

Social Psychology (830:321:H6)

Instructor: Lloyd Robotham

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Office: Tillett 515, Livingston Campus

Office Hours: Mondays, 1:00-3:00pm, or by appointment



Course Information:

Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:00-9:40 pm

Lucy Stone Hall B112, Livingston Campus

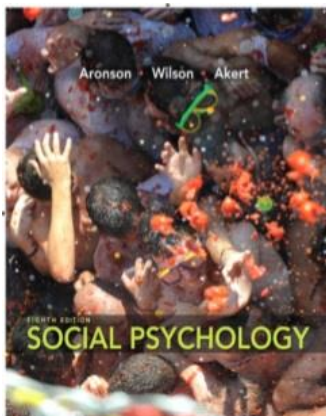
Course Overview

We live in a social world guided by human interaction. Whether face-to-face or by other means, we come into contact with numerous individuals over the course of a single day. These interactions help shape our own attitudes, behaviors, and perceptions. Social Psychology is the systematic observation of the social phenomenon that influence our psychological patterns. 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.

You may enter this course with certain notions and beliefs as they pertain to human interaction. Through experience, we make our own attributions about human behavior. In this course, we will discover that many of our personal theories have little to no scientific support. 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.



Required Text:

Aronson, E., Wilson, T., & Akert, R. (2012). Social Psychology (8th edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education. Access code for an ebook version of the text at a reduced price is available at the bookstore or can be obtained directly from the publisher's website. With respect to the actual text, either the hardbound or paperback (custom for this class) is OK.

Course Evaluation

Attendance: 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. These will normally take the form of discussion questions to be answered and submitted before the end of class. 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 10 multiple choice questions, will become available each week after class on Thursday. These quizzes are based entirely on your textbook readings. 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.

Article Summaries: In addition to your required textbook readings, you will also have research articles as assigned readings. You will be required to read and submit a one-page summary online. Each article summary may be a bit different, so read each Sakai assignment carefully.

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) with proper documentation.

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

Attendance	24 points
Article Summaries (6 points each, 6 total)	36 points
In-Class Assignments (5 points each, 10 total)	50 points
Online Quizzes (20 points each, 3 total)	60 points
Midterm Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
<i>Total Possible:</i>	<i>370 points</i>

Grades will be based on a percentage system (not a curve). The percentages (and total points) needed for your final grade are as follows:

90%=A (333), 85% = B+ (314), 80% =B (296), 75% = C+ (278), 70%=C (259), 55% = D (204).

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.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY - PSYC 321:01

EXAM SCHEDULE AND CRITICAL DATES

****More detailed schedule will be posted to Sakai****

7/6 – First class meeting

7/8 – Quiz 1 opens

7/15 – Quiz 2 opens

7/22 – Midterm Exam

7/29 – Quiz 3 opens

8/5 – Quiz 4 opens

8/12 – Final Exam / Final class meeting