

Social Psychology
Psychology 330, Section 002
Spring 2008, MAC 105
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:15

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2-4, Fridays 10-12, 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, short answer and essay questions. 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.

Makeup Exam Policy. There will be no make-up exams. Exceptions for catastrophic cases will be reviewed individually. If you have a conflict with a scheduled exam, please see me well before that time.

Research Projects. Two research projects (25 points each) will be 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 25 points). You will need to email me the citation for the article you’re presenting one week before your presentation date (worth 3 of the aforementioned 25 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 for asking quality and thought-provoking questions (up to 6 points).

Summary/Reflection Papers. You will complete 2 summary/reflection papers on the articles from your Insights Reader. You may choose any 2 articles you wish except for “What is Social Psychology?” and “Research Methods”. These papers will be 1 typed page and will be due at the beginning of the class on the day the reading is assigned. The majority of your paper should focus on summarizing the article that you read in your own words (2/3 page). The remainder of the paper should focus on your own reflections about the paper (e.g., connections to the real world, future directions, criticisms, etc.). Each paper will be worth 10 points. Non-typed and/or late papers will not be accepted.

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 7 in-class assignments/activities (worth 5 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 6 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 seven.

Course Schedule

January 22 (Tues) Introduction and Overview of Course
Reading: What is Social Psychology?: Aron & Aron (Insights pp. 1-10)

January 24 (Thurs) Scientific Research Methods I
Reading: Research Methods (Insights pp. 11-16)

January 29 (Tues) Scientific Research Methods II

January 31 (Thurs) The Self I
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 1-30

February 5 (Tues) The Self II
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 31-37; Culture and the Self: Markus & Kitayama (Insights pp. 17-30)

February 7 (Thurs) NO CLASS: Finish Research Project 1

February 12 (Tues) Impression Formation
Reading: Forming Impression of Personality: Asch (Insights pp. 31-39)
RESEARCH PROJECT 1 DUE

February 14 (Thurs) Attribution
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 38-49

February 19 (Tues) Social Cognition I

February 21 (Thurs) Social Cognition II
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 49-56

February 26 (Tues) EXAM 1

February 28 (Thurs) Attitudes I
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 72-89; Attitudes vs. Actions: LaPiere (Insights pp. 40-45)

March 4 (Tues) Attitudes II
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 90-94

March 6 (Thurs) Application of Attitudes: Persuasion
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 94-103; The Elaboration Likelihood of Model of Persuasion: Petty & Cacioppo (Insights pp. 46-52)

March 11 (Tues) Group Behavior
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 104-115, 146-147; Group Decision Fiascoes Continue: Moorhead, Ference, & Neck (Insights pp. 53-59)

March 13 (Thurs) Social Psychology and Law
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 144-145; The Psychology of Confession Evidence: Kassin (Insights pp. 60-73)

RESEARCH PROJECT 2 DUE

March 18 (Tues) NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK

March 20 (Thurs) NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK

March 25 (Tues) Social Influence: Conformity
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 131-143

March 27 (Thurs) Social Influence: Compliance
Reading: Reciprocation: Cialdini (Insights pp. 74-87)

April 1 (Tues) Social Influence: Obedience
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 152-160

April 3 (Thurs) EXAM 2

April 8 (Tues) Affiliation and Attraction
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 265-287

April 10 (Thurs) Friendship and Love
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 288-310

April 15 (Tues) Stereotyping and Prejudice I
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 161-174; On the Nature of Contemporary Prejudice: Dovidio (Insights pp. 88-99)

April 17 (Thurs) Stereotyping and Prejudice II
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 65-67; 182-194; Jigsaw Groups and the Desegregated Classroom: Aronson & Bridgeman (Insights pp. 100-105)

April 22 (Tues) Aggression
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 195-213

April 24 (Thurs) Conflict and Conflict Resolution

April 29 (Tues) Prosocial Behavior
Reading: Crisp & Turner pp. 230-264

May 1 (Thurs) Applications of Social Psychology
 May 6 (Tues) Exam 3 Review
 May 8 (Thurs) EXAM 3

Grading:	Two homework assignments worth 25 points each:	50
	“This Just In...” Presentation worth 25 points:	25
	Two summary/reaction papers worth 10 points each:	20
	Six in-class assignments worth 5 points each:	30
	Three exams worth 50 points each:	<u>150</u>
	Total points	275

Grades will *not* be rounded up or down to the nearest point.

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.