



## **Social Psychology**

**830:321:H2**

**Summer 2016**

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**Instructor:** Analia Albuja

**Office:** Tillett Hall 435

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 12:00-1:00pm, or by appointment

**Contact Information:** [analia.albuja@rutgers.edu](mailto:analia.albuja@rutgers.edu)

**Meeting Times:** Monday- Thursday, 10:05 am- 11:55 am

**Location:** Tillet Hall 207

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### **Course Overview:**

Social psychology uses the scientific method to examine people's feelings, thoughts, and beliefs within the context of social situations. In this course, we will discuss the theory and research behind topics such as group influence, attitudes, social perception, attraction, and social conflict. The goal of the course is to introduce you to the major topic areas of social psychology and the theories and research that support them.

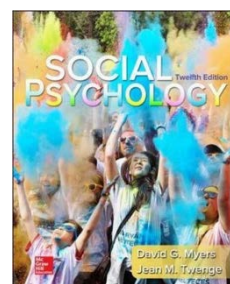
Be prepared to think critically about your own experiences and how they relate to psychological findings and theories!

### **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* (12th 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, readings, 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 for checking 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. 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 will count towards your in-class exercise grade if they occur.

**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.

**Course Evaluation**

**Attendance & in-class assignments:** Attendance in this course is essential. Because summer courses are fast-paced, each meeting will cover a great deal of material and missing class may set you behind. Additionally, some of the material discussed in class will not be covered in the readings. There will also be several in-class exercises throughout the session that will be included in your grade. There will be no make-up opportunities for missed in-class assignments. However, I will drop your lowest score, so if you absolutely must miss a class, you will not be penalized. If you cannot come to class, please make sure you get the lecture notes from a classmate.

**Midterm exam:** There will be one in-class midterm exam consisting of multiple choice questions and a few short answer responses. 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).

**In-class presentation:** Each student will work in a groups of 2 or 3 once this semester to give a 10-15 minute Powerpoint presentation on an additional article complementing the topics discussed in the chapter assigned that day. There should be at least one slide for each section of the paper (excluding the Abstract and optionally the Results, e.g., a slide for the Introduction, a slide for the Methods, etc.). On the last slide (after the Discussion section slide), students should pose a question to the class, tapping into students' reactions (e.g., can you relate to this psychological effect...) and include their own critical thoughts or reactions to the paper (e.g., I did not like that...). Open the In-class Presentation Overview PowerPoint I uploaded to the Presentation Articles folder for instructions relating to each slide.

All students should read the Abstract of the paper being presented in class before every class. The exam will include a few questions from the Abstracts of the papers the groups will present.

**Final paper:** The final will be a 3-5 pages, double spaced paper. For this assignment, select a theory covered after the midterm exam and use it to respond to one of the following prompts:

- *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, define or explain the theory that you chose to write about. Include proper APA references in the paper (same format used in the textbook).

**Grading:** Grades will be based on participation, in-class assignments, an in-class presentation, a midterm exam, and a final paper. The point breakdown for each component is as follows:

Assignment	Points	Percentage
Participation	10	10%
In-class assignments	10	10%
In-class presentation	20	20%

Midterm exam	30	30%
Final Paper	30	30%
Total points	100	100%

### **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>.

### **Student-Wellness Services:**

#### **Just In Case Web App**

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

#### **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

#### **Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932- 1181.

#### **Disability Services**

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability

must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

**Scarlet Listeners**

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments\*

Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments
Mon 7/11	Intro to Social Psychology	Chapter 1
Tues 7/12	The Self in a Social World	Chapter 2
Wed 7/13	Social Beliefs and Judgments	Chapter 3; <i>Additional presentation reading tbd</i>
Thurs 7/14	Social Beliefs and Judgments	Chapter 3
Mon 7/18	Behavior and Attitudes	Chapter 4; <i>Additional presentation reading tbd</i>
Tues 7/19	Genes, Culture, and Gender	Chapter 5; <i>Additional presentation reading tbd</i>
Wed 7/20	Genes, Culture, and Gender	Chapter 5
Thurs 7/21	Conformity and Obedience	Chapter 6; <i>Additional presentation reading tbd</i>
Mon 7/25	Conformity and Obedience	Chapter 6
Tue 7/26	Persuasion	Chapter 7; <i>Additional presentation reading tbd</i>
Wed 7/27	Review day	Review day
Thurs 7/28	<b>MIDTERM EXAM (CHAPTERS 1-7)</b>	
Mon 8/1	Group Influence	Chapter 8; <i>Additional presentation reading tbd</i>
Tues 8/2	Group Influence	Chapter 8
Wed 8/3	Prejudice: Disliking Others	Chapter 9; <i>Additional presentation reading tbd</i>
Thurs 8/4	Prejudice: Disliking Others	Chapter 9
Mon 8/8	Aggression: Hurting Others	Chapter 10; <i>Additional presentation reading tbd</i>

Tues 8/9	Aggression: Hurting Others	Chapter 10
Wed 8/10	Attraction and Intimacy	Chapter 11; <i>Additional presentation reading tbd</i>
Thurs 8/11	Attraction and Intimacy	Chapter 11
Mon 8/15	Helping	Chapter 12; <i>Additional presentation reading tbd</i>
Tues 8/16	Conflict and Peace-Making	Chapter 13
Wed 8/17	<b>Final paper due at 5 pm</b>	

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