

SYLLABUS

DATE: Fall Semester 2009

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: Psychology 320 - Social Psychology

SEMESTER OFFERED: Fall

CREDIT HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dan Mayton

OFFICE: Spalding Hall, Room 213F

PHONE: 792-2280 (leave message)

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Wednesday 10:30 - noon & 2:00-3:00 pm

PURPOSE:

This course is designed to provide each student with knowledge of a representative sampling of topics and issues in social psychology plus an understanding of the methodology used by social psychologists. In general, this course will cover the ways in which people or groups affect others and in turn are affected by them. Topics will include social perception and cognition, socialization, self concept, attitudes, values, persuasion, interpersonal attraction, aggression, altruism, social influence and interdependence, social power, and the application of social psychology in general.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Baumeister, R. F., & Bushman, B. J. (2008). *Social psychology and human nature* (Brief version). Belmont, CA: Thomson Higher Education.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the semester students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. State and describe the major theories used by social psychologists in their attempts to describe and understand human behavior.
2. Identify and explain the major research methods social psychologists use in the study of human behavior.
3. Explain how the processes of social perception, social cognition, and socialization influence an individual's behavior.
4. Explain how an individual's self concept and attitudes can be influenced and how the nature and dynamics of each of these influence each other and behavior.
5. Explain the basic social psychological terminology and principles in the areas of interpersonal attraction, aggression, prosocial behavior, and social power and influence.
6. Apply the concepts, theories, and principles of social psychology to explain current social issues and problems.
7. Develop possible solutions to current social problems based on social psychological concepts, theories, and principles.

Note to Students

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with the instructor, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE (Subject to change by professor)

Week of August 24th – The Mission and the Method
Baumeister & Bushman - Chapter 1

Week of August 31st – Culture and Nature
Baumeister & Bushman – Chapter 2

Week of September 7th – The Self
Baumeister & Bushman – Chapter 3

Week of September 14th – Examination #1
Examination #1 will take place this week and will assess material covered in the class presentations and assigned readings in your text up to this point in the course.

Week of September 21st – Social Cognition
Baumeister & Bushman – Chapter 5

Week of September 28th – Emotion and Affect
Baumeister & Bushman – Chapter 6

Week of October 5th - Attitudes and Beliefs
Baumeister & Bushman – Chapter 7

Week of October 12th – Examination #2
Examination #2 will take place this week and will assess material covered in the class presentations and assigned readings in your text up to this point in the course.

Week of October 19th – Prosocial Behavior
Baumeister & Bushman – Chapter 8

Week of October 26th - Aggression and Antisocial Behavior
Baumeister & Bushman – Chapter 9

Week of November 2nd – Attraction, Exclusion, & Close Relationships
Baumeister & Bushman – Chapters 10 & 11

Week of November 9th – Examination 3
Examination #3 will take place this week and will assess material covered in the class presentations, outside readings, and assigned readings in your text since the previous exam.

Week of November 16th – Prejudice

Baumeister & Bushman – Chapter 12

All individual projects are due by Friday of this week.

Week of November 23rd – Thanksgiving Break

Week of November 30th – Social Influence

Baumeister & Bushman – Chapter 13

Week of December 7th – Groups

Baumeister & Bushman – Chapter 14

Week of December 14th - Final Examination

The final examination is comprehensive and will be in the regular classroom on Tuesday

December 15th from 10:30 am until 12:20 pm. This examination will assess material covered in the class presentations and assigned readings.

EVALUATION:

Grades for this course will be determined on a 400 point scale with the maximum points allotted for each activity as follows:

Examination #1	50
Examination #2	50
Examination #3	50
Individual Project	100
Group Project	50
Final Examination	100

Final grades will be assigned on a total point bases as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage of Points</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
A	93 - 100 %	372 - 400
A -	90 - 92.9 %	360 - 371
B +	87 - 89.9 %	348 - 359
B	83 - 86.9 %	332 - 347
B -	80 - 82.9 %	320 - 331
C +	77 - 79.9 %	308 - 319
C	73 - 76.9 %	292 - 307
C -	70 - 72.9 %	280 - 291
D +	67 - 69.9 %	268 - 279
D	60 - 66.9 %	240 - 267
F	59% or lower	239 or less

Students who will miss a class in which an examination is scheduled need to make arrangements for a makeup examination before the scheduled time of the examination. If students miss an examination due to illness, they must provide a doctor's excuse or a slip indicating they visited the LCSC Student Health Center in order to be able to sit for a makeup examination. Students without a written excuse from their doctor or the LCSC Student Health Center will not be allowed to take a makeup examination and will be

assigned a zero for that examination.

Individual Project

I want to make the content and theory of social psychology relevant and meaningful to all of you. A sizable portion of your grade will therefore be determined by an individual project on a topic of special interest to you. The final product of your individual project could be a term paper, a literature review, a how-to-use social psychology paper, a position paper, a research project, a videotape, a class presentation, etc.

To facilitate your work on this project the content and format for each student's project will be determined in an individual conference with me to be held no later than September 18th. Each student should be prepared to talk about what they hope to get from the course and immediate and long term career goals during the conference. In addition, students should have reviewed the general topics discussed in their texts and determined those of greatest personal interest before coming to their conference.

Group Project

For your group project I will pass out a sign up sheet by the second week of class which will include possible topics. Potential topics include but are not limited to the following: eyewitness testimony, groupthink, jury decision making, maintaining relationships, multiculturalism and cultural diversity, power, resisting persuasion, cooperation and fairness, social facilitation, prejudice and stereotypes toward specific ethnic groups (i.e. Native Americans, African Americans, German Americans, etc.). To facilitate your work on this project class time will be made available for planning and organization among group members. Each group will have 30 minutes of class time to make their class presentation.