

## Psychology 340

### Advanced Social Psychology

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Class meets on M and W 11:45am –12:55pm in Hurd 235

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:*

Dunn, D. S. (2008). *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.

There are a few readings (noted in the class schedule) that are on Reserve in Reeves Library. You may also download copies from PsycINFO.

#### *Recommended book (optional):*

Dunn, D. S. (2008). *A Short Guide to Writing about Psychology* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Pearson Longman.

## Learning Goals and Outcomes for this Course

### *Research Methods in Psychology*

Describe the basic characteristics of the science of psychology.

Explain different research methods used by psychologists.

Evaluate the appropriateness of conclusions derived from psychological research

Design and conduct basic studies to address psychological questions using appropriate research methods.

Follow the APA Ethics Code in the treatment of human participants in the design, data collection, interpretation, and reporting of psychological research.

Generalize research conclusions appropriately based on the parameters of particular research methods.

## 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.

*Examinations.* There are two exams, an in-class midterm on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and a take-home final exam (due on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>). 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).

*Group research projects.* We will form research groups of 2- 3 students each. You and the members of your group will propose and then conduct a social psychology research project (e.g., an experiment, a field study) where variables are manipulated and measured. Before doing so, your group will decide on a topic area and formulate a testable hypothesis. Working as a team, your group 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.

*Group or individual research paper.* Students can write a group paper (satisfactorily demonstrating that each member of the group contributed approximately equally to the final product) or each member of a group can write an 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 7th.

*Data analyses for research projects.* Although we will discuss how to plan data analyses for your research projects, I will assume you are familiar with data entry and analyses using statistical software, generally SPSS. You should begin to think about, discuss, and plan the analysis of your data as soon as you develop a research design. SPSS is available online in the College's computer classrooms. If you have access to other statistical software, you may use it as long as you inform me in advance. Be sure that when you report the results of your analyses that you do so using APA style (for guidelines, see chapter 11 in D, chapters 6 and 8 in Dunn [2008], and/or the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* [APA, 2001]). Be sure that you report the values of any test statistics, their accompanying degrees of freedom, significance levels, and so on.

*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.

*Grading.* Final grades will be weighted as follows:

Midterm exam (in class)	= 20%
Final exam (take home)	= 20%
Class participation	= 20%
Short Assignments	= 15%
Group work	= 5%
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*

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 2009**

M Aug 31	Organizational Meeting	
	<i>Introducing Social Psychology</i>	
W Sept 2	Introducing Social Psychology	Ch 1 in H&C
M Sept 7	<i>Labor Day – No Class Meeting</i>	
W Sept 9	Research Review <i>Complete AL 1a, p. 17</i>	Ch 1 in D
M Sept 14	Topic Selection <i>Complete AL 2a, p. 33</i> <i>Come to Class with Topic Ideas</i>	Ch 2 in D
W Sept 16	Overview of Research Methods Refine topic ideas <i>Report on library research due</i>	Ch 2 in H&C
<b><i>In Depth Review of Classic Theory and Research: Conformity and Obedience</i></b>		
M Sept 21	Creating Social Pressure in the lab <i>Report on further library research due</i>	Asch (Reserve)
W Sept 23	Obedience	Chs 1 – 8 in M
M Sept 28	Obedience to Authority DVD Yom Kippur	
W Sept 30	Obedience	Chs 9 - 15 in M
M Oct 5	Research Ethics <i>Short paper due: Would people still obey today?</i> <i>Why or why not? 1 – 2 pages</i>	Ch 3 in D
W Oct 7	Midterm Exam	
F Oct 9	<b><i>Midterm Point of the Semester</i></b>	

Sa Oct 10 – Tu Oct 13 <b><i>Fall Recess</i></b>		
W Oct 14	Replication of Milgram <i>Co-authored draft of IRB form due in class</i>	Burger (Reserve)
M Oct 19	Abu Graib and Research Design <i>Complete AL 4a, p. 83</i> <i>Draft of Introduction due</i>	Reserve Ch 4 in D
<b><i>Individual Social Psychological Processes</i></b>		
W Oct 21	Inference and Memory <i>Co-authored draft of Method due</i>	Ch 3 in H&C
M Oct 26	Alternatives to Experiments <i>Complete AL 7a, 7b, pps. 196, 201</i>	Ch 5 in D
W Oct 28	Stereotyping <i>Complete AL 8a, p. 217</i>	Ch 4 in H&C
M Nov 2	The Self	Ch 5 in H&C Ch 6 in D
W Nov 4	Attitudes and IVs	Ch 6 in H&C Ch 7 in D
M Nov 9	Affect and Emotion DVs	Ch 7 in H&C Ch 8 in D
W Nov 11	Validity and Realism; Practical Issues For Conducting Research	Chs 9 & 10 in D
M Nov 16	Attribution and Person Perception Data Analysis <i>Complete AL 11a, p. 289</i>	Ch 8 in H&C Ch 11 in D
<b><i>Interpersonal Processes</i></b>		
W Nov 18	Attitude Change <i>Draft of Results Due</i>	Ch 9 in H&C
M Nov 23	Attraction and Relationships Presenting Research <i>Draft of Discussion Due</i>	Ch 10 in H&C Ch 12 in D
T Nov 24 – Su Nov 29 <b><i>Thanksgiving Break</i></b>		

M Nov 30	Helping	Ch 11 in H&C
W Dec 2	Aggression <i>Complete Draft (multiple copies) For In Class Writing Workshop due</i>	Ch 12 in H&C
M Dec 7	Social Psychology of Diversity <i>Project Paper due Take Home Final Exam Available***</i>	Ch15 in H&C
W Dec 9	Last Class – Wrap Up	
Th Dec 10	Reading Day I	
F Dec 11	<i>First Day of Final Exams</i>	
Sa Dec 12	Reading Day II	
Su Dec 13	Reading Day III	
M Dec 14 – F Dec 18 <i>Final Exams</i>		

**\*\*\* Due Date for Take Home Final Exam is Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am—I will accept the Final Exam anytime after it is handed out on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

*Important Notes:* Once your research project is finished for the semester, I will work with you in Spring 2010 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 2010 and are a component in this seminar.

### **Reserve Readings**

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

Burger, J. M. (2009). Replicating Milgram: Would people still obey today? *American Psychologist*, 64, 1-11.