

Psychology 830:321:02

Social Psychology

Spring 2007

Tuesday & Friday, 12:00pm to 1:20pm

LCB 102

Professor Diana T. Sanchez

Office: Tillett Room 625

Office hours: Thursdays, 3-4pm

disanche@rutgers.edu

TA: TBA

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 (except for our first meeting on 9/06). 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 after class. Visit www.sanchezlab.com and click on courses to find the lecture notes for this class.

Reading: The required text for the course is:

Brehm, S.S., & Kassin, S.M., & Fein, S. (2005). Social Psychology (6th 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 three exams (described below) and any extra credit points you accumulate. There will not be a final exam. Your grade will be calculated as a mean score of all 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 is worth 100 points and one-third of the total course points. Exams will be non-cumulative and will use a multiple choice format. 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. Please bring a #2 pencil to exams.

Make-up Exams. If you must miss an exam for a legitimate reason (e.g., religious holiday, conflict with University-sponsored event), 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, obtain a note from your Dean of Students requesting that I allow you to make up the missed exam. She or he will ask for documentation of the illness or other emergency. Please note that MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL CONSIST ENTIRELY OF ESSAY QUESTIONS. The average score on my essay exams (as of 12/06) is 67.

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 lose no 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.

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. 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.

DATE	LECTURE TOPICS	READINGS
SECTION 1	Social Perception	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
Tues, Jan. 16 th	Review Syllabus; Introduction to the Field of Social Psychology	Chapter 1
Fri., Jan. 19 th	Research Methods, part 1	
Tues, Jan. 23 rd	Research Methods, part 2	
Fri., Jan. 26 th	NO CLASS AWAY AT CONFERENCE	Chapter 2
Tues, Jan. 30 th	The Self	Chapter 2
Fri., Feb. 2 nd	NO CLASS AWAY AT CONFERENCE	Chapter 3
Tues., Feb. 6 th	Perceiving Other Individuals	Chapter 4
Fri., Feb. 9 th	Stereotyping, Prejudice & Discrimination	Chapter 5
Tues., Feb. 13 th	Stereotyping, Prejudice & Discrimination	Steele & Aronson (1995)
Fri., Feb. 16 th	Race: The Power of Illusion	
Tues., Feb. 20 th	How Prejudice Affects its Targets & Exam Review	Review
Fri., Feb 23rd	EXAM 1	
SECTION 2	Social Influence	Chapters 6, 7, 8
Tues., Feb. 27 th	Attitudes & Behavior	Chapter 6
Fri, March 2 nd	Persuasion & Attitudes	Chapter 6
Tuesday, March 6 th	Conformity & Compliance	Chapter 7
Fri., March 9 th	Obedience	Chapter 7
Tues, March 13 th	Spring Break	
Fri., March 16 th	Spring Break	
Tues, March 20 th	Group Processes I	Chapter 8
Fri., March 23 rd	Group Processes II	
Tues, March 27 th	The Physical Body I	
Fri., March 30 th	The Physical Body I	Fredrickson & Roberts (1997)
Tues, April 3 rd	Exam Review	
Fri, April 6th	EXAM 2	
SECTION 3		Review Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12
Tues, April 10 th	Helping	Chapter 10
Fri., April 13 th	Aggression	Chapter 11
Tues, April 17 th	Social Psychology and Law	Chapter 12
Fri., April 20 th	Attraction and Close Relationships	Chapter 9
Tues, April 24 th	Social Psychology and Real World Problems & Exam Review	Review
Fri., April 27th	EXAM 3	

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

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