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Course Objectives, Policies and Syllabus PSYCH 221 – Introduction to Social Psychology Dr. Rick Harnish, Fall 2007

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Days and Times</u>
Class:	44G Bissell	Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.
Office Hours:	131 Engineering rjh27@psu.edu 724-334-6735	Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Individual assistance is always available by appointment

Prerequisites

To be qualified to take this course, you must have successfully completed:

- ✓ PSYCH 100 (Psy 2) – Introduction to Psychology

Overview

What is social psychology? Social psychology is the scientific study of how people think about, evaluate and respond to their social experiences. Social psychologists are interested in understanding a wide range of phenomena. Some topics of interest that we will explore in this course include: person perception, the self, attitudes, emotions, socialization, groups, influence, interpersonal attraction, close relationships, altruism, cooperation, competition, aggression, prejudice and discrimination.

Why should I study social psychology? In much of your waking life, you are interacting with others. Think about how you began each day. It is likely that you came down to breakfast, made small chat with a family member(s) or a roommate, ate, dressed, packed, and left the house. In your car, you picked up your best friend and began chatting about the last gossip from Hollywood. You arrive on campus and meet other friends and exchange notes on a class.

Now examine these interactions as a social psychologist would. At the heart of our interactions is our attempt to influence other persons. (At breakfast, if I compliment dad on his tie, will he be more likely to let me use his sports car this weekend to impress that new girl down the street? If I agree with best friend Jennifer's assessment of the latest Jessica Alba movie, will she be more likely to loan me that sweater that look better on me than her? If I offer my English 15 notes to a friend I see on campus, will he take notes for me in Biology 121 next Wednesday?) Our attempts to influence others begin with how we perceive others, what attitudes we hold toward others, and finally, our behavior directed toward others. Understanding how you come to conceptualize your social world should be very beneficial in explaining why you (and others) act the way you (and they) do.

There are two components to this course: one is experientially-based and the other is theory-based. These two dimensions will be synthesized in the seminar discussions, readings, and assignments. This will require the ability to learn from experience as well as in-class activities.

Course Goal

The goal of this course is to provide you with a general introduction to social psychology and an opportunity to apply social psychological theories to your life.

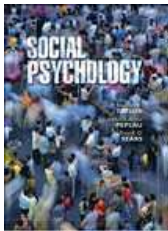
Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Summarize general information, through in-class discussion and assignments, pertaining to social psychological theories;
2. Demonstrate knowledge, through examination procedures, of the major theories and research findings in social psychology.
3. Become familiar with social psychological literature through independent reading and writing assignments.
4. Apply social psychological theories and principles to your everyday behavior.

Text

The required text for the course is:



Taylor, S.E., Peplau, A.L. & Sears, D.O. (2006). *Social Psychology*, 12th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

The text is available at the Penn State Bookstore and various online shops. NOTE: If you are obtaining the text through procurers other than the Penn State Bookstore be sure to order the 12th edition. There are considerable differences between the 12th and 11th editions.

A copy of the text will be on reserve at the Penn State New Kensington Library.

Assignments

The material of this course will be presented through assigned readings, discussion (this course will use a seminar format), and outside class assignments. Because of the unique format of this course, I expect you to actively participate. This means that the in-class assignments will revolve around student-led discussions where my role will be to facilitate the discussion.

Reading: For each unit, there is required reading. One student will be assigned reading for the unit and expected to lead a discussion of the material. (Dates and presenter will be distributed next class.) Thus, you will need to complete the assigned reading for the class before the discussion. Reading the assigned text and participating in discussion is the main way to understand the material of this course. The readings associated with each week of discussions are attached.

Participation: As noted earlier, your active participation is expected in this course. Because your participation is expected, *your attendance is required*. **MISSING THREE OR MORE CLASSES WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOWER YOUR COURSE GRADE BY ONE LETTER GRADE OR MISSING THE CLASS IN WHICH YOU ARE LEADING THE DISCUSSION ALSO WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOWER YOUR COURSE GRADE BY ONE LETTER GRADE.** Thus, you should avoid making any vacation plans before December 13, 2007 and plan doctor's appointments, errands and the like after class time.

Punctual (i.e. on-time) classroom attendance is required. Arriving late to class is distracting and diminishes the educational attainment of those attending class in accordance with University policy. Personally, I think it is rude and inconsiderate to obstruct the serious pursuit of learning that students are entitled to and expect. Thus, students enrolled in this course are required to attend class on time. **PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE FOR CLASS.** ARRIVING LATE TO CLASS EXCESSIVELY (MORE THAN TWO CLASSES) WILL RESULT IN THE LOWERING OF YOUR COURSE GRADE BY ONE LETTER GRADE.

