

**Fall 2008 Social Psychology 830:321:03**

Monday & Wednesday, 3:20pm to 4:40pm  
LCB 102

Professor: Diana T. Sanchez, Ph.D.  
Office: Tillett Room 625/Office hours: By appointment

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The goal of social psychology is to understand and explain how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, and implied presence of others. At the heart of social psychology is the recognition that our responses are dramatically influenced by social situations; our responses are not simply the products of our individual personalities. The course will provide students with an overview of research and theory in social psychology, focusing on the ways in which the study of social behavior is scientific. We will cover topics such as attitudes, persuasion, conformity, obedience, social self-concept, perception of others, stereotyping and discrimination, romantic relationships, gender roles, aggression, and helping behavior. The course aims to teach students how to understand, appreciate, and criticize an empirical study in behavioral science, as an intelligent lay person. The course emphasizes an understanding of the important scientific methods, findings, and principles in the field of social psychology, which it then applies to everyday life and to broader social problems.

**Course Format**

We will meet twice a week for 80-minute lectures. I will assume that you have completed the reading assigned for each class meeting. The lectures will focus on central themes in the assigned reading but I will often introduce new topics not covered in the readings. Films, class demonstrations, and guest speakers will supplement the lectures. Because you will be responsible for knowing theory and research not covered in the reading material, I strongly recommend attending every lecture. Be sure to get complete notes from a classmate if you miss a class. Abbreviated lecture notes will be made available online before class. Visit [www.sanchezlab.com](http://www.sanchezlab.com) and click on courses to find the lecture notes for this class.

The required text for the course is one of the following two books:

- **Brehm, S.S., & Kassin, S.M., & Fein, S. (2005). Social Psychology (6th Ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin OR**
- **Kassin, S.M., Fein, S., & Markus, H. (2007). Social Psychology (7th Ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin.**

Note: You do not need to purchase the reader that accompanies this book. Only one additional course reading will be taken from the reader.

Additional readings (available on course website):

- 1) Stereotype Threat and the Intellectual Performance of African Americans (Steele & Aronson, 1995). \*This is available in the reader\*
- 2) Objectification Theory: Toward understanding women's lived experiences and mental health risks. (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997)

## Grades & Exams

*Grading.* Your final course grade will be based on the total points earned from 3 of the 4 exams (described below) and any extra credit points you accumulate. I will drop your lowest exam grade and calculate your average score based on the points earned from your 3 highest exam grades. There are 3 exams that cover each of the 3 sections and a cumulative final. Your grade will be calculated as a mean score of the highest scoring three exams plus whatever bonus points you earn over the semester:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
A	90.0 -100.0%
B+	87.0 - 89.9%
B	80.0 - 86.9%
C+	77.0 - 79.9%
C	70.0 - 76.9%
D	60.0 - 69.9%
F	0.0 - 59.9%

*Exams.* Each of the exams has roughly 50-60 questions. Exams will use a multiple choice format. The first 3 exams are to be taken during regularly scheduled class times, as indicated in the schedule. Approximately half of the exam will be based lectures and films; the other half will be based on the text and other readings. The final exam will be cumulative. Please bring a #2 pencil to exams.

*Make-up Exams.* If you must miss an exam for a legitimate reason (e.g., religious holiday), contact me at least one week before the scheduled exam. You will have to take the make-up exam at one of the make-up sessions scheduled by the Psychology Department

If you miss an exam without contacting me ahead of time, you will only be allowed to take the make-up exam with proper documentation (e.g., note from doctor). Please note that MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL CONSIST ENTIRELY OF ESSAY QUESTIONS. The average score on my essay exams (as of 8/08) is 60.

*Cancellation of Exams.* If an exam must be cancelled due to an emergency, a department representative will be there to announce the cancellation. Other indications that an exam has been cancelled (e.g., a note on the board or door) do not count.

*Extra Credit Writing Assignments.* I will offer four in-class extra credit writing exercises. These will not be announced in advance and they cannot be turned in late. Since missing an in-class writing exercise cannot lower your grade, and since they are part of the in-class activity for that day, extra credit assignments cannot be made up or turned in late, regardless of the reason for your absence. Each assignment will be worth one half a percentage point toward your course grade. Thus, they will provide the opportunity to earn a total of 2 points toward your total course grade (e.g., If your course average is 88% and you competently complete all 4 in-class writing exercises, your overall course grade will be raised to 90%).

