

Psychology 830:321

Social Psychology Spring 2015
Monday & Thursday, 10:20-11:40AM TILLET 254

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The goal of social psychology is to understand and explain how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, and implied presence of others. At the heart of social psychology is the recognition that our responses are dramatically influenced by social situations; our responses are not simply the products of our individual personalities.

The course will provide students with an overview of research and theory in social psychology, focusing on the ways in which the study of social behavior is scientific. We will cover topics such as attitudes, persuasion, conformity, obedience, social self-concept, perception of others, stereotyping and discrimination, romantic relationships, gender roles, aggression, and helping behavior. The course aims to teach students how to understand, appreciate, and criticize an empirical study in behavioral science, as an intelligent lay person. The course emphasizes an understanding of the important scientific methods, findings, and principles in the field of social psychology, which it then applies to everyday life and to broader social problems.

Course Format

We will meet twice a week for 80-minute lectures. I will assume that you have completed the reading assigned for each class meeting. The lectures will focus on central themes in the assigned reading but I will often introduce new topics not covered in the readings. Films, class demonstrations, and guest speakers will supplement the lectures. Because you will be responsible for knowing theory and research not covered in the reading material, I strongly recommend attending every lecture. Be sure to get complete notes from a classmate if you miss a class. Abbreviated lecture notes are available before every class. Visit www.sanchezlab.com and click on courses to find the lecture notes for this class.

Reading: The required text for the course is: Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H.R. (2014). Social psychology (9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Cengage/Wadsworth. *The version available in the NJ Books/Rutgers University Bookstore is a more cost-effective version of the book that only includes the chapters that are necessary for this course. For students that who prefer an electronic textbook, please go to: <http://www.cengagebrain.com/isbn/978-0-495-81240-1?cid=rld>.

Note: You do not need to purchase any reader or supplemental materials that accompany this book.

Two Additional readings (available on course website; www.sanchezlab.com) are also assigned:

- 1) Stereotype Threat and the Intellectual Performance of African Americans (Steele & Aronson, 1995).
- 2) Objectification Theory: Toward understanding women's lived experiences and mental health risks. (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997)

Grades & Exams

Your final course grade will be based on the total points earned from 3 of the 4 exams (described below) and any extra credit points you accumulate. I will drop your lowest exam grade and calculate your average score based on the points earned from your 3 highest exam grades. There are 3 exams that cover each of the 3 sections and a cumulative final. Your grade will be calculated as a mean score of the highest scoring three exams plus whatever extra credit points you earn over the semester (see extra credit below):

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A	90.0 -100.0%
B+	87.0 - 89.9%
B	80.0 - 86.9%
C+	77.0 - 79.9%
C	70.0 - 76.9%
D	60.0 - 69.9%
F	0.0 - 59.9%

Online Exams. There are three online exams during the course using a multiple choice format. The online exam will be available at 10am on the exam day and no longer be available at 3pm. When you start the exam, you will have 80 minutes to complete the exam so long as you start the exam by 1:40pm. If you start any later, you will not have the full 80 minutes. The exams are based on readings/lectures, and films in class. If you encounter any problems during the online exam (e.g., fire alarm, website problems), email the TA right away who will be able to help you. If you do not email the TA right away, this can lead to further problems with your exam. For those prefer to take the exams in paper format, they must email the TA two weeks prior to the exam time to reserve a seat. The paper exam will occur during the regularly scheduled class time of the day of the exam (10:20am-11:40am). If you accidentally take both the online and paper exams, only the paper exam will count. Please bring a #2 pencil to paper exams. **No notes, no books are allowed for the paper or online exams.**

Final Exam **The final exam will not be offered online. The final exam will take place in the classroom only (no online option).** The final exam is cumulative (approximately 80-90 questions) and you will have 2 hours to complete the final. For those of you who are happy with their grade after the first 3 exams (plus any completed extra credit), you do not have to take the exam because I drop the lowest grade.

Make-up Exams. If you must miss an exam for a legitimate reason (e.g., religious holiday), contact me at least one week before the scheduled exam. You will have to take the make-up exam at one of the make-up sessions scheduled by the Psychology Department. If you miss an exam without contacting me ahead of time, you will only be allowed to take the make-up exam with proper documentation (e.g., note from doctor). REGIS reporting is not sufficient to warrant a make-up exam. You must provide documentation to receive an opportunity to take the make-up exams. Please note that MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL CONSIST ENTIRELY OF ESSAY QUESTIONS. The average score on my essay exams (as of 2014) is 58.

Cancellation of Exams. If an exam must be cancelled due to an emergency, a department representative will be there to announce the cancellation. Other indications that an exam has been cancelled (e.g., a note on the board or door) do not count. Don't be fooled.

