

## **Social Psychology Syllabus**

Rutgers University

Spring Semester 2015

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**Instructor:** Dr. Marina Gelfand

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Office: Tillett Hall room 315

**Office Hours:** Mondays 4-5 (in-person); Wednesdays 10-11 p.m. (online); and by appointment. Office hours subject to change - watch for announcements.

Course format: ONLINE

In-person sessions:

CLASS SESSION: Tuesday, 1/27 1:40-3:00 p.m, Tillett Room 251

MIDTERM: Friday, 3/6 12-1:20 p.m., LSH B112

FINAL: Wed 5/13 12-3 p.m. in Tillett 116.

### **Prerequisites**

General Psychology, 830:101

### **Time Commitment**

To be successful in this course, we estimate that you will need to commit at least 6 hours of coursework per week for the fifteen-week semester. Some weeks will require more and some less.

## **Materials Required**

We will be using David Myers' Social Psychology text, 11<sup>th</sup> edition.

To access the book and quizzes, click on the MHCampus link in Sakai, which will take you to Connect. Instructions on how to purchase materials will be given in the in-person class.

## **Course objectives**

We are inherently social human beings. This course provides a scientific approach to studying how we affect people, and how we are affected by people around us.

Key objectives are:

- 1) Identify and understand the major theories, principles, and research findings in the field of social psychology.
- 2) Define basic scientific methods used in social psychological research.
- 3) Apply social psychological theories and principles to real life experiences, both in one's own life and in a broader social context.
- 4) Critically evaluate social psychological theories and research.
- 5) Write clearly and logically, being able to explain one's position on a variety of social psychology issues in discussion forums. Respond to peers' written comments appropriately.

## **Course Policies**

## Grading

The breakdown of assignments will be as follows:

Midterm: 18%

Final: 25%

Discussions: 20%

Online homework and quizzes: 15%

Group project and paper – 11%

Assignments (introduction and final reflection paper): 11%

The following grading scale will be used:

90-100% = A

85-89% = B+

80-84% = B

75-79% = C+

70-74% = C

60-69% = D

below 60% = F

There will be no adjustments to grades unless there is a grading error. FINAL GRADES ARE NOT ROUNDED UP.

## Dropping the course

In order to withdraw from a course, it is not sufficient to stop posting assignments or contributing to discussion. In accord with university policy, students wishing to withdraw from a course must do so formally through the Registrar's office. It is the student's responsibility to complete all forms. If this is not done, the instructor must assign a grade of F at the end of the

semester.

## Exams

There will be a midterm and a final in the course – both in person. Exams will be closed book. You can be tested on any material covered in the course- e.g. the book, articles, multimedia, etc.

## Course Assignments

There will be assignments in two locations: In Sakai under Course Content, and in McGraw Hill's Connect program (for access information, see Materials section above). Both Sakai and *Connect* will list all assignments due that week.

## Connect quizzes and homework

Each week there will be a LearnSmart assignment (I will drop your lowest grade). LearnSmart is an adaptive, interactive learning tool that assesses students' skill and knowledge levels to track which topics they have mastered and which topics require further instruction and practice. Students will receive different questions based on what they have gotten correct or incorrect. You can answer questions as many times as you want to achieve mastery (100%).

For technical support with anything related to Connect, go to <http://mpss.mhhe.com>. Phone number: 800-331-5094. Make sure to write down your case number.

## Sakai quizzes and homework

Go to Course Content and click on the current week. You will find videos, articles, documentaries, discussion board post, and any other assignments or notes assigned that week (with the exception of *Connect* assignments).

You will also occasionally need to answer quiz questions in Sakai – usually after a video or other activity. Some links will only become available after you have clicked a previous link. For example, a question about a video can only be accessed if you have watched the video.

### Discussion Board Assignments

Most weeks will have discussion board assignments. This is your opportunity to share your ideas and get feedback from others in class. The discussion board questions are related to the week's assignments.

Your participation in the discussion boards requires at least three posts: at least one original post and at least two responses to your fellow students. You also need to directly respond to all comments you receive on your posts. Specific instructions will be posted each week for that week's discussion.

Your original post should be at least 150 words in length. Your replies to your peers should be at least 75 words.

A new discussion board will be opened each Sunday night at 11 p.m.

Your response to the discussion question is due on **Wednesday by 11:00 p.m.** Two replies to fellow students are due on **Sunday by 11 p.m.**

You can access a rubric for grading discussion posts under Resources in Sakai.

### Important Reminders for Discussion Boards:

- Posts should have a conversational tone; they should not sound like essays.
- End every post by signing your name.
- Posts should be original and introduce new information. Do not duplicate someone else's post.
- Post early. Do not wait until the last minute. Posting at the last minute does not give students adequate time to respond to your posts, and will not earn maximum points.
- Condescending, derogatory, and otherwise "inflammatory" posts will not be tolerated. If you disagree with someone, do so respectfully and without insulting the person. The written word often comes across as harsher and can be misinterpreted since there are no physical gestures or voice inflections to give clues. Be careful of joking, sarcasm, etc.
- Posts should be on-topic, concise, and to-the-point. Break up long sections of text into paragraphs to aid in readability.
- Offer evidence-based support (of own experience and/or cited research) at least once per thread.
- Apply normative English and grammar (you are not texting or on social media).
- Focus on meaningful discussion - adding meaningfully to the thread - rather than number of posts. Otherwise, it becomes clear that you are posting just to try to meet the requirements.
- Change the subject line as necessary to reflect the nature of your post.
- Make sure that your post contains some reference back to the original discussion question - do not go off on tangents. Stay on track by referring back to the original question.

