

Social Psychology
Psychology 330, Section 002
Fall 2008, MAC 210
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:20

Instructor: Dr. Kate Burns

Email: burnsk@uwgb.edu

Office: MAC C316

Phone: 465-2427

Office Hours: Mondays 11:30-12:30, 1:45-3:45, Tuesdays 9:45-10:45, Thursdays 9:45-10:45,
Fridays 11:30-12:30, or by appointment

Course objectives:

This course is designed to provide an overview of basic social psychological theories, methods, and empirical results. The goal of social psychology is to understand and explain how our thoughts, feelings, and behavior are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. At the heart of social psychology is the recognition that our responses are greatly influenced by social situations and are not simply the product of our individual personalities. Social psychology explores many areas including aggression, helping, romantic relationships, and prejudice and stereotyping.

In order to accomplish these goals, we will be reading both primary (*Insights Reader*) and secondary sources (*Essential Social Psychology*). While some primary sources are easier to read than others, it is important to familiarize yourself with original articles. These provide the backbone for the concepts we will be learning about this semester. Primary sources should give you a better understanding of the research process as well as allow you to hone your critical thinking skills.

The Psychology Department has also articulated a list of 14 learning outcomes. This class meets the following outcomes:

Primary Goals:

Learning Outcome #2: Knowledge of the perspectives, methods and content of social psychology

Learning Outcome #6: Can identify the assumptions and characteristics of experimental and nonexperimental research in psychology, and the constraints on the inferences that can be made from the results of research.

Learning Outcome #8: Can understand and critically evaluate published research in psychology and recognize its implications.

Learning Outcome #9: Can communicate clearly in writing about issues and topics in psychology.

Secondary Goals:

Learning Outcome #7: Can access the professional resources in psychology (e.g., Psychological Abstracts, PsychInfo (electronic database), and other professional journals, Annual Reviews of Psychology, etc.)

Learning Outcome #11: Understands and can apply the APA guidelines for the ethical treatment of subjects (human or animal).

Learning Outcome #14: Corresponding to the team approach taken in work place, graduate school, and learning environments, students will be encouraged to collaborate in the design and execution of research projects.

Reading (Available at the bookstore)

Crisp, R. J., & Turner, R. N. (2007). *Essential Social Psychology*. (First Edition). London: Sage Publications.

Insights: Social Psychology Reader (Collection of social psychology articles)

Course requirements:

Exams. There will be three exams (50 points each) throughout the semester. These exams will utilize multiple choice questions and short answer responses. Both the material discussed in class and the assigned reading will be included on the exams. You are responsible for all of the material in the assigned readings even if it is not covered in the lectures.

Final Exam. There is also an optional comprehensive final (50 points) for this class. If you opt to take the final (and have completed the 3 in-class exams), you can drop your lowest exam grade. Note: the final cannot hurt you (it can only help you). If your lowest exam grade is the final exam, it will be dropped and your grade will not be changed. However, if another exam grade is the lowest, the final will replace this grade.

Makeup Exam Policy. There will be no makeup exams. If you miss an exam for any reason, you will be required to take the comprehensive final exam. This comprehensive final exam will only make up for one missed exam. If you miss more than 1 exam in the semester, you will not be able to make up these other exams.

Research Projects. You will conduct 2 social psychological research projects (44 points each; due on the dates noted in the course schedule). These projects are due in class and there will be a 10% deduction for each day that they are late (I count weekend days too). We will be working on designing these projects during class time and more details on these projects are available on D2L.

“This Just In...” Presentation. You and your to-be-determined group will make a 10 minute presentation on a recent research study (2003-Present) in social psychology (worth 30 points). You will need to email me the citation for the article you’re presenting one week before your presentation date (worth 4 of the aforementioned 30 points based on article appropriateness). These articles may be difficult for you to interpret if you have not take statistics and/or research methods. Please come and talk to me individually or as a group if you feel like you are getting bogged down by the statistical details of the article and are losing the big picture. There will be a discussion period following the presentation where your classmates can earn extra credit (up to 6 points) for asking quality and thought-provoking questions (e.g., addressing limitations, alternative explanations, implications, etc.).

Experiential Research Learning Program (ERLP). To fully appreciate psychological research, you must also understand the participant’s perspective. In addition to conducting your own research and presenting recent research, you will be participating in the ERLP. You are required to earn 4 research points (each of these points will be multiplied by 4 for your course grade, leading to a possible total of 16 points toward your overall course grade). These points can be earned by participating in research studies, attending research presentations, and/or

reading and reviewing relevant research articles (1 research point = .25 hours of research experience). All students enrolled in this course are enrolled in the Experiential Research Learning Program (ERLP) D2L page. This page will provide you valuable information about the ERLP, including information on logging into the ERLP Management Website where opportunities for students to earn points are advertised, where students will sign up to participate in studies and attend presentations, and where students can track the points they have earned. The ERLP D2L page has other useful links and information as well. All research points must be earned by the last day of classes, Wednesday, December 10, 2008.

