

## **SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY 204**

### **PDE Specification: On Line**

This is a three-credit course and requires the equivalent of 42 hours of classroom learning. A traditional course is equivalent to three class hours per week. Attendance online should be the approximately the equivalent of the traditional course time, 3 hours per week. Work on readings, chapter assignments and other individual assignments therefore require approximately 6 hours per week for the typical student.

### **ON LINE COURSE**

This is an online course only. Please note this course is conducted through the Web Study interface. I do not use Campus Cruiser. Log in to Web Study at <http://widener.webstudy.com/>

YOU MUST HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER AND THE INTERNET on a regular basis to take this course.

### **PREREQUISITES**

You should have take either PSY 105 or SOC 105 before enrolling in this course. Students cannot receive credit for both PSY 204 and SOC 204.

### **INSTRUCTOR**

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### **CONTACTING ME**

**I am best reached by email** as I travel weekly between Philadelphia, New York City and Toronto. I check in to Web Study daily and usually in the morning. While I prefer to keep correspondence in the Web Study interface, if the matter is more pressing, send email to [sweisz@gmail.com](mailto:sweisz@gmail.com) for a quicker response. If you call me you will most likely get voicemail (listing many organizations), just leave a message! I will return calls in 24-48 hours or less. If leaving a message, YOU MUST state that you are in my social psychology class, leave your full name, phone number and best time to reach you in order to get a call back.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on human behavior in a social setting, emphasizing types of research that may be used to study social behavior. Topics include attitude formation and change; aggression and its opposite, helping behavior; factors that influence compatibility with other people; and group processes, conformity to a group, and leadership.

### **REQUIRED TEXT**

While I realize the cost of texts can be expensive, the book listed below is very necessary in order to complete this course. It is also available in eReader formats at a lower cost than the text.

Baron, R.A., Branscombe, N.R., & Byrne, D. (2008). *Social Psychology (13th ed.)*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN: 0-205-20558-5 or ISBN 13: 978-0-205-20558-5

### **OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL READING ON LINE**

Social Psychology Network

<http://www.socialpsychology.org/>,

is the largest social psychology database on the Internet. In these pages, you'll find more than 5,000 links to psychology-related resources. We will be using quite a number of these resources during the course of our work.

### **INCOMPLETES**

Incompletes for this course will not be accepted, except for medical reasons with a note from a physician. All work for the semester must be completed in a timely manner and before the end date for the course as noted in the timeline and syllabus.

### **COURSE GOALS**

This course is a comprehensive study of Social Psychology. It will provide students with a general background in

- (1) the techniques used by social psychologists to study human social behavior;
- (2) the psychological principles that allow us to describe, predict and explain human social behavior relative to a variety of contexts; and
- (3) the application of research in social psychology in the development of solutions to real world problems.

Upon completion of this course, each student should have acquired the following skills:

1. Be able to critically observe social interactions, evaluate the interaction in an unbiased way, develop a hypothesis or explanation for what you have observed.
2. Develop the skills to design and experimentally test the explanations for social behavior that you will construct in this class as well as in your outside observations.
3. Learn to critically evaluate a stated position based upon the validity of the data used to support that position.
4. Be able to express the results of the first three goals in a written format.
5. Develop an appreciation of how theories in social psychology can be applied in both your own career aspirations as well as in the evaluation and development of real solutions to real world issues.

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

1. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstance!** All written work must have proper citations, either APA or MLA format, as well as a list of references. Any papers or written work required is submitted to an independent service to check for plagiarism before I even read/review them. Anyone

caught plagiarizing will receive an immediate F for the course. Not sure about your work? Ask before submitting. I am more than happy to assist or review a draft. Also, you may consult the Widener Writing Center for additional assistance. A complete plagiarism statement and will be emailed to each student individually by me at the start of the course.

