magazine/newspaper article, movie/TV show, cartoon, song, etc. Please briefly describe the scenario you are analyzing and then discuss how the theory applies to this scenario.
- *Critical evaluation of the theory:* Does this theory contradict other research you have read about? Does it fail to take important factors into consideration? Are there limitations to the way this theory can be tested? This response will be based partly on your own opinions but make sure to evaluate the theory in the context of psychological research methods.
- *Testing of the theory:* Conduct your own social psychological experiment by acting out a phenomenon in public and discussing your experience. Cover the main components of your experiment. What was the phenomenon you chose and what was your hypothesis? Where did you conduct your experiment and who were your participants? How did you conduct your experiment and what was the procedure? What were the results and how did people react? What can you conclude from your experiment and did you find support for your hypothesis?

For any of the above forms, briefly define or explain the theory that you chose to write about. Response papers should be submitted through Sakai before the beginning of each Monday class. (Note: There will be no response papers due on the first day of class or the Monday after the midterm).

Exams: There will be two in-class exams consisting of multiple choice questions. The final will not be cumulative and only cover material from the second half of the course. Test material may be taken from the required readings, class lectures, and in-class discussions. Make-up exams will not be permitted without advance permission. Permission will only be granted for unavoidable circumstances (serious illness, family emergency).

Grading: Grades will be based on in-class assignments, response papers, and the two exams. The point breakdown for each component is as follows:

Assignment	Points	Percentage
In-class assignments	100	20%
Response papers	100	20%
Midterm exam	150	30%
Final	150	30%
Total points	500	100%

The points needed for each grade is:

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%

Students with disabilities:

Any student who feels he or she needs accommodation for a physical or learning disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (151 College Ave, Suite 123; phone 732-932-2848) and read more about Rutgers’ policy at <http://disability/services.rutgers.edu> . If you request accommodations for this course, you will need a letter from Disability Services. This letter must be provided to me *by our second class*, at which point you may make a request for course-specific accommodations. The Chair of Undergraduate Psychology and I will review your request and may choose to modify it before it is approved.

Plagiarism:

All work that students turn in must be their own work. Students *should not* work collaboratively on assignments without prior approval from the instructor. Any outside sources (including help from other people) must be appropriately referenced in all written work. Turning in someone else’s work as your own is completely unacceptable. This includes downloading information from the web and pasting or copying it into your paper. We routinely check Google, Wikipedia and other popular websites to check for plagiarism. Additionally, we require that your paper be turned in as electronic as well as hard copies so that we can check for plagiarism by matching content to information on the web. Any student who plagiarizes will, *at the very least*, receive a failing grade for the course. More severe consequences (e.g., expulsion) are also possible. More about academic integrity can be found at <http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments*

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments
Mon 7/7	Intro to Social Psychology & The Self in a Social World	Chapter 1 & Chapter 2
Wed 7/9	Social Beliefs and Judgments & Behavior and Attitudes	Chapter 3 & Chapter 4
Mon 7/14	Behavior and Attitudes (cont'd) & Genes, Culture, and Gender	Chapter 4 & Chapter 5 Response paper 1
Wed 7/16	Genes, Culture, and Gender (cont'd) & Conformity and Obedience	Chapter 5 & Chapter 6
Mon 7/21	Review for midterm exam	Response paper 2 due
Wed 7/23	MIDTERM EXAM	
Mon 7/28	Persuasion & Group Influence	Chapter 7 & Chapter 8
Wed 7/30	Prejudice: Disliking Others & Aggression: Hurting Others	Chapter 9 & Chapter 10
Mon 8/4	Aggression: Hurting Others (cont'd) & Attraction and Intimacy	Chapter 10 & Chapter 11 Response paper 3 due
Wed 8/6	Helping & Conflict and Peacemaking	Chapter 12 & Chapter 13
Mon 8/11	Review for Final Exam	Response paper 4 due
Wed 8/13	FINAL EXAM	

*Subject to change if necessary. All changes will be announced in advance.