

830:321

MTH2

Social Psychology

Spring 2019

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Textbook: Myers, D. G., & Twenge, J. M. SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, McGraw Hill, 13th ed. (2019) ISBN 9781260397116 (bound edition); ISBN 9781259911040 (loose leaf edition) Note: 11th or 12th edition of this book can be substituted.

Overview

This course surveys the major topic areas within social psychology. Social psychologists study how the thoughts, feelings, and actions of individuals influence and are influenced by the behavior of others. The goal of the course is to introduce you to theories and research that explain social interaction among people.

Topics are organized into 4 units with an exam following each of them. The first unit covers the topics of self and social cognition (essentially how our social environment creates us and how we make sense of it). The second unit addresses social influence. The third and fourth units focus on interpersonal behavior. Specific topics, reading assignments, and exam dates are on page 5 of this syllabus.

The text covers more topics than I will have time to develop in class. Consequently, there will be some material presented in the text that I will not address in class. Similarly, I will develop some of the topics in greater detail than what is discussed in the text as well as introduce theory and research not touched on in the text. Class lectures and the text are adjuncts, not clones of one another.

Sakai course site: Power point slides covering some of the lecture material will be posted at Resources at the Sakai site. These slides are intended to serve as a guide for the lectures; they are a subset of what will be covered in class and do not substitute for attendance. My advice is to print the slides before class so that additional notes can be added to them in class. Announcements will be posted at Sakai, and exam scores will be available at Sakai gradebook.

Evaluation: Your grade will be based on the total number of points accumulated from 4 exams (three class exams and a final exam) worth a total of 280 points, a 10 point paper, and 10 points of class surveys. Total points = 300. (There will also be an opportunity to earn 10 points of extra credit on the final exam.).

Exams (280 points): There will be 3 hourly exams and a final exam. Each hourly exam will contain 70 multiple choice items. The final will consist of 80 multiple choice items divided up as follows: 60 from material discussed in the last quarter of the course, 10 from either chapter 14 or 15 (your choice), 10 extra credit questions.

Paper (10 points): Select **one** of the following two options for the paper assignment. Paper length: minimum of 2 pages; maximum of 4. **A paper copy of your paper must be submitted no later than the last class (Monday May 6).** Keep a copy of your paper for your records.

1. Select an incident from your own experience and analyze it in terms of theories and research discussed in this course. (For example, you might examine how research on social influence helps to explain your reactions when you joined a social group. Or you might consider the fit between research on interpersonal attraction and how you became friends with another.....)

2. Select a news article and analyze it in terms of theories and research discussed in this course. (For example, you might select an article that describes political ads and talk about how those ads relate to persuasion research.) Attach a copy of the article to your paper.

The purpose of the writing assignment is to encourage you to think about applications of the course material to experiences outside of class. The paper should contain the following points: description of the incident or topic you intend to analyze and the application of relevant theories and research. The paper is intended to be a thought piece in which you apply what you have learned from this course. Use the material discussed in class and the text to back up your argument. No outside references are required.

Paper is due on the last class day, May 6. Late papers will not be accepted. If there is any doubt about your being present that day, submit the paper before May 6. The paper will receive full credit (10 points) if it is clearly written and your analysis is accurate. Evaluation of the paper will not be contingent on your analysis or experience fitting with social psychological research. For example, you might apply material from the course to your experience and find that there is a poor fit. If so, then consider in the paper some reasons why that might be the case. Once again, the purpose of the assignment is to encourage you to think, not to parrot what the text authors or I say. You will lose points on the paper if (a) you apply theory or research incorrectly or (b) your writing is unclear.

Class surveys (10 points): Two brief surveys will be completed in class. The first survey will be given at the 1st class (Thursday January 24).

Extra credit (10 points): There will be 10 points from questions that can be used for extra credit on the final exam.

Missed exams: If you miss an exam because of illness or family emergency, contact the teaching assistant to schedule a make-up and provide the TA with documentation (e.g., doctor's note, accident report). I will be available outside of class to discuss the content of the course, your performance on exams, and any other academic matters. **The TA will handle missed exams.**

Grades: The grading rubric is a combination of a “curve” and fixed percentages. The total number of points that will be used for grading is 300. (You can earn up to 10 extra credit points on the final exam, so the total possible points you can accumulate is 310). Based on my considerable experience with the course, it is highly unlikely that anyone will earn the full 300 points. Therefore, I base grade cutoffs on the highest number of points accumulated by the top cluster of students in the course. I then go down in 10% steps for the letter grades. Because I cannot forecast how well the class will do, I cannot give you a firm set of cutoffs at the beginning of the semester. But I can give you an example. Suppose the top scorers in the class accumulated 280 points. I would then use 280 as the 100% benchmark. 90% of 280 (252) would be the cutoff for an A; 80% of 280 (224) for a B; 70% of 280 (196) for a C; 60% of 280 (168) for a D.

Classroom behavior: To minimize disruption to others and to protect my fragile ego, please do not use your phone or computer for tasks unrelated to the course. Feel free to ask questions and add relevant information from other classes.

Integrity: In addition to the University’s integrity policy as described below, you may not have your cell phone, computer, or any papers and books on your desk during an exam. If you need to use the restroom during an exam, leave your phone with me or the TA.

Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>

Rutgers definition of plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one’s own words another person’s written words or ideas as if they were one’s own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Incorporating into one’s work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other nontextual material from other sources without proper attribution.

Additional resources for information on plagiarism:

The Camden Plagiarism Tutorial (INTERACTIVE):
<http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModules/Plagiarism/>

Consult *Don't Plagiarize: Document Your Research!* For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident. http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students>

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/

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/

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.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Class Topics</i>	<i>Text Chapter</i>
1/22-24	Intro & Methods	1
1/28-31	Self and Self-Esteem	2
2/4-7-11	Social Cognition I, II, III, IV	3
2/14	Exam 1 Chapters 1, 2, 3 and classes 1/22-2/7	
2/18-21	Behavior and Attitudes	4
2/25-28-3/4	Conformity and Obedience	5, 6
3/7-11	Persuasion	7
3/14	Exam 2 Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7 and classes 2/18-3/11	
3/18-21	Spring Break	
3/25-28	Group Influence	8
4/1-4	Aggression	10
4/8-11-15	Prejudice and Conflict Reduction	9, 13
4/18	Exam 3 Chapters 8, 9, 10, 13 and classes 3/25-4/15	
4/22-25	Interpersonal Attraction	11
4/29-5/2	Helping	12
5/6	Happiness	16 (either 14 or 15)*
5/13 Monday 8-11 a.m.	Final Exam Chapters 11, 12, 16, either 14 or 15 (your choice) and classes 4/22-5/6	