

Psychology 2606-002, Spring 2001
Social Psychology
Muen E0046
T/Th 2:00 - 3:15

Class homepage: <http://psych.colorado.edu/~tito/2606/home.html>

Professor:

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Monday, 10:00 - 11:50

Teaching Assistant:

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Tuesdays and Thursdays , 1:00-1:50

Required Text: *Social Psychology* by Aronson, Wilson, and Akert (3rd edition, 1999), published by Longman.
ISBN# 0-321-02435-4 (textbook website <http://cw.prenhall.com/bookbind/pubbooks/aronson/>).

Course Objectives: Social Psychology is the “scientific study of the way in which our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the real or imagined presence of other people” (Allport, 1985). The topics that social psychologists study include activities and experiences that everyone has on a daily basis, such as forming impressions of other people, reacting to telephone solicitors, working with groups of people, dealing with stress, and trying to reduce prejudice.

As we discuss these and other topics in class, we will try to meet the following goals:

1. **Learn about social psychology:** Introduce you to the findings and theories in social psychology.
2. **Learn how social psychologists do what they do:** Expose you the ways in which social psychologists go about deriving and testing their theories and hypotheses. A recurring theme in this class will be how social psychologists rely on experimental studies.
3. **Apply this to your everyday life:** Encourage you to think about the implications of this research in everyday life. Because this material covers things from everyday life, it should be fun and interesting.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

1. Exams: There will be 4 total tests: 3 midterms and the final. The lowest grade from the 3 midterms will be dropped. If, for any reason, you are unable to take a midterm, that will be the grade that is dropped. In other words, there will be **NO MAKEUP EXAMS GIVEN**, regardless of your reason for missing the exam. Everyone must take the final exam, **Monday, May 7, 10:30 - 1:00**. The final will not be cumulative. Instead, it will be similar in form to the 3 midterms and will focus on material from the last section of the class.

I strongly recommend that you plan to take all the midterms in order to maximize your chances of scoring as highly as possible on the 2 that figure into your grade. This will also give you as much flexibility as possible if an emergency does arise and you are unable to take an exam.

All tests will consist of primarily multiple choice questions plus some short answer questions. You should be prepared to answer relatively straight-forward definition-type questions, as well as questions that ask you to apply what you have learned. You are responsible for all the material in the assigned readings and in the lectures (i.e., you will be tested on

both book and lecture materials).

If you cannot take an exam at the scheduled time due to a religious holiday or a conflict with a University-sponsored event, notify me within the first two weeks of class.

Cheating: Cheating during an exam will result in a score of O for that exam and possible referral to the university's Committee on Academic Ethics. The following behaviors are considered cheating: communicating with another student, copying material from another student, taking an exam for another student or allowing another to take the exam for you, use of unauthorized materials or devices during any exam, falsifying exam scores, and/or in any way defeating the intent of the exam or any other classwork.

Make sure you bring your student ID to each exam. You will need to show it in order to take the exam. Also bring a #2 pencil with an eraser.

2. Application Papers: Three applications papers will be due throughout the semester. Their purpose is to apply concepts from class to things you encounter outside of class. Greater detail on these assignments will be provided in a separate hand out. The papers address material discussed in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th sections of the class.

3. In-Class Reactions Papers: At 4 unannounced times throughout the semester, I will ask you to spend about 5 minutes in class answering the following question: What is the one thing we talked about today that you found most interesting or important and why? Answers should be about 1 page long. The point of this exercise is to give you time to collect your thoughts. Your answers can also be useful to us in highlighting things that might be unclear. Each paper is worth only a few points; you do not need to be doing any special outside preparation. If you give a thoughtful answer, you will receive full credit.

Class Attendance: I will not take attendance and you are not explicitly required to attend. However, failure to attend regularly is likely to negatively impact your grade because we will talk about things in class that are not covered in the book. Even when I talk about things that are in the book, I will often go into more detail. Also, there will be some in-class assignments. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from another student. The instructor and TA will not make their notes available.

Grading: Points will be assigned in the following way:

3 exams (must include the final and 2 midterms)	70%
4 In-class reaction papers	10%
3 Application assignments	20%

Once I calculate the total scores at the end of the semester, your final letter grade in the course will be determined as follows. A "reference score" will first be calculated by taking the average score of the highest 5 grades in the course. Your grade will then be determined based on how well you did relative to this reference score.