**2. Assignments must be completed in a timely manner!** While distance/on line learning gives you the luxury of working at your own pace and your own timing/schedule, assignments are expected to be completed in a timely manner as outlined in this syllabus as well as the course timeline tab in Web Study. Failure to do so or to make a special arrangement with me in advance will result in a failing grade or grade reduction for that assignment.

a. **Quizzes, Exams & Papers** – All of these have a stated completion date in the syllabus and course time line. Makeups for quizzes or exams will only be allowed for medical excuses with valid physician note. Any quiz, exam or paper turned in after due date will result in a failing grade for that assignment.

b. **Forum Discussions** - These have a stated completion date in the syllabus and course time line. Each forum corresponds with reading during an assigned week. This is the equivalent of class discussion. While you are given a full week to make your posts, doing so in the last hour of the last day due, defeats the purpose of having a meaningful dialogue with myself or classmates. If the only posts you make are on the last day of the assignment, this will result in an automatic grade reduction. If you have made your initial post earlier in the week and wish to still contribute, you may do so freely with no time restrictions.

**3. Attendance.** This is an online class, but you are still required to check in on a regular basis in the Web Study interface. Attendance online should be the approximately the equivalent of the traditional course time, 3 hours per week. Work on readings, chapter assignments and other individual assignments therefore require approximately 6 hours per week for the typical student. On line attendance (3 hours per week) is monitored through Web Study. Failure to meet attendance requirements can result in automatic grade reductions. Please refer to the PDE requirements for this course stated at the beginning of this syllabus.

#### GRADING SCALE FOR SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

A	94
A-	90
B+	87
B	84
B-	80
C+	77
C	74
C-	70
D+	67
D	64
D-	60
F	59

**READINGS.**

This distance-learning course will consist of readings from the primary text, Social Psychology by Baron & Byrne. Additional reading assignments will be from hyper linked articles, especially from The Social Psychology Network. In order to be able to actively participate in this class, all reading assignments are mandatory and should be completed on time.

**WEEKLY CHAPTER QUIZES** [Timeline Tab]

There will be a total of 13 weekly quizzes consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. Each quiz covers the chapter required during each week of the course. This will count for 30% of your final grade.

Quizzes are usually in multiple choice format but may also contain short answer questions as well. Questions presented are grouped in three categories: factual, applied and conceptual. Factual questions are straight from the text and measure your knowledge of basic terminology. Applied questions, require you to know the material in the text and be able to apply it to real world examples. Conceptual questions require a deeper understanding of the material and evoke critical thinking on the material presented in the chapter.

**Each quiz may be taken twice.** Questions are randomly selected from a pool of questions and are unique for each student and each time the quiz is taken. **Only your higher grade will be applied if you opt to take the quiz more than once.**

**MULTIMEDIA.**

A variety of online videos, podcasts and power points have been included in this course both on the Time Line in Web Study as well as through posts made by me to specific forums. These are required for the course and discussions centered on them in the forums make up part of your final grade.

**DISCUSSIONS.** [Forum Tab]

Class discussion about readings and weekly topics is by way of the "Forums" section of web study. It is critical that you participate in this process. These are where you can post and ask questions about reading materials as well as critically respond to your classmate's ideas. You are expected to:

1. Reply or respond to any required topic posts that I have made in a given forum. The number of topic posts I make may vary depending on the material being covered at that given time. Points will be deducted for not contributing in the key topics that I post.
2. You are also expected to respond to at least two other classmates' posts. All posts and responses should be a well-formed assertion or responses that are research based. It should not simply be comments like 'I agree;', etc.
3. Participation in discussions will count for 30% of your final grade.
4. **GRADING CRITERIA FOR FORUMS.** All forum posts are read and reviewed by me. They are graded based on a rubric as follows:

- a. Posts clearly utilize materials covered in text or outside sources, incorporating current social psychology theory with real world examples. Citations are provided.
- b. Substantial original ideas enhancing the course.
- c. Arguments or statements made show critical thinking, analysis or evaluation of the course material presented.
- d. Links to valid additional resources (articles, videos and podcasts) are provided that enhance the current course material. See course material as to what constitutes a valid source on the internet.
- e. Posts measure 100+ approximate words. I am not a stickler for spelling and grammar in forums but posts should be written with some degree of clarity.

