

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY 204

PDE Specification: Online

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.

ONLINE 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. DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE FOR TAKING QUIZZES OR EXAMS!

UNIVERSITY PREREQUISITES

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

SUGGESTED PREREQUISITES FOR SUCCESS

You should have a basic knowledge of how to write a research based paper, including appropriate use of citations and references. You should know the difference between writing based on research, opinion or faith in your approach to this course.

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 and late evening. While I prefer to keep correspondence in the Web Study interface, if the matter is more pressing, send email to 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 (14th ed.)*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN: 0-13-441096-3 or ISBN 13: 978-0-13-441096-8

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. **Your initial post to the required forum topics should be made by Wednesday each week for full credit. Comments and additional contributions may then be made through the end of the week for additional credit.**

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 12 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.

Questions are randomly selected from a pool of questions and are unique for each student and each time the quiz is taken.

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/required 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 200+ approximate words. I am not a stickler for spelling and grammar in forums but posts should be written with some degree of clarity.

5. DO NOT USE THESE SOURCES FOR THIS COURSE – YOU WILL BE PENALIZED

- Wikipedia
- Simple Psychology
- Howstuffworks.com
- FaceBook, Twitter or other social media
- helpguide.org
- psychalive.org
- pop psych web sites with non-specified authors

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 and Lecture Notes – which provide an outline of the chapter, and the key points you need to know. The Optional Study Materials are not required nor reviewed. They are offered as a study guide for each chapter. (v14 refers to 14th edition of the text)

Timeline #1

August 28 - September 1

(you technically have until Sunday 9/3 but I do not want to encroach on anyone's Labor Day Weekend holiday)

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

Lecture Notes - Chapter 1 v14

Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 1

Timeline #2

September 5 - 10

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

Forum 2 – Reason, Faith & Opinion

Week 2 Quiz

Optional Study Materials

Lecture Notes - Chapter 2 v14

Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 2

Timeline #3

September 11 - 17

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

Lecture Notes - Chapter 3 v14

Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 3

Timeline #4

September 18 - 24

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

Lecture Notes - Chapter 4 v14

Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 4

Timeline #5

September 25 - October 1

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

Lecture Notes - Chapter 5 v14

Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 5

Timeline #6

October 2 - 8

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

Lecture Notes - Chapter 6 v14

Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 6

Timeline #7

October 9 - 15

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
No forums this week
Week 7 Quiz

Optional Study Materials

Lecture Notes - Chapter 7 v14
Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 7

Timeline #8

October 16 - 22

MIDTERM EXAM

Chapters 1-7; see WebStudy email for important information on the exam
IMPORTANT: YOU MUST COMPLETE THE EXAM BY **October 22, 2017 at 11:58 PM** – no exceptions.

Timeline #9

October 23 - 29

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

Lecture Notes - Chapter 8 v14
Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 8

Timeline #10

October 30 - November 5

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

Lecture Notes - Chapter 9 v14
Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 9

Timeline #11

November 6 - 12

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

Lecture Notes - Chapter 10 v14
Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 10

Timeline #12

November 13 - 19

(Next week is off for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will resume on 11/27)

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

Lecture Notes - Chapter 11 v14
Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 11

Timeline #13

November 27 - December 3

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

Lecture Notes - Chapter 12 v14
Power Point - Social Psychology v14 - Chapter 12

Timeline #14

December 4 - 10

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.

All exams must be completed by December 10, 2017 before midnight! No Exceptions!