



OTRP online

Office of Teaching Resources in Psychology

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

H-851

PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY

Spring 2005
M W 1:35-2:50
in Hayward 230

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Course description and goals:

Humans are intensely social creatures: our behavior, attitudes, emotions, and thoughts are all influenced by – and, in turn, influence – other people. Social psychology addresses the ways in which people's experiences, from the everyday to the extraordinary, are affected by the real, imagined, or implied presence of others. In this course we will study a range of topics in social cognition, social influence, and social relations.

In this course, my goals for you are:

- To develop an understanding of the scientific methods used in research on social psychology.
- To become familiar with terminology and current knowledge relating to social psychology.
- To strengthen your ability to think critically about theories and data in psychology.
- To understand social psychology's findings and implications in the laboratory and the real world.
- To learn course material not only from the readings, assignments, and the instructor, but also through interactions with your colleagues.
- To learn to integrate multiple sources of information, including scientific journal articles, into a coherent presentation.
- To come to share my enthusiasm for studying the human mind and behavior.

Requirements:

Text: Myers, D. G. (2005). Social Psychology (8th ed.). Boston: McGraw Hill.

- You will be responsible for any course information I email to you on your PhilaU account.
- The pre-requisite for this course is an Introductory Psychology course.

Attendance:

Class time will be spent in a wide variety of learning activities designed to help you to understand, appreciate, and remember information about social psychology. These activities include interactive lectures, large group discussions, and small group collaborative work. Some central findings of psychology show that learning and retaining information is best accomplished through active, frequent use of the material. Some of the material presented in class does not appear in the textbook, but will be covered on exams. Participation preparation assignments will receive credit only if you are present in class. Additionally, you and your classmates will spend

considerable time presenting your independent work to the class. Thus, attendance at all classes is expected and encouraged. Regardless of the reason for any absence, you are solely and completely responsible for obtaining information about the class meeting, handouts, etc. Deductions to specific assignments may be made as a result of absences.

Evaluation:

Reading Assignments: You are expected to do all reading assignments prior to coming to class. Keeping up with the reading is the single best way to do well in this course.

Exams: There will be two non-cumulative exams during the term and a cumulative final exam. The exams may be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions, and will cover material from the readings as well as from class lectures, discussions, and assignments. You are responsible for all assigned text material whether or not we discuss it in class.

Participation Preparation Assignments: Throughout the semester, I will give small assignments designed to prepare you for interactive class activities. These might include finding information on the internet or in a research database, developing questions or comments about the reading assignment, etc. Together they are worth 20% of your final grade. Completing these preparatory exercises will greatly enhance the classroom experience for all of us. Credit will be given for PPAs only if you are present in class.

Paper/Presentation: You will work in a group of approximately three students on an in-depth exploration of a topic in social psychology and will present your work to the class. See attachment for more information.

Late Assignment/Missed Exam Policy: Please note that except for health or family emergencies, all exams must be taken and all work must be turned in on the dates listed here (unless explicitly changed by the instructor). Except for genuine and documented emergencies, make-up tests will not be given and late assignments will not be accepted (or will receive significant grade penalties). This requirement is central to maintaining fairness for each student in the course. Any student missing an exam for any reason must contact me within 24 hours.

Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor and provide appropriate documentation.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty (cheating) will not be tolerated. All work on exams, projects, papers, and participation preparatory assignments must be your own, completed individually unless the instructor explicitly permits collaboration. Any individual caught cheating or aiding another student cheating will receive an automatic F in the course and his/her name will be forwarded to the Office of Academic Affairs. If you find yourself even considering cheating, see it as a sign that you need assistance learning the course material and come see me.

The final grade will be computed as follows:

	<u>Weight</u>
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	20%
Partic. Prep. Assign.	20%
Papers & Presentation	20%

A 93-100%
A- 90-92.9%
B+ 87-89.9%
B 83-86.9%

B- 80-82.9%
C+ 77-79.9%
C 73-76.9%
C- 70-72.9%

D+ 67-69.9%
D 63-66.9%
D- 60-62.9%
F 59.9% or below

Expected Class Schedule

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU COMPLETE ALL READING PRIOR TO CLASS!!!