**MIDTERM.**

The mid-term exam is worth 20% of your grade. Format will be a mixture of multiple choice, and essay questions. The mid-term exam will be conducted on line. This exam will cover only material from the assigned readings to date.

**FINAL.**

The final exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each. It will cover all of the material from the semester. This will constitute 20% of your course grade.

**COURSE TIME LINE**

**For each week in the course timeline, there are two sections – Assignments and Optional Study Materials. Assignments are required work for successful completion of this course and are evaluated accordingly. Optional Study Materials consist of Power Point Slides reviewing the chapter, my Lecture Notes – which provide an outline of the chapter, and the key points you need to know, and Chapter Review Slides – that offer sample multiple questions for practice. The Optional Study Materials are not required nor reviewed. They are offered as a study guide for each chapter. (v13 refers to 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the text)**

**Timeline #1**

**August 25 - August 31, 2014**

**Course Introduction - Social Psychology: The Science of the Social Side of Life**

Social Psychology: An Overview

Social Psychology: Advances at the Boundaries

How Social Psychologists Answer The Questions They Ask:

Increased Knowledge Through Research

The Role of Theory in Social Psychology

The Quest for Knowledge and Rights of Individuals: Seeking An Appropriate Balance

**Assignments**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 1

Review Course Guidelines for Forum Posts / Class discussion (Forum 00)

2 Forums: Introductions & Distance Learning

Week 1 Quiz

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 1 v13

Lecture Notes - Chapter 1 v13

Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 1

**Timeline #2**

**September 2 - September 7, 2014**

**Social Cognition: How We Think About the Social World**

Heuristics: How We Employ Simple Rules in Social Cognition

Schemas: Mental Frameworks for Organizing Social Information

Automatic and Controlled Processing in Social Thought

Potential Sources of Error in Social Cognition: Why Total Rationality is Rarer Than You Think

Affect and Cognition: How Feelings Shape Thought and Thought Shapes Feelings

**Assignments**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 2

No forums this week

Week 2 Quiz

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 2 v13

Lecture Notes - Chapter 2 v13

Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 2

**Timeline #3**

**September 8 - September 14, 2014**

**Social Perception: Perceiving and Understanding Others**

Nonverbal Communication: The Language of Expressions, Gazes, Gestures, and Scents

Attribution: Understanding the Causes of Others' Behavior

Impression Formation and Impression Management: Combining Information About Others

**Assignments:**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 3

Forums: Social Perceptions

Week 3 Quiz

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 3 v13

Lecture Notes - Chapter 3 v13

Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 3

**Timeline #4**

**September 15 - September 21, 2014**

**The Self: Answering the Question: "Who Am I?"**

Self-Presentation: Managing the Self in Different Social Contexts

Self-Knowledge: Determining Who We Are

Who Am I?: Personal versus Social Identity

Self-Esteem: Attitudes toward Ourselves

**Assignments**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 4

Forum: Gender Roles

--Gender Identity Issues - NPR Podcast - Parts 1 & 2

--Video Clip - Gender Roles

Week 4 Quiz

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 4 v13

Lecture Notes - Chapter 4 v13

Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 4

**Timeline #5**

**September 22 - September 28, 2014**

**Attitudes: Evaluating and Responding to the Social World**

Attitude Formation: How Attitudes Develop

When and Why Do Attitudes Influence Behavior?

How Do Attitudes Guide Behavior?

The Fine Art of Persuasion: How Attitudes are Changed

Resisting Persuasion Attempts

Cognitive Dissonance: What it is and How Do We Manage It?

