

# Social Psychology

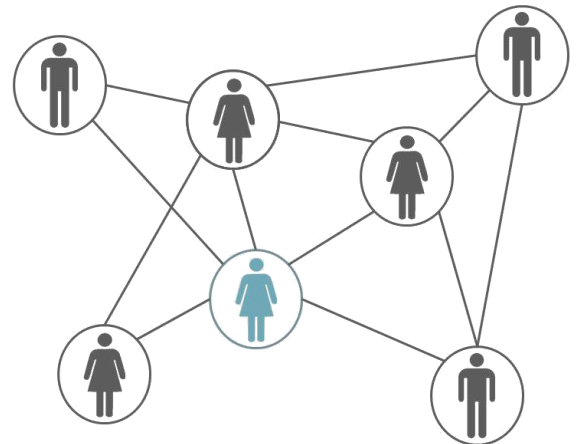
## 830:321:B2

### Basic Course Information

Instructor: Janell C. Fetterolf  
 Location: Tillett Hall, Room 253  
 Time: Monday through Thursday, 10:10-12:00.

### My Contact Information

Email: [jfetter@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:jfetter@rci.rutgers.edu)  
 Office: Tillett Hall, Room 629  
 Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 1-2 or by appointment



### Course Overview

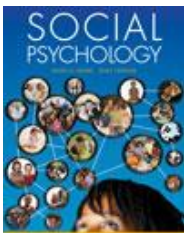
Human beings are amazingly social creatures. Take a moment to think about the number of people you have seen or interacted with today alone. Even if you did not make eye contact with or speak to every person you passed on campus, their mere presence likely affected your behavior. In your frequent and varied interactions with others, you interpret their behavior, make assumptions about their intentions and beliefs, and shape your own actions to portray yourself as you wish to be seen. Social psychology examines these topics – people’s feelings, thoughts, and beliefs within the context of social situations – in a scientific way. In this course, we will discuss the theory and research behind topics such as group influence, attitudes and attitude change, social perception, attraction, and social conflict.

Because we interact with people almost constantly, we have developed our own personal theories for human behavior. For the most part, we believe we know why other people do the things they do. In this course, you may realize that some of the theories you have developed are not supported by scientific research. In fact, one of the reasons social psychology is so interesting and important is because research findings can be counter-intuitive. Be prepared to think critically about your own experiences and how they relate to psychological findings and theories!

#### Course goals:

- 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.

**Readings:** The required textbook for the course is:



Myers, D.G. (2013). *Social psychology* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: McGraw Hill

The text is available at the Rutgers Bookstore. You may also use any number of online sites to buy or rent this edition of the textbook.

Additional readings posted on the schedule will be available on the Sakai site.

## Course Evaluation

**Attendance and participation:** Attendance is essential in this course. Summer courses are fast-paced and intensive; missing a class can set you behind and it may be difficult to catch up. Additionally, there will be material on the exams that is covered in class, but not covered in your readings. If you cannot make it to class for any reason (I understand that illnesses and emergencies come up), make sure that you get the lecture notes from a classmate. Beyond simply showing up, I also expect you to participate. This includes taking notes, staying off your phone, and only using your computer for class-related reasons, as well as actively engaging in class discussions.

**In-class assignments:** There will be several in-class assignments that will be included in your grade. There are no make-up assignments for missed in-class work. However, I will drop your lowest score, so if you absolutely must miss a class, you will not be penalized.

**Online quizzes:** Online quizzes, consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions, will become available each week after class on Thursday. The only weeks you will not have a quiz are the week of the midterm and final exam. Once you open the quiz, you will have thirty minutes to complete it. The latest you can start the quiz is 11:30 pm on Sunday night. If you have technical difficulties that prohibit you from completing the quiz, you must email me immediately. There will be 4 weekly quizzes, but only the three highest scores will be included in your grade.

**Exams:** There will be two in-class exams in this class. Both exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Test material will be taken from required readings, class lectures, and discussions. Make-up exams are not permitted without advance permission. Permission will be granted only for unavoidable circumstances (e.g., serious illness, family emergency).

**Grading:** Grades are non-negotiable. The point breakdown is as follows:

Participation	45 points
In-class assignments (10 pts. each, 9 total)	90 points
Online quizzes (15 pts. each, 3 total)	45 points
Midterm exam	125 points
Final exam	125 points
<i>Total possible:</i>	<i>430 points</i>

## Course Policies

**Reading assignments:** Assignments should be completed by the date they are posted on the schedule. You should come prepared to discuss the readings. I encourage you to take notes as you read and write down any questions that come up or thoughts you would like to share with me and the rest of the class. You do not need to bring the book to class with you, but I will assume that everyone will have done the reading. Brief quizzes on the reading material at the start of class are possible (and would count as your in-class assignment for the day).

**Cheating/plagiarism:** Hopefully you are all here to learn, not just get a good grade. Cheating on exams and quizzes or attempting to pass off other people's work as your own not only undermines the goals of the course and your fellow students, but it is a serious offense. If you are not familiar with the University's academic integrity policy, you can find more information [here](#):

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. If I suspect someone of cheating, I will have to report that student to the disciplinary panel. If you have any questions about what qualifies as cheating or plagiarism, please ask me or refer to the academic integrity website.

**Students with disabilities:** Students who need accommodation for a physical or learning disability must submit a letter from Disability Services during the first week of class. You may email me, come to my office hours, or wait until after class to give me the letter. To get a letter to request accommodations, students should contact the Office of Disability Services at 848-445-6800, or visit the office in Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145. You can read more about Rutgers' policy here: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>.

**Office hours:** If you have any questions about the reading or lecture material, please feel free to ask them during class! If you would prefer to talk to me outside of class, for whatever reason, or you have concerns about assignments, you are welcome to come to my office hours. I hold office hours for specifically this purpose and you do not need to feel concerned about bothering me. If you cannot meet during my office hours or following class, you can email me to arrange another time to meet.

**Note about 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.

## Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

Date	Topic	Readings
Tue 5/26	Intro to the course and social psychology	
Wed 5/27	Research methods	Chapter 1
Thu 5/28	<b>NO CLASS</b> <i>Quiz 1 available</i>	
Mon 6/1	The self in a social world	Chapter 2
Tue 6/2	The self in a social world (continued)	Back et al., 2010
Wed 6/3	Social beliefs and judgments	Chapter 3
Thu 6/4	Behavior and attitudes <i>Quiz 2 available</i>	Chapter 4
Mon 6/8	Behavior and attitudes (continued)	Rudman, 2004
Tue 6/9	Genes, culture, and gender	Chapter 5
Wed 6/10	Genes, culture, and gender (continued)	Brescoll & LaFrance, 2004
Thu 6/11	Conformity and obedience	Chapter 6

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Mon 6/15	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
Tue 6/16	Persuasion	Chapter 7
Wed 6/17	Group influence	Chapter 8
Thu 6/18	Prejudice <i>Quiz 3 available</i>	Chapter 9
Mon 6/22	Prejudice (continued)	Columb & Plant, 2011
Tue 6/23	Aggression	Chapter 10
Wed 6/24	Attraction and intimacy	Chapter 11
Thu 6/25	Attraction and intimacy <i>Quiz 4 available</i>	Kurdek, 2005
Mon 6/29	Helping	Chapter 12
Tue 6/30	Conflict and peacemaking	Chapter 13
Wed 7/1	Application/Wrap Up	
Thu 7/2	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

*Note:* The schedule is subject to change based on issues that may arise during the course of the session. You will be given as much advanced notice as possible for any changes.