

Psychology 340

Advanced Social Psychology

Dana S. Dunn, PhD
Hurd Academic Complex 231
(610) 861-1562
dunn@moravian.edu

Class meets on M and W 11:25am –12:40pm

Office hours: MW 1:30-3pm; F 8:30-10:30am

A survey of the major theoretical and empirical research in social psychology, including person perception and social cognition, attitudes and persuasion, prejudice and stereotyping, interpersonal attraction, and helping behavior. Some theoretical applications will be discussed, as will methodological approaches to social psychological questions and problems. Students will complete research projects and writing assignments.

Required Readings:

Arendt, H. (2006). *Eichmann in Jerusalem*. New York: Penguin.

Dunn, D. S. (in press). *Research methods for social psychology*. London: Blackwell.

Hogg, M. A., & Cooper, J. (Eds.). (2007). *The Sage Handbook of social psychology: Concise student edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Milgram, S. (2004). *Obedience to authority*. New York: Harper.

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation. Our class is a small seminar. Your active, engaged, and on-going participation is essential to the success of the class. To that end, I will be taking role daily. An undue number of absences will lower your final course grade.

Leading class discussion. Each student will lead class discussion of assigned readings at least once during the semester but no more than three times (student led discussion classes are noted in the syllabus by an *). When you lead class discussion, you should prepare comments on the material, create a list of 5 to 10 *discussion questions* on the reading (to be submitted to me the class *before* your discussion), and locate a recent empirical journal article that pertains to the day's topic. I can help you select a reading or suggest possibilities, however, I want you to look in the library before you ask for my assistance. By all means use PsycINFO to search for relevant articles, but keep in mind that sometimes the approach is to go to the periodical room and examine recent issues of social psychology journals (try recent issues of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *Psychological Science*, among other journals that publish social psychological research). A complete list of social psychology journals may be found in Appendix A in the Dunn manuscript, *Research Methods for Social Psychology*.

Once you select an article for class discussion, make a copy of it, and share it with me. When I approve your article choice, I will make copies for the rest of the class to read in advance of the class day you lead discussion. You will receive a grade based on the quality of the reading you select, the discussion questions you pose concerning the text as well as your article, and for how well you lead class discussion.

Examinations. There are two exams, an in-class midterm on Wednesday, October 3rd and a take-home final exam (due date to be announced later). Both exams will be comprised of essay questions relating to class readings and discussions. We will discuss the format of each test in detail during class. A missed exam will be recorded as a zero (0) grade. Make-up exams will be given at my discretion, and valid evidence for the absence will be required (e.g., emergency, documented medical excuse).

Class research project. As a class, we will decide on a topic area and formulate a testable hypothesis for a class experiment or other social psychological investigation. Working as a team, class members will search the relevant literature, develop a hypothesis and research design, create independent and dependent variables, seek permission from the Human Subjects Committee to conduct the experiment, recruit participants, and collect and analyze the resulting data.

Individual research paper. Each student will use the shared materials created and collected by the class to write his or her own APA style empirical paper summarizing what was done, found, and interpreting its meaning in light of social psychological

theory. I will read and comment on rough drafts of your paper, the final version of which must be submitted for a grade in class on Monday, December 3rd.

Plagiarism and cheating. Your work must be your own. The College has a detailed plagiarism policy. I assume you are already familiar with it. I am happy to discuss it with you if you have questions. I will follow it to the letter. Please visit: <http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic2.htm> to view the policy.

Presentation of the class research project in two venues. The data from the class research project will be presented by the research team at both the Annual Lehigh Valley Psychology Student Conference (held in April 2008 at [school]) and at Moravian's Scholar's Day, which is held in late April. Submission of your work and presentation of the work (if is accepted) is a course requirement. As a class, we will decide whether to submit one project from the class (all students will be co-authors) or whether each student will submit a separate proposal.

Grading. Final grades will be weighted as follows:

Midterm exam (in class)	= 15%
Final exam (take home)	= 15%
Class participation	= 20%
Leading class discussion	= 15%
Class project	= 15%
APA style research paper	= 20%

I will use the following grading scale for course work:

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Grade Range</i>
A	100	95-100
A-	92	90-94
B+	88	87-89
B	85	83-86
B-	81	80-82
C+	78	77-79
C	75	73-76
C-	71	70-72
D+	68	67-69
D	65	63-66
D-	61	60-62
F	0	0-59

Office hours. My office hours at Moravian for Fall 2007 are:

Monday	1:30pm – 3pm
Wednesday	1:30pm - 3pm
Friday	8:30am - 10:30am

When necessary appointments for other times may be scheduled.

