

Psychology 240 B
Social Psychology
Spring 2007

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Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays before and after class. If these times are not convenient, please feel free to email me to set up an appointment.

Class Time: Wednesday and Fridays, 7:30am -8:40am
Class Room:PPHAC 335

Course Overview:

This course is designed to introduce students to the concept of social influence. The focus of the course will be to study how and why our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are shaped by the social environment. Topics presented will explore social thinking, social influence and social relations. The content of the course lends itself well to interactive demonstrations, lectures and discussions.

Course Objectives:

- To learn theories and concepts of Social Psychology.
- To develop increased awareness of self and the world around you through application of concepts.
- To recognize and evaluate presence of social influence in your daily life.
- To improve communication skills through class activities, discussions, demonstrations and papers.

Examinations:

There will be three exams given during the term. All exams will be non-cumulative. The first two exams will be given during class time. The third exam will be given during final exam week. Questions will test your knowledge of both lecture and textbook material. Exams will be given only on the days scheduled. The only excuse for missing an exam is documented illness or death in the family. Any inexcusable absence from an exam will be recorded as a zero.

Application Papers:

There are two Application Papers required for this course. By analyzing and applying theories of Social Psychology, you will have an opportunity to fully understand concepts and to think like a psychologist. The Application Paper topics are listed at the end of your syllabus. Each paper will be discussed in small groups to highlight the impact of social influence. You are expected to be prepared for classroom discussions on the designated dates. Each paper should be 3-5 word-processed, double-spaced pages. The first paper is due on February 9th. The second paper is due on April 6th. Please note that late papers will be dropped ½ a letter grade for each day after paper is due.

Attendance and Class Participation:

Attendance for all classes is expected. You are responsible for the material and activities presented in class, as the lecture material is meant to supplement your readings. You are expected to read assigned texts prior to each session, as your participation in classroom discussion is encouraged. Missed classes will lower your grade in the course.

Evaluation:

Your grade for this course will be comprised of exams, Application Papers and your class participation. The breakdown is as follows:

Exams	60% (3 @ 20%)
Application Papers	30% (2 @ 15%)
Participation	10%

Policy on Plagiarism:

The Psychology Department has set policy on plagiarism. Plagiarism is the intentional misrepresentation of someone else's work as your own. This includes various situations such as quoting directly from a published work without properly acknowledging the author, having someone write a paper for you, "borrowing" from fraternity or sorority files, buying a paper from a professional service, etc. The policy in the department is that students must keep all note cards and rough drafts on a paper until the grade is assigned. The course instructor may request these materials at any time. Evidence of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the College Policy on academic honesty, copies of which are available at the departmental secretary's desk.

Required Texts:

Myers, D.G. (2008). Social Psychology. (9th ed.) Boston, MA: McGraw Hill Publishers.

Any additional readings will be on reserve in the library or handed out during the class.

Class Schedule

(Please note the schedule is subject to change. Any change will be noted in an addendum to the syllabus and explained by the instructor)

January 17th Introduction to Course

January 19th Introduction to Social Psychology
Chapter 1

January 24th Research Methods
Chapter 1

January 26th Understanding Self
Chapter 2

January 31st Understanding Self
Chapter 2

February 2nd Paper #1 Discussion
Be sure to have viewed your movie and be prepared to discuss with your group.

February 7th Social Perception
Chapter 3

February 9th Behavior and Attitudes
Video: Zimbardo experiment
** Paper # 1 Due**

February 14th Behavior and Attitudes
Chapter 4

February 16th Exam I

February 21st Genes, Culture and Gender
Chapter 5

February 23rd Genes, Culture and Gender
Chapter 5

February 28th Conformity
Chapter 6

March 2nd Conformity
Video: Stanley Milgram's Obedience to Authority

March 7th Spring Break!

March 9th Spring Break!

March 14th Persuasion
Activity: Bring in a magazine

March 16th Persuasion
Chapter 7

March 21st Exam II

March 23rd Group Influence
Activity

March 28th Group Influence
Chapter 8

March 30th Paper # 2 Discussion
Be sure to have observed your group and be prepared with observations.

April 4th Prejudice
Video: A Class Divided

April 6th Easter Recess

- April 11th Prejudice
Chapter 9
Activity: Bring in a magazine.
Paper #2 Due
- April 13th Attraction and Intimacy
Chapter 11 pg. 381-406
- April 18th Love and Intimate Relationships
Bring in a Love Song on CD
Chapter 11 pg. 407-424
- April 20th Helping
Altruism Debate
- April 25th Helping
Chapter 12
- April 27th Closure: After the Fact Psychologizing

Finals Week

**** Final Exam TBA****

Application Paper #1
Discussion on February 2nd
Due on February 9th

Select one of the following movies and reflect on the concepts discussed in Chapter 2: Understanding Self. Be sure to highlight theories and explain their connection to the movie.

The Breakfast Club • The Joy Luck Club • Zelig • Working Girl

Prior to writing your paper, be prepared to discuss your ideas/findings/interpretations/perceptions with a small group on the designated date. Along with your paper, you will be expected to write a brief reflection noting how the group impacted your ideas/findings/interpretation/perceptions. This is especially relevant as we are studying the influence of others on our behaviors.

Application Paper #2
Discussion on March 30th
Due on April 6th

Find and observe a group working on a project. This could be a group of people producing something or repairing something, a group making a decision or solving a problem. Examples could be: attending a community meeting (city council, school board); student government meetings, dorm meetings, fraternity or sorority meetings. The group should be observed for a half an hour. After observing the group, address the following questions:

- a. What is the structure of the group? Who is in it, who seems to be the leader or leaders? Is there someone who is the task leader and someone who is the emotional leader? What role does the leader play and is he or she effective?
- b. Identify any signs of social facilitation or social loafing. Describe whether the group seems to use group member's resources and abilities effectively. Are there any signs of group think?
- c. Describe the communication patterns within the group—does everyone talk to everyone else, or are there particular people who communicate the most or are communicated to the most? Does the group ever explicitly talk about the nature of their problem-solving process (i.e. deciding how they are going to delegate things?)
- d. Evaluate the groups performance—notice what they get accomplished and note anything they could have done to be more effective.
- e. Do you think this group is like to show groupthink effects? Explain why, and explain what could be done to decrease the likelihood of groupthink operating.

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