Extra Credit Writing Assignments. I will offer four in-class extra credit writing exercises. These will not be announced in advance and they cannot be turned in late. Because missing an in-class writing exercise **cannot** lower your grade, and because they are part of the in-class activity for that day, extra credit assignments cannot be made up or turned in late, regardless of the reason for your absence. Each assignment will be worth one half a percentage point toward your course grade. Thus, they will provide the opportunity to earn a total of 2 points toward your total course grade (e.g., If your course average is 88% and you competently complete all 4 in-class writing exercises, your overall course grade will be raised to 90%).

Attendance Policy. I strongly encourage you to attend all classes. It will be very difficult to earn a good grade in this course if you do not attend the lectures. As noted above (Course format), in the lectures I will elaborate on concepts from the readings, introduce new material, conduct demonstrations, and show videos. The exams will be based on all of this material, so regular attendance at the lectures will help you earn a higher grade in the course. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out about any information presented that day. **As noted above, extra credit in-class writing exercises cannot be made up.** So you lose no points by not attending, but you may miss the opportunity for some bonus points. I strongly encourage attending guest speakers because they will be providing questions for the exam. You may report your absences via REGIS but do not expect responses from the instructors.

Studying. It will take most students several hours to read each chapter carefully. You will need to be able to define terms/concepts, distinguish them from other similar terms/concepts, fully understand the scientific method of studying social psychological questions, and apply your knowledge to new examples described in exam questions.

Etiquette. Please do not talk during lectures and films. Turn off your cell phone before class begins. I expect people to be punctual and to not leave early. If you must leave early, please do so quietly. Thanks. Please try not to fall asleep. Have some caffeine, seriously.

Academic Honesty and Student Behavior. Students are expected to follow the University Policy on Academic Integrity (e.g. cheating, plagiarism). Cheating will not be tolerated. Taking pictures of the exam (during office hours or in class) is also an act of cheating in my class. You will receive an automatic zero on exams for cheating and other disciplinary action for a violation of academic integrity will follow University policy.

Students with Disabilities. Students with documented disabilities who need special arrangements in this course should speak to me as soon as possible or email me regarding their special accommodations.

SCHEDULE FOR THE COURSE
(Subject to Change by Professor)

DATE	LECTURE TOPICS	READINGS
<i>SECTION 1</i>	<i>Social Perception</i>	<i>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5</i>
Thurs., Jan 22	Review Syllabus; Introduction to the Field of Social Psychology	Chapter 1
Mon, Jan. 26	Research Methods, Part 1	Chapter 2
Thurs., Jan. 29	Research Methods, Part 2; Self Part 1	Chapter 3
Mon, Feb 2	Self Part 2	
Thurs, Feb 5	Perceiving Other Individuals 1	Chapter 4
Mon, Feb 9	Perceiving Other Individuals 2	
Thurs, Feb 12	Stereotyping, Prejudice & Discrimination	Chapter 5
Mon, Feb 16	How Prejudice Affects its Targets & Exam Review	Steele & Aronson (1995)
Thurs, Feb 19	ONLINE EXAM 1*	EXAM*
<i>SECTION 2</i>	<i>Social Influence</i>	<i>Chapters 6, 7, 8</i>
Mon, Feb 23	Attitudes & Behavior	Chapter 6
Thurs, Feb 26	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Mon, Mar 2	Persuasion	
Thurs, Mar 5	CLASS CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER Conformity & Compliance	Chapter 7
Mon, Mar 9	Conformity & Compliance	
Thurs, Mar 12	Obedience/Group Processes	Chapter 8
Mar 14-22	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS
Mon, Mar 23	Group Processes Continued/Exam Review	Review
Thurs, Mar 26	ONLINE EXAM 2	EXAM*
<i>Section 3</i>	<i>Social Relations</i>	
Mon, Mar 30	Gender & Body I	Fredrickson & Roberts (1997)
Thurs, Apr. 2	Gender & Body II	
Mon, Apr. 6	No CLASS	NO CLASS
Thurs, Apr. 9	No CLASS	NO CLASS
Mon, Apr. 13	Close Relationships	Chapter 9
Thurs, Apr. 16	Helping	Chapter 10
Mon, Apr. 20	Helping/Aggression	Chapter 11
Thurs, Apr. 23	Aggression	Chapter 11
Mon, Apr. 27	Social Psychology and Law	Chapter 12
Thurs, April 30 th	Social Psychology and Real World Problems & Exam Review	Review
Mon, May 4 th	ONLINE EXAM 3*	EXAM 3*
Mon, May 11 th	CUMULATIVE EXAM IN CLASS (NO ONLINE OPTION)	9-11AM

*For all online exams, students can opt to take them in the classroom during their regular class time but they must contact the TA two weeks prior to the exam to make a paper format reservation.