- Here are some suggestions for meaningful contribution: suggest solutions, point out problems, *respectfully* disagree, discuss an issue on which you would like some feedback, offer a different perspective about an idea, share a personal experience related to the subject, discuss how you have applied the concepts to your personal/professional life.

### Late Policy

Unless prior arrangements are made with me, no late assignments will be accepted. Exceptions will be in the case of emergencies, and late penalties will be made on a case-by-case basis. Notify me, via email, in case of an emergency.

### Academic Integrity

The consequences of scholastic dishonesty are very serious. Rutgers' academic integrity policy is at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. Please familiarize yourself with the policy.

Academic integrity means, among other things:

- Develop and write all of your own assignments.
- Show in detail where the materials you use in your papers come from. Create citations whether you are paraphrasing authors or quoting them directly. Be sure always to show source and page number within the assignment and include a bibliography in the back.
- Do not fabricate information or citations in your work.
- Do not facilitate academic dishonesty for another student by allowing your own work to be submitted by others.

If you are in doubt about any issue related to plagiarism or scholastic dishonesty, please contact me.

## Rutgers Academic Support Services

Rutgers has a variety of resources for academic support. For more information, check <http://www.rutgers.edu/academics/academic-support>

Rutgers has Learning Centers on each campus where any student can obtain tutoring and other help. For information, check <http://lrc.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers also has a Writing Center where students can obtain help with writing skills and assignments. Learn more

here: <http://wp.rutgers.edu/tutoring/writingcenters>

## Rutgers Student Accommodations

The Rutgers Office of Disability Services evaluates students and provides documentation about necessary accommodations. Students who need accommodations in class must do so through the Rutgers Disabilities Services Office. See <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students> for details.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations can do so here:

<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

If you need special accommodations, let me know early in the semester. If you need extra time on exams, you must bring me Letter of Accommodation from the disability office to sign at least one week prior to the first exam.

## Netiquette

When corresponding with your instructor and classmates through email or on the discussion forums, please take the time to be grammatically correct and



use a positive tone. Please also refrain from using all CAPITAL LETTERS, as this is often interpreted as shouting. Treat your instructor and fellow students with respect at all times, and in all communication.

See infographic below for 15 rules of

netiquette: <http://blogs.onlineeducation.touro.edu/15-rules-netiquette-online-discussion-boards/>

### Disability Accommodations

Please refer to the accommodations policy for students with disabilities:

<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations can do so here:

<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

If you need special accommodations, please bring this up early in the semester. If you need extra time on exams, you must bring me the form from the disability office to sign at least ONE WEEK prior to the first exam. You will not need to do this for subsequent exams.

### Counseling

College can be an overwhelming time. If you find yourself having a difficult time coping, please refer to <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/> where you can see an overview of support services available at Rutgers.

### Communication

For general questions about the course, policies, etc., and clarification questions that other students could benefit from, post in the General Discussion Forum. For personal questions and issues, e-mail me directly.

I will respond to e-mails within 24-48 hours (can be longer during weekends or holidays).

Make sure to read your e-mail and all the announcements on Sakai. This is a fluid class and there may be occasionally changes in pacing. There may be important changes in assignments and important clarifications; you are responsible for all changes announced.

## Course Schedule

By continuing your enrollment in the course, you are accepting the terms of this syllabus. This syllabus is subject to change. Look out for announcements on Sakai for any changes in pacing or content.

### **Week 1 – January 20-25**

Introduction to course, policies, online format

Chapter 1 – Introducing Social Psychology

### **Week 2 – January 26-February 1**

Chapter 1 – continued

IN-PERSON CLASS on 1/27 on policies, procedures, – meeting our groups –  
Tillett 251, Livingston

**Week 3 – February 2-8**

Chapter 2 – The Self in a Social World

**Week 4 – February 9-15**

Chapter 3 – Social Beliefs and Judgments

**Week 5 – February 16-22**

Chapter 4 – Behavior and Attitudes

**Week 6 – February 23-March 1**

Chapter 5 – Genes, Culture, and Gender

Chapter 7 – Persuasion

**Week 7 – March 2-8**

**Midterm Exam Tuesday, 3/6 from 12:00-1:20: IN PERSON - LSH B112 -**

**Week 8 – March 9-15**

Chapter 8 – Group Influence

**SPRING BREAK – March 16-22**

**Week 9 – March 23-29**

Chapter 6 – Conformity and Obedience

**Week 10 – March 30-April 5**

Chapter 9 – Prejudice: Disliking Others

**Week 11 – April 6-12**

Chapter 10 – Aggression: Hurting Others

**Week 12 – April 13-19**

Chapter 11 – Attraction and Intimacy: Liking and Loving Others

**Week 13 – April 20-26**

Chapter 12 - Helping

**Week 14 – April 27 – May 3**

Chapter 14 – Social Psychology in the Clinic

Chapter 15 – Social Psychology in Court

**Group paper due – Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 p.m.**

**Week 15 – May 4 - May 13**

**Final Reflection Paper due 5/13 at 11 p.m.**

**Final Exam: 5/13 12-3 p.m. Tillett Hall 116**