

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (830:321:B4)
SUMMER 2017
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 1PM – 5PM
BECK HALL 221

Instructor: Janna Kline, Rutgers Department of Psychology

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30am-12:30pm, Tillett 639
Additional Office Hours available by request.

Course Description:

In much of your everyday life, you are interacting with or influenced by others. Even when you don't realize it, your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are evidently shaped by the actual and imagined pressures of your social environment. Social psychologists recognize that behavior is not simply a product of individual personalities, rather people are constantly influenced by their social contexts. In the study of social psychology, we apply the scientific method to these social contexts to explore the study of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors across the human experience. During this course, students will be provided with an overview of research and theory in social psychology. We will discuss topics such as attitudes, persuasion, conformity, social perceptions, stereotyping and discrimination, romantic relationships, aggression, and helping behavior. Throughout the course, we will seek to apply course topics to everyday life and to broader societal issues.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the foundational concepts and research studies that have shaped the field of social psychology.
- Understand and apply basic scientific methods used in social psychological research.
- Identify and discuss foundational theories as they apply to current practices in social psychology.
- Apply and connect social psychological theories and principles to everyday experiences.

Course Structure & Information:

We'll meet twice a week from 1-5pm. Classes will primarily consist of lectures, activities, videos, and discussions. Since this is a summer class, an entire semester worth of material is condensed into six short weeks and we will cover a LOT of material each day. As such, attending each class is imperative and required. Yep, I know four hours is a long time, and I am human (like you), so we'll be sure to take a break or two during class (or three... or four). ☺

Course Website: If you are properly registered for the course, you have access to the course website through Sakai. You are responsible for all the information contained in this syllabus, posted on the course website, and discussed in class, this includes any changes to the course schedule or assignments. Please make a habit of checking these resources regularly and touching base with me if you have any issues.

Required Textbook: Kassir, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H.R. (2014). Social psychology (9th or 10th edition) Belmont, CA: Cengage. The textbook is available in the NJ Books/Rutgers University Bookstore. For students who prefer an electronic textbook, check out the following link for a much cheaper e-book version and for opportunities to rent rather than purchase the book:
<http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/search/9781133957751>

Readings: It will be very helpful if you read the assigned textbook chapters BEFORE the class where we will cover them. My lectures will review what is covered in the text, but I will also expand upon those

topics and introduce new concepts and ideas. It will help to keep up with the readings so that the terms and concepts are already familiar to you during lectures.

Grading:

Grades in this course are earned and will be a direct reflection of the amount of time, engagement, and effort put into this course. The course is worth 200 points; thus every two points equals 1% of your final grade. The breakdown of grades is as follows (subject to minor changes):

Exam 1	50 points
Exam 2	50 points
In-Class Activities & Assignments	70 points
Final Paper	30 points
Total:	200 points (every 1 point = .5% of grade)

Exams: There will be two total exams administered during class time. The exams will cover readings as well as lectures, videos, and activities from class. Exams will be multiple choice with one or two short answer responses. If you must miss an exam for a very legitimate reason, please contact me in advance. I reserve the right to refuse a make-up if you do not provide proper documentation in advance.

In-Class Activities and Assignments: There will be at least one in-class activity, quiz, or reflection assignment each class. These activities are meant to supplement course material, break up lecture, and allow you to apply what you are learning to your real life. For most of these activities, you *should* be able to receive 100% if you are present and actively participating. However, some activities will also require a written component that you will hand in before leaving class or be asked to finish by the end of the day. Regardless of the assignment, if you are not in class that day, you will not receive credit. Details of each assignment will be discussed in class, so it is extremely important you are present for every class meeting. If there are extreme circumstances that warrant a verified excused absence from the Dean's office, please contact me.

Final Paper: The final paper should be 3-5 pages, doubled spaced, Times New Roman size 12, and in compliance with APA format guidelines. This includes a References list formatted in APA style. You may choose one of the two following options for the final paper:

Option 1: Relevant application of theory

Select an incident from your own experience and analyze it in terms of theories and research discussed in this course. You may choose an experience from your own life, or you choose a magazine/newspaper article, movie/TV show, cartoon, song, etc. How does this theory help you make sense of or explain the experience? How does material covered in this course influence how you think about the experience? Please first describe the scenario/experience you are analyzing and then discuss the concepts from class, the textbook, and relevant outside sources, as well as how the information from this class informs your perception of the experience.