Note about the syllabus. Readings should be completed before class on the dates noted herein. I reserve the right to alter the syllabus should the need arise.

H&C = Hogg & Cooper's *Sage Handbook*

M = Milgram's *Obedience to Authority*

A = Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

D = Dunn's *Research Methods for Social Psychology*

Other readings indicated by complete reference and placed on reserve in Reeves Library

Class Schedule for Fall 2007

* = Assigned Student Led Discussion

M Aug 27 Organizational Meeting

Introducing Social Psychology

W Aug 29 Introducing Social Psychology Ch 1 in H&C

M Sep 3 *Labor Day – No Class Meeting*

W Sep 5 Research Review Ch 1 in D

M Sep 10 Topic Selection Ch 2 in D
Come to Class with Topic Ideas

In Depth Review of Classic Theory and Research: Conformity and Obedience

W Sep 12 Doing What We're Told: History I Chs I – VI in A
Finalize Topic

M Sep 17 Doing What We're Told: History II Chs. VII - XII

W Sep 19 Doing What We're Told: History III Finish A

M Sep 24 Creating Social Pressure in the lab Asch (Reserve)*

W Sep 26 Obedience Chs 1 – 8 in M*

M Oct 1 Obedience Chs 9 – 15 in M*
Draft of introduction section due

W Oct 3 Midterm Exam

F Oct 5 *Midterm Point of the Semester*

Sa Oct 6 – Tu Oct 9 *Fall Recess*

W Oct 10	Ethics and Research <i>Co-authored draft of IRB form due in class</i>	Ch 3 in D
M Oct 15	Abu Graib and Research Design	Reserve Ch 4 in D
<i>Individual Social Psychological Processes</i>		
W Oct 17	Inference and Memory <i>Co-authored draft of Method due</i>	Ch 3 in H&C
M Oct 22	Alternatives to Experiments <i>No Class Meeting</i>	Ch 5 in D
W Oct 24	Stereotyping	Ch 4 in H&C*
M Oct 29	The Self	Ch 5 in H&C* Ch 6 in D
W Oct 31	Attitudes and IVs	Ch 6 in H&C* Ch 7 in D
M Nov 5	Affect and Emotion DVs	Ch 7 in H&C Ch 8 in D
W Nov 7	Validity and Realism; Practical Issues For Conducting Research	Chs 9 & 10 in D
M Nov 12	Attribution and Person Perception Data Analysis	Ch 8 in H&C* Ch 11 in D
<i>Interpersonal Processes</i>		
W Nov 14	Attitude Change	Ch 9 in H&C*
W Nov 14	Attraction and Relationships Presenting Research	Ch 10 in H&C* Ch 12 in D
M Nov 19	Helping <i>Draft of Results due</i>	Ch 11 in H&C
T Nov 20 – Su Nov 25	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	
M Nov 26	Aggression	Ch 12 in H&C

Within Group Processes

W Nov 28	Social Performance	Ch13 in H&C
----------	--------------------	-------------

Between Group Processes

M Dec 3	Intergroup Behavior and Identity <i>Project Paper Due</i> <i>Take Home Final Exam Available</i>	Ch 14 in H&C
---------	---	--------------

W Dec 5	Social Psychology of Diversity	Ch 15 in H&C
---------	--------------------------------	--------------

M Dec 10	Last Class – Wrap Up	
----------	----------------------	--

W Dec 12 – W Dec 19	<i>Final Exam Period</i>	
---------------------	---------------------------------	--

*** Due Date for Take Home Final Exam TBA

Important Notes: Once your research project is finished for the semester, I will work with you in Spring 2008 to prepare it for presentation in two venues: The *Annual Lehigh Valley Student Psychology Conference* and *Moravian College's Annual Scholar's Day*. Both events are held in April 2008 and are a component in this seminar.

Reserve Readings

Asch, S. (1955, November). Opinions and social pressure. *Scientific American*, 31- 35.

Leading Class Discussion

1. Select an empirical article from a social psychology journal. Share the article with me. Once I approve it, I will make copies for the other members of the class. *You must submit your article to me at least ONE WEEK before you are scheduled to lead discussion.*
2. Write a 5 to 10 discussion questions based on the text reading assigned for the day you present and the approved article you selected for the class to read. *Your questions must be submitted to me at least ONE CLASS in advance of the day you are scheduled to lead discussion.*
3. When leading class, do not summarize what we all read, rather, draw our attention to key issues, place the topic in the larger context of social psychology, tell us why the topic is an important one, and so on. Please do not read to us—talk to us, with us.