- To earn research points:
 - Log on to the ERLP D2L page and read more about the program.
 - Create a user account for the ERLP Management Website.
 - Sign up for an activity you are interested in and follow the instructions for participation.
 - Following the activity, you will print your name on a sign-up sheet which the researcher will use to assign points. You can track your points on the ERLP Management Website.
- Important:
 - Be sure to read the “Information for Students” document on the ERLP D2L page. This will give you other valuable information about the program.
 - Sign up for research activities as early in the term as possible (so you don’t miss the opportunity later).
 - You may only participate in research activities posted on the ERLP management website to receive research points for this class. Other activities will not count.
 - Students who sign up for a research activity but do not attend and do not cancel 24 hours ahead of time (through the ERLP Management Website) will receive a penalty equal to the number of points offered for the activity.
 - You may only participate in the same research study once.

In-class assignments/activities. Class attendance is expected. If you do miss a class session, please arrange to get notes, handouts, or other materials from a classmate. In order to encourage attendance and participation, there will be 5 in-class assignments/activities (worth 4 points each). These assignments will be distributed randomly throughout the semester and may involve in-class discussions, group activities, reaction papers, and other in-class work. These assignments cannot be made up for any reason. You will be graded on 4 of these assignments. Therefore, you can miss one of these assignments without penalty or replace your lowest grade for one of the assignments if you complete all five.

Course Schedule

September 2 (Tues) Introduction and Overview of Course
Reading: What is Social Psychology? (Insights pp. 1-7)

September 4 (Thurs) Scientific Research Methods I
Reading: Research Methods (Insights pp. 8-13)

September 9 (Tues) Scientific Research Methods II

Reading: Basking in Reflected Glory: Three (Football) Field Studies: Cialdini et al. (Insights pp. 28-34)

September 11 (Thurs) The Self I

Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 1-30

September 16 (Tues) The Self II

Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 31-37; Culture and the Self: Markus & Kitayama (Insights pp. 14-27)

September 18 (Thurs) Impression Formation

September 23 (Tues) Attribution

Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 38-49

September 25 (Thurs) Social Cognition I

Reading: When Less is More: Counterfactual Thinking and Satisfaction Among Olympic Medalists: Hedvec, Madey, and Gilovich (Insights pp. 43-51)

RESEARCH PROJECT 1 DUE

September 30 (Tues) Social Cognition II

Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 49-56

October 2 (Thurs) EXAM 1

October 7 (Tues) Attitudes I

Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 72-89; Attitudes vs. Actions: LaPiere (Insights pp. 52-57)

October 9 (Thurs) Attitudes II

Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 90-94

October 14 (Tues) Application of Attitudes: Persuasion

Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 94-103

October 16 (Thurs) Group Behavior

Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 104-115, 146-147; Group Decision Fiascoes Continue: Moorhead, Ference, & Neck (Insights pp. 73-79)

October 21 (Tues) Social Psychology and Law

Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 144-145; The Psychology of Confession Evidence: Kassin (Insights pp. 80-93)

October 23 (Thurs) Social Influence: Conformity

Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 131-143

October 28 (Tues) Social Influence: Compliance

Reading: Reciprocation: Cialdini (Insights pp. 94-107)

October 30 (Thurs) Social Influence: Obedience
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 152-160

November 4 (Tues) EXAM 2

November 6 (Thurs) Prejudice I
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 161-174

November 11 (Tues) Prejudice II
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 65-67; 182-194; Jigsaw Groups and the Desegregated Classroom:
Aronson & Bridgeman (Insights pp. 108-113)

November 13 (Thurs) Aggression
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 195-229
RESEARCH PROJECT 2 DUE

November 18 (Tues) Prosocial Behavior I
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 230-250; Bystander “Apathy”: Latané & Darley
(Insights pp. 114-126)

November 20 (Thurs) Prosocial Behavior II
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 250-264

November 25 (Tues) Applications of Social Psychology

November 27 (Thurs) Happy Thanksgiving! (No class)

December 2 (Tues) Affiliation and Attraction
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 265-287

December 4 (Thurs) Friendship and Love
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 288-310

December 9 (Tues) EXAM 3

December 16 (Tues) FINAL EXAM 1-3 p.m.

Grading:	Two research projects worth 44 points each:	88
	“This Just In...” Presentation worth 30 points:	30
	Four in-class assignments worth 4 points each:	16
	Four ERLP research points worth 4 points each toward class:	16
	Three exams worth 50 points each:	<u>150</u>
	Total points	300

I do not round grades up or down to the nearest point. You can extra credit by asking questions of the group presenters as well as replace your lowest exam grade by taking the final exam. I would highly recommend taking advantage of these opportunities because they can have a significant impact on a borderline grade. If you have taken advantage of these opportunities and are still in a borderline situation, I admire your hard work and sympathize with your situation, but will still not round your grade up because it is not fair to other students and sets the stage for preferential treatment.

A	93.0-100%	BC	78.0-82.9%	D	63.0-67.9%
AB	88.0-92.9%	C	73.0-77.9%	F	below 63.0%
B	83.0-87.9%	CD	68.0-72.9%		

Consistent with the federal law and the policies of the University of Wisconsin, it is the policy of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to provide appropriate and necessary accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aids or services, you should contact me or the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 465-2849 as soon as possible to discuss your needs and arrange for the provision of services.

Academic Honesty: Cheating is not fair to honest students, is counter to the purpose of the university, and is not in your best interest. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to the University's policies on academic misconduct.