Option 2: Testing a theory in the real-world

Conduct your own social observation or psychological experiment and discuss your experience. You may choose to act out a phenomenon in public, or observe other people. In your paper, cover the main components of your experiment. Be sure to discuss what was the phenomenon you chose and what was the purpose of conducting the experiment. Clearly explain your hypothesis and the details of your experiment, including where did you conduct your experiment, who were your participants, what was the procedure, what were the results, and how did people react? What can you conclude from your experiment? Importantly, make sure to connect your project to course topics covered in class and in textbook as well as relevant outside sources.

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities such as research participation may be provided throughout the course. If there are any extra credit opportunities, I will notify you via Sakai and in class.

Class Etiquette:

People often learn social psychological topics best when they can apply them to their own experiences. Thus, there will often be opportunities to discuss personal experiences and opinions in class. Though this discussion is encouraged, you will never be required to share personal experiences. You will however be asked to be respectful towards myself, other students, and keep an open mind towards opinions and experiences that do not match your own. This class aims to foster a mutually respectful and supportive learning environment, if at any point you feel these goals are not being met, please let me know.

Furthermore, please stay off your cell phone and unnecessary technology during class. Please come to class on time and wait until class is over to start packing up. I promise to be present and committed to each of you for the duration of the class, and I expect the same respect and attention from you as well. Inappropriate, disruptive, or disrespectful behavior is not acceptable.

Academic Integrity:

By participating in this course, you are responsible for upholding the principles of academic honesty. I will not tolerate plagiarism or cheating. For this class, you may consult outside sources (e.g., journal articles, books) provided that you appropriately cite them in your writing (i.e., provide complete and appropriate references and referencing notation). You may not turn in another student's work as your own, represent someone else's idea as your own, or work collaboratively on individual assignments. You may not reference published research without a proper citation. For more information on the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy, visit <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>. If you have any questions about what is considered plagiarism, please ask me.

Student Resources:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis, includes resources to easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

<http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/> | (848) 932-7884 | 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

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)

www.vpva.rutgers.edu/ | (848) 932-1181

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.

Scarlet Listeners, Peer Counseling and Referral Hotline -- (732) 247-5555

Scarlet Listeners is a free & confidential student run peer counseling and referral hotline based out of Rutgers. Basic problem solving, venting, thoughts of suicide, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, self-harm, relationship problems, loneliness, etc.

Office of Disability Services

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/> | (848) 445-6800 | Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. Any student with a documented disability may contact the Office of Disability Services to determine the appropriate accommodations. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu>.

Course Schedule (subject to revisions)

UNIT 1: THE SOCIAL SELF AND SOCIAL PERCEPTION		Readings & Assignments*
Day 1 Tues. May 30	Introduction to Social Psychology & Research Methods	Readings: Ch 1 and Ch 2
Day 2 Thurs. June 1	The Social Self & Perceiving Others	Readings: Ch 3 and Ch 4
Day 3 Tues. June 6	Stereotyping, Prejudice and Discrimination	Readings: Ch 5 Assignments: IAT and reflection
Day 4 Thurs. June 8	Attitudes & Exam Review	Readings: Ch 6
Day 5 Tues. June 13	EXAM 1	
UNIT 2: SOCIAL RELATIONS & APPLIED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY		Readings & Assignments*
Day 6 Thurs. June 15	Conformity	Readings: Ch 7
Day 7 Tues. June 20	Group Processes	Readings: Ch 8
Day 8 Thurs. June 22	Attraction and Close Relationships	Readings: Ch 9 Assignments: Social Observation
Day 9 Tues. June 27	Helping Others and Aggression	Readings: Ch 10 and Ch 11
Day 10 Thurs. June 29	Special Topics, Catch Up & Final Exam Review	Readings: Ch 12 Assignments: Final Paper due Sunday, July 2
Day 11 Tues. July 4	No Class! Happy July 4 th ! Go study! ☺	
Day 12 Thurs. July 6	FINAL EXAM	

*Additional assignments will include in-class activities or short homework assignments which will be discussed in class.