### **Policies and General Information**

*Attendance Policy.* I strongly encourage you to attend all classes. I will take attendance, although it does not directly figure into your total points. It will be very difficult to earn a good grade in this course if you do not attend the lectures. As noted above (Course format), in the lectures I will elaborate on concepts from the readings, introduce new material, conduct demonstrations, and show videos. The exams will be based on all of this material, so regular attendance at the lectures will help you earn a higher grade in the course. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out about any information presented that day. As noted above, extra credit in-class writing exercises cannot be made up. So you do not lose points by not attending, but you may miss the opportunity for some bonus points. I strongly encourage attending guest speakers since they will be providing questions for the exam. If you miss a non-exam class, there is no need to provide a note about your absence.

*Studying.* It will take most students several hours to read each chapter carefully. You will need to be able to define terms/concepts, distinguish them from other similar terms/concepts, fully understand the scientific method of studying social psychological questions, and apply your knowledge to new examples described in exam questions.

*Etiquette.* Please do not talk during lectures and films. Turn off your cell phone before class begins. I expect people to be punctual and to not leave early. If you must leave early, please do so quietly ( DO NOT SLAM THE DOOR). Thanks.

*Academic Honesty and Student Behavior.* Students are expected to follow the University Policy on Academic Integrity (e.g. cheating, plagiarism). Cheating will absolutely not be tolerated. Disciplinary action for a violation of academic integrity will follow University policy.

*Students with Disabilities.* Students with documented disabilities who need special arrangements in this course should speak to me as soon as possible.

<i>SECTION 1</i>	<i>Social Perception</i>	<i>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5</i>
Wed, Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Review Syllabus; Introduction to the Field of Social Psychology	Chapter 1
Mon, Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Research Methods, part 1	Chapter 2
Wed, Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Research Methods, part 2	Chapter 2
Mon, Sept 15 <sup>th</sup>	The Self	Chapter 3
Wed, Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	Perceiving Other Individuals 1	Chapter 4
Mon, Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Perceiving Other Individuals 2	Chapter 4
Wed, Sept 24 <sup>th</sup>	Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination	Chapter 5
Mon, Sept 29 <sup>th</sup>	Rosh Hashana/NO CLASS	
Wed, Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	How Stereotype & Prejudice Affects Targets/Exam Review	Chapter 5, Steele & Aronson (1995)
<b>Mon, Oct 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>Chapters 1- 5 &amp; Steele/Aronson</b>
Wed, Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	Yom Kippur/NO CLASS	
<i>SECTION 2</i>	<i>Social Influence</i>	<i>Chapters 6, 7, and 8</i>
Mon, Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	Attitudes & Behavior	Chapter 6
Wed, Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Persuasion & Attitudes	Chapter 6
Mon, Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	Conformity & Compliance	Chapter 7
Wed, Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Obedience	Chapter 7
Mon, Oct 27 <sup>th</sup>	Group Processes I	Chapter 8
Wed, Oct 29 <sup>th</sup>	Group Processes II/Exam Review	Chapter 8, Review
<b>Mon, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>Chapters 6-8: Don't forget presidential elections tomorrow!!!</b>
<i>SECTION 3</i>	<i>Social Relations</i>	<i>Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12</i>
Wed, Nov 8 <sup>th</sup>	Out of the Country for Conference/NO CLASS	
Mon, Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>	Gender Part I	Fredrickson & Roberts (1997)
Wed, Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>	Gender Part II	
Mon, Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	Close Relationships	Chapter 9
Wed, Nov 19 <sup>th</sup>	Helping Part I	Chapter 10
Mon, Nov 24 <sup>th</sup>	Helping Part II/Aggression Part I	Chapter 10-11
Wed, Nov 26 <sup>th</sup>	NO CLASS (Friday Classes)	
Mon, Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Aggression Part II	Chapter 11
Wed, Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Law psychology	Chapter 12
Mon, Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	Social Psychology and Real World Problems & Exam Review	Review
Wed, Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Exam 3</b>	<i>Chapters 9-12, Fredrickson &amp; Roberts</i>
<b>Fri., Dec 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>12:00pm-1:20pm, LCB102 All chapters and articles</b>

\*This schedule is at the discretion of the Dr. Sanchez.\*

\*Course readings and topics (not exam dates) may change during the semester.\*