WEEK	DAY	DATE	TOPIC	READING
			INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY	
1	W	1/12	Intro to course; What is social psychology?	
2	M	1/17	No class; MLK day	
			SOCIAL COGNITION	
2	W	1/19	Research Methods in Social Psychology	Chapter 1
3	M	1/24	The Self	Chapter 2
3	W	1/26	The Self	
4	M	1/31	The Self	Journal article
4	W	2/2	Social Judgment: Biases and Heuristics	Chapter 3
5	M	2/7	Social Judgment: Biases and Heuristics	
5	W	2/9	Attitudes	Ch 4 pp. 133-150
6	M	2/14	Student presentations on social cognition	
6	W	2/16	Attitudes: Cognitive Dissonance and Self-Perception	Ch 4 pp. 150-165
7	M	2/21	Exam 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4
			SOCIAL INFLUENCE	
7	W	2/23	Gender Similarities & Differences	Chapter 5
8	M	2/28	The Evolutionary Perspective	
8	W	3/2	Obedience	Chapter 6
9	M	3/7	Spring Break	
9	W	3/9	Spring Break	
10	M	3/14	Conformity & Compliance	
10	W	3/16	Student presentations on social influence	
11	M	3/21	Persuasion	Chapter 7
11	W	3/23	Persuasion	
12	M	3/28	Exam 2	Chapters 5, 6, 7
			SOCIAL RELATIONS	
12	W	3/30	Prejudice	Chapter 9
13	M	4/4	Prejudice	
13	W	4/6	Prejudice	
14	M	4/11	Friendship	Ch 11 pp. 419-446
14	W	4/13	Love & Relationships	Ch 11 pp. 447-467
15	M	4/18	Student presentations on social relations	
15	W	4/20	Altruism	Chapter 12
16	M	4/25	Altruism	
		4/30-5/6	Final exam during finals week	Chapters 9, 11,12

Please note: This syllabus represents the instructor's best estimate of course procedures and schedules; however, it is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PAPER/PRESENTATION ASSIGNMENT

Social psychology is an application of the scientific method to many facets of everyday life. Hence, in your project, you will address both of these aspects of the field. You will complete a project (paper and presentation) in which you will summarize a journal article, integrate it with course material, and apply the topic to a current event or social issue.

Goals of this project:

- to enable students to explore a topic of great interest in social psychology
- to provide opportunities to learn to read and report about original scientific journal articles
- to provide opportunities for students to learn to integrate multiple sources of information
- to emphasize the strong connection between “academic” social psychology and real world issues
- to emphasize the responsibility of ALL members of the class (not just the instructor) for a successful learning experience for each other

Steps to complete the project:

- Complete the Student Interest Form and turn it in on Wednesday, January 19. You will receive your group assignment and general topic on Monday, January 24.
- Meet with your group members to choose a specific topic
- Choose a journal article describing an empirical study (or studies) on your topic. You may choose one that is cited in your textbook or may be one you find on your own (you will receive instructions and practice with this in class first).
- Turn in the PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM before its due date for your presentation date.
- Summarize and integrate the text material and the article in your own words.
- Identify a social issue or current event to which you can effectively apply your topic.
- Compose a presentation with your groupmates in which you explain the relevant material from the text, summarize and explain the journal article, and provide a social psychological explanation of a social issue or current event as interpreted by your topic.
- Organize and practice your presentation along with your groupmates. You should work closely together from the start.
- Produce a handout for the class, no more than two pages long, to provide them with an OUTLINE of your presentation. There is to be one handout per group, not per person.
- INDEPENDENTLY write a paper that provides an overview of your topic (incorporating text material), a summary of your article, and application of your topic to your social issue or current event. The papers are expected to be about 4-5 pages long.
- Make sure your presentation is practiced and professional; please do not read the handout to the class. Also make sure that your paper is well written; serious grade deductions will result from poor writing.

PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM:
Turn one in per group on or before its due date.

Partner Names: _____

General Topic (check one): _____ Social Cognition (this form due Feb. 7; presentation date Feb. 14)

 _____ Social Influence (this form due Mar. 2; presentation date Mar. 16)

 _____ Social Relations (this form due Apr. 11; presentation date Apr. 18)

Attach a copy of your article to this form

More Specific Topic (this should be very specific – e.g., influence of TV on aggression; fundamental attribution error; models of altruism; etc.):

Social Issue/Current Event to which you will apply the topic (provide a brief description):

Information from the text which you will integrate into your paper and presentation (list topics and/or page numbers):

RUBRIC FOR EVALUATING PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS:

Element	Possible Points	Obtained Points
Informed introduction to topic/place it within social psych	10	
Incorporates text material thoroughly and effectively	10	
Explanation of article: hypotheses	10	
Explanation of article: methodology	10	
Explanation of article: results/implications	10	
Application of topic to social issue/current event	15	
Quality of integrating text, article, issue/event	10	
Overall sophistication of analysis/ideas	10	
Quality of writing/professionalism	15	

PROJECT TOPICS AND DATES

GENERAL TOPIC	EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC TOPICS (you may choose one of these or something else)	PRESENTATION DATE	PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM DUE
Social Cognition	Possible selves, self-efficacy, locus of control, self-image bias, self-handicapping, impression management, attributions of causality, heuristics, self-fulfilling prophecies, attitudes, cognitive dissonance, etc.	Feb 14	Feb 7
Social Influence	Gender roles, evolutionary thinking about social behavior, conformity, obedience, compliance, persuasion, advertising, etc.	Mar 16	Mar 2
Social Relations	Prejudice, discrimination, stereotypes, aggression, friendship, physical attractiveness, love, relationships, etc.	Apr 18	Apr 11

-----TURN IN THIS SLIP ON WEDNESDAY JAN. 19-----

Social Psych Project Preference Form: Name: _____

General Topic (write 1 for 1st preference, 2 for 2nd preference, 3 for 3rd preference):

_____ Social Cognition _____ Social Influence _____ Social Relations

Any ideas on more specific topics?