A	100 - 93%	B	85 - 83%	C	75 - 73%	D	65 - 63%
A-	92 - 90%	B-	82 - 80%	C-	72 - 70%	D-	62 - 60%
B+	89 - 86%	C+	79 - 76%	D+	69 - 66%	F	<60%

Class Format: Because of its size, this format of this class will be mostly lecture. However, you are strongly encouraged to ask questions and make comments in class. Remember that if you are unclear or confused about something, chances are high that a bunch of other people are as well. I won't know to slow down unless someone says something.

I choose this book because I liked the material it covered, so a good portion of the material we discuss in class will overlap with the book. When this is the case, I purposely try to use different examples than the ones in the book so you can get as many different explanations of the concept as possible. There will also be material covered in class that is not in the book, and you will also be asked to learn things covered in the book that we do not go over in class (there will be things that I think the book does a particular good job explaining).

I will put up a lecture outline at the beginning of each class. These can be used to help you organize your notes, showing you what are the bigger, main topics, and what the supporting or subtopics are. The outlines should also be helpful as you prepare for an exam. A good way to quiz yourself for the exams is to look at the headings in the outline and see if you can recall the relevant definition, describe the study, etc. I therefore recommend that you copy the outline into your notes at the beginning of each class. The authors of the textbook also provide an outline at the beginning of each chapter and these should help in studying the material from the book.

I will also post a copy of the outlines on the class homepage after the lecture. Please remember that the outlines on the web are intended as supplements only. They are designed to help you organize your notes and prepare for the exam and should in no way replace class attendance.

Class Etiquette: Our class period will be devoted to lectures and discussion. This means that class period is not the time for reading the newspaper, talking to your friends, working on your computer, listening to music, napping, etc. Out of courtesy to the other students, and to help you get the best grade possible, please be on time, plan to stay the entire class period, and be prepared to devote all your attention to the material when you are in class. If you carry a cell phone or a beeper, please turn off the ringer/beeper while you are in class.

Important dates:

2/6: Exam 1	4/10: Application paper 2
3/1: Exam 2	5/3: Application paper 3
3/6: Application paper 1	5/7: Final
4/5: Exam 3	

NOTE: If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office in Willard 322 (phone 303-492-8671).

Date	Chapter	Topic	Assignment
1/16	1	General Class Info & Introduction to Social Psychology	
1/18	2	Methodology: How Social Psychologists Study Social Psychology	
1/23	5	Self Perception Part 1 -- What is the self	
1/25	5	Part 2 -- Self-regulation	
1/30	6	Self justification	
2/1		*****NO CLASS*****	
2/6		***** EXAM 1 ***** Lectures 1/16-1/30 & Chapters 1,2,5&6	
2/8	3	Social Cognition Part 1 -- Schemas	
2/13	3	Part 2 -- Effects of schemas: Shortcuts and biases	
2/15	4	Social Perception Part 1 -- First impressions	
2/20	4	Part 2 -- Causal attributions	
2/22	10	Attraction Part 1 -- First impressions	
2/27	10	Part 2 -- Close relationships and love	
3/1		***** EXAM 2 ***** Lectures 2/8-2/27 & Chapters 3,4,&10	
3/6	8	Conformity Part 1 - Obedience to Authority	App paper 1 due
3/8	8	Part 2 - Persuasion	
3/13	8	Part 3 - Informational & Normative Social Influence	
3/15	7	Attitudes Part 1 -- Their origins and relation to behavior	
3/20	7	Part 2 -- Changing attitudes	
3/22	11	Prosocial Behavior Part 1 -- Theories of Helping	
3/27 & 3/29		Spring Break	
4/3	11	Part 2 -- When will people help	
4/5		***** EXAM 3 ***** Lectures 3/6-4/3 & Chapters 7,8,11	
4/10	12	Aggression Part 1 -- Causes of aggression	App paper 2 due
4/12	12	Part 2 -- Social Issues	
4/17	13	Prejudice Part 1 -- Stereotypes	
4/19	13	Part 2 -- Prejudice	
4/24	13	Part 3 -- Racism & Sexism	
4/26	SPA3	Social Psychology and the Law	
5/1	SPA1	Stress and Health	
5/3	SPA1	Health Part 2, Wrap up	App paper 3 due
Monday, 5/7		***** FINAL, 10:30 - 1:00 ***** Lectures 4/10-5/3 & Chapters 12, 13, SPA1, SPA3	