

# Social Psychology

1:830:321:B2 – Summer 2013  
M-Th 12:20-2:15pm, LSH-A256

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**Instructor:** Stephanie Anglin

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**Office:** Tillett Hall 639

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays at 2:30pm, by appointment

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## **Textbook:**

Sanderson, C. (2010). Social Psychology (1<sup>st</sup> ed.). Hoboken: Wiley. The text is available at the CAC bookstore.

## **Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the area of Social Psychology. Social Psychology is the scientific exploration of how individuals' feelings, thoughts, and behaviors influence and are influenced by the real or implied presence of others. Topics include: social identity, social perception, intergroup relations, gender roles, relationships and attraction, conformity, persuasion, stereotyping, discrimination, aggression, and helping behavior. In addition to textbook reading, we will also address current work in the field and discuss modern examples of the principles covered.

## **Website:**

Assignments, announcements, grades, and the most-up-to-date syllabus will be posted on Sakai. Please check the website frequently for any announcements regarding syllabus changes, class cancellations, etc.

## **Readings:**

There will be some additional non-textbook readings assigned. These readings will be available on Sakai.

## **Grading:**

Grades will be based on class attendance, participation/weekly discussion, an in-class midterm, two short papers, and the final exam. The breakdown will be as follows:

|                          |     | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------|----------------|
| Attendance/Participation | 20% |              |                |
| Short Paper #1           | 10% | A            | 90.0-100.0%    |
| Short Paper #2           | 10% | B+           | 87.0 - 89.9%   |
| Midterm                  | 25% | B            | 80.0 – 86.9%   |
| Final Exam               | 35% | C+           | 77.0 – 79.9%   |
|                          |     | C            | 70.0 – 76.9%   |
|                          |     | D            | 60.0 – 69.9%   |
|                          |     | F            | 0.0 - 59.9%    |

*Class Participation:* Attendance at each class meeting is required. To better facilitate discussion, the class will be divided into two smaller discussion groups which will meet at the end of class (1:45-2:15) on Mondays or Tuesdays. Students will have the opportunity to sign up for one of these three times slots and will be expected to attend all meetings unless documentation is provided.

*Group Questions:* For each discussion group, several students will be assigned to come to class prepared with 2-3 questions about one of the chapters you have read for the group to discuss. All questions will need to be uploaded and submitted on Sakai before class. Questions need to be thoughtful and stimulate conversation, and will count toward your participation grade (1/3).

*Attendance:* I will take attendance every day. In order to receive a good attendance grade, you must not only show up to class but actively participate in class discussions. Attendance and involvement will make up the rest of your participation grade (2/3).

*Absences:* I will grant you one unexcused absence. Documentation is required for all other absences (including arriving more than 20 minutes late for class). Two unexcused absences will result in an official warning, three unexcused absences will result in a full letter grade deduction from your course grade, and four unexcused absences will result in an automatic F. Documentation must be received within a week following your absence in order for the absence to count as excused.

*Short Paper #1:* For the first paper, find and analyze a current example of a social psychological concept from Chapters 3-6 in the textbook. You may analyze a magazine/newspaper article, an advertisement, movie/TV show, cartoon, YouTube video, song, social interaction you had, etc. Then, in 2-3 double spaced pages, discuss the social psychological processes involved in your example.

*Short Paper #2:* For the second paper, select a social norm and violate it in a public setting. Then, in 2-3 double spaced pages (12 point font), describe (A) the norm you violated, (B) others' reactions to your behavior, and (C) the relevant social psychological principles.

*Midterm:* There will be one in-class midterm exam assessing your understanding of the material we have covered up to that point.

*Final Exam:* The final will be non-cumulative and will include material covered since the midterm. It will be held in class during the final class meeting.

**Cheating/ Plagiarism:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students should familiarize themselves with the University's academic integrity policy (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>). If I suspect a student of cheating, I will have to report him or her to the Disciplinary Panel. I take cheating very seriously and so does the University.

To help clarify, the following would and would not be considered cheating:

**You MAY:**

- consult the textbook and other students in completing papers
- use the internet for research for papers or study materials
- study for exams with other students
- ask for me for assistance

**You MAY NOT:**

- use the textbook, notes or “cheat sheets” during exams
- turn in the work or ideas of others as your own
- contact anyone during an exam – cell phones must be turned OFF

**Students with disabilities:** Students who need accommodation for a physical or learning disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (151 College Ave, Suite 123; phone 732-932-2848) and read more about Rutgers’ policy at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. If you request accommodations for this course, you will need a letter from Disability Services. This letter must be provided to me *during the first week of class*, at which point you may make a request for course-specific accommodations. The Chair of Undergraduate Psychology and I will review your request and may choose to modify it before it is approved.

**Office Hours:** Students with questions are encouraged to talk to me during or after class. I am also available to meet with students during my office hours (Wednesdays at 2:30, by appointment). If you are having difficulty in the course, PLEASE arrange to talk to me ASAP. It is much easier to address any confusion early rather than at the end of the session when grades are due.

*This course schedule is tentative. Any changes will be announced and posted on the website.*

| Date   | Topic             | Readings             | Assignments |
|--------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| May 28 | Introduction      | Ch. 1                |             |
| May 29 | Research Methods  | Ch. 2                |             |
| May 30 | Self-Perception   | Ch. 3                |             |
| June 3 | Self-Presentation | Synder (1974)        | Group 1A    |
| June 4 | Social Perception | Ch. 4                | Group 1B    |
| June 5 | Social Cognition  | Ch. 5                |             |
| June 6 | Social Cognition  | Jussim et al. (2005) |             |

|         |  |  |                                  |
|---------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| June 10 | Attitude Formation & Change                    | Ch. 6                                    | <b>Short Paper 1</b><br>Group 2A |
| June 11 | Attitude Formation & Change/Persuasion         | Ch. 7                                    | Group 2B                         |
| June 12 | Persuasion                                     |  |                                  |
| June 13 | <b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>                            |  |                                  |
| June 17 | Social Influence                               | Ch. 8                                    | Group 3A                         |
| June 18 | Social & Group Influence                       | Ch. 9                                    | Group 3B                         |
| June 19 | Group Influence                                |  |                                  |
| June 20 | Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination      | Ch. 10                                   | <b>Short Paper 2</b>             |
| June 24 | Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination      | Solomon, Greenberg, & Pyszczynski (2000) | Group 4A                         |
| June 25 | Aggression                                     | Ch. 11                                   | Group 4B                         |
| June 26 | Interpersonal Attraction & Close Relationships | Ch. 12                                   |                                  |
| June 27 | Interpersonal Attraction & Close Relationships |  |                                  |
| July 1  | Altruism & Prosocial Behavior                  | Ch. 13                                   |                                  |
| July 2  | Wrap-Up & Review                               |  |                                  |
| July 3  | <b>FINAL EXAM</b>                              |  |                                  |