**Assignments**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 5

Forums: Attitude

--Video Clip - Attitudes

Week 5 Quiz

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 5 v13

Lecture Notes - Chapter 5 v13

Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 5

**Timeline #6**

**September 29 - October 5, 2014**

**Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination: The Causes, Effects, and Cures**

How Members of Different Groups Perceive Inequality

The Nature and Origins of Stereotyping

Prejudice: Feelings Toward Social Groups

Discrimination: Prejudice in Action

Why Prejudice Is Not Inevitable: Techniques for Countering Its Effects

**Assignments**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 6

Forums: Prejudice & Discrimination  
Week 6 Quiz

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 6 v13  
Lecture Notes - Chapter 6 v13  
Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 6

**Timeline #7**

**October 6 - October 12, 2014**

**Interpersonal Attraction and Close Relationships**

Internal Sources of Attraction: The Role of Needs and Emotions  
External Sources of Attraction: The Effects of Proximity and Physical Beauty  
Factors Based on Social Interaction: Similarity and Mutual Liking  
Close Relationships: Foundations of Social Life

**Assignments**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 7  
Lecture Notes - Chapter 07  
No forums this week

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 7 v13  
Lecture Notes - Chapter 7 v13  
Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 7  
Week 7 Quiz

**Timeline #8**

**October 13 - October 19, 2014**

**MIDTERM EXAM - Chapters 1-8**

**Timeline #9**

**October 20 - October 26, 2014**

**Social Influence: Changing Others' Behavior**

Conformity: Group Influence in Action  
Compliance: To Ask—Sometimes—Is To Receive  
Symbolic Social Influence: How We Are Influenced by  
Obedience to Authority: Would You Harm an Innocent Stranger If Ordered to Do So?

**Assignments**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 8  
Forums: Social Influences

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 8 v13

Lecture Notes - Chapter 8 v13

Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 8

**Timeline #10**

**October 27 - November 2, 2014**

**Prosocial Behavior: Helping Others**

Why People Help: Motives for Prosocial Behavior

Responding to an Emergency: Will Bystanders Help?

Factors that Increase or Reduce the Tendency to Help

The Effects of Being Helped: Why Underlying Motives Really Matter

Final Thoughts: Are Prosocial Behavior and Aggression Really Opposites?

**Assignments**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 9

Lecture Notes - Chapter 9

Forum: Prosocial Behavior

--Video Clip - Prosocial Behavior

Week 9 Quiz

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 9 v13

Lecture Notes - Chapter 9 v13

Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 9

**Timeline #11**

**November 3 - November 9, 2014**

**Aggression: Its Nature, Causes, and Control**

Perspectives on Aggression: In Search of the Roots of Violence

Causes of Human Aggression: Social, Cultural, Personal, Situational

Bullying: Singling Out Others for Repeated Abuse

The Prevention and Control of Aggression: Some Useful Techniques

**Assignments**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 10

Forums: Aggression

--Video Clip - Aggression

Week 10 Quiz

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 10 v13

Lecture Notes - Chapter 10 v13

Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 10

**Timeline #12**

**November 10 - November 16, 2014**

**Groups and Individuals: The Consequences of Belonging**

Groups: When We Join...And When We Leave

Effects of the Presence of Others: From Task Performance to Behavior in Crowds

Coordination in Groups: Cooperation or Conflict?

Perceived Fairness in Groups: Its Nature and Effects

Decision Making by Groups: How It Occurs and the Pitfalls It Faces

The Role of Leadership in Group Settings

**Assignments**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 11

Forums: Groups & Individuals

Week 11 Quiz

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 11 v13

Lecture Notes - Chapter 11 v13

Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 11

**Timeline #13**

**November 17 - November 23, 2014**

**Social Psychology: Overcoming Adversity and Achieving Happiness**

Some Basic Causes of Social Adversity—And Coping With Them

Personal Happiness: What It Is, and How to Attain It

**Assignments**

Reading: Social Psychology Chapter 12

Forum: Overcoming Adversity and Achieving Happiness

Week 12 Quiz

**Optional Study Materials**

Chapter Review Slides - Chapter 12 v13

Lecture Notes - Chapter 12 v13

Power Point - Social Psychology v13 - Chapter 12

**Timeline #14**

**December 1 - December 10, 2014**

**FINALS**

The exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions covering the entire semester. You will have up to 4 hours to complete the exam. ONCE YOU START THE EXAM, YOU MUST WORK TO COMPLETION. YOU MAY NOT OPEN AND CLOSE THE EXAM INTERFACE! This will constitute 25% of your course grade.