Evaluation

Leading Discussion: Each student will be assigned a unit in which they will lead the class discussion. You will read the material, create a series of discussion questions, and lead the class in a discussion of the unit material (based on the questions you generate). Your leading the unit discussion(s) will account for approximately 25% of your grade. You will be responsible for generating a list of discussion questions

to be distributed the week **PRIOR** to your scheduled discussion as well as leading the class on your assigned day. You will send me your discussion questions prior to their distribution for my review.

IF YOU MISS THE CLASS IN WHICH YOU WERE ASSIGNED TO LEAD THE CLASS DISCUSSION, YOUR COURSE GRADE AUTOMATICALLY WILL BE LOWERED BY ONE LETTER GRADE.

Participating in Discussion: If you are not leading a discussion, you will be actively participating in the class discussion. In order to **MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTE** to the class discussion, you will read the material prior to class **AND** prepare answers to the discussion questions. You will turn in your answers to me after the class discussion. Attached are details on the unit topics. Your participation in the class discussions will account for approximately 25% of your grade.

Weekly Personal Projects: Because the focus of this course is understanding how people think about, evaluate and respond to their social experiences, you will be required to write a thought paper exploring social psychological explanations for a phenomenon. These thought papers can be best thought of as short essays in which you review a theory or research on a topic and explain how the theory or research findings can explain an issue you encountered in your life. The thought papers will account for approximately 50% of your grade. As such, there will be no exams given in the course. An example thought paper as well as a grading matrix will be distributed during our next class meeting.

Grades

Your grade will be computed by summing all of the points you have accumulated throughout the various assignments, and dividing this number by the total number of possible points. Grades will be based on the scale below:

Your grade will be computed as follows:

Discussion Leader Time 1 (includes questions):	30 points
Discussion Leader Time 2 (includes questions)	30 points
Participation (Responses to Discussion Questions)	90 points (5 points x 18 discussions)
Thought Paper 1	20 points
Thought Paper 2	20 points
Thought Paper 3	20 points
Thought Paper 4	20 points
Thought Paper 5	20 points
Thought Paper 6	20 points
Thought Paper 7	20 points
Thought Paper 8	20 points
Thought Paper 9	20 points
Thought Paper 10	20 points
TOTAL:	350 points

Final letter grades for the course will be determined according to the following cutoffs:

A = 326 or above (93%)	B+ = 314-305 (87%)	C+ = 279-270 (77%)	D = 244-210 (60%)	F = 209 or below
A- = 325-315 (90%)	B = 304-291 (83%)	C = 269-245 (70%)		
	B- = 290-280 (80%)			

THESE CUTOFFS ARE REAL. Although a 279 is only one point below 280, it is still a C+ and not a B-. Please do not ask for a point to receive a higher grade. Doing such would not be fair to everyone else in the course because if I gave you a point, I would have to give everyone a point. And doing that would render the scoring system useless. There is no curve to the scoring system. This means that everyone in the class can potentially get an A.

Your grade in the course is based on various assignments. Thus, you are required to complete each. Failure to do so will result in a grade of DF (Deferred) until the assignment is completed. According to University policy, you have six weeks beginning at the start of the next semester in which to complete the assigned work. Failure to complete the assigned work within this time period automatically becomes an F. (See [Senate Policy 48-40, Deferred Grades](#)).

Missed Dates/Work Turned in Late

Because I will negotiate due dates for the assignments (where possible), there will be **NO** work accepted beyond the agreed upon date. Any work not submitted in class or drop box on ANGEL must be handed directly to a secretary in the **Academic Affairs Office** (by the Art Gallery) before the end of the due date. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to be sure that the secretary initials, dates, and notes the time of receipt. Materials **WITHOUT** a secretary's initials, date and time of receipt will **NOT** be accepted. I am asking you to submit your work to a secretary because materials get lost when they are slid under office doors and can be placed in the wrong faculty mailbox.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICE IS THE ONLY OFFICE THAT YOU MAY SUBMIT YOUR CLASS ASSIGNMENTS if you do not do so in class or via drop box via ANGEL. I am asking you to submit your materials to Academic Affairs Office because secretaries in other offices will be confused over what you are asking of them. Moreover, your materials may be misplaced and lost. (This happened last year.)

Statement on Civility

In order for this class to be successful, it is necessary for everyone to cooperate and follow a few simple classroom procedures. For my part, I will help moderate the class discussions. Hopefully you will find the discussions interesting. I will provide you with supplemental handouts dealing with course topics. In addition, you can count on me to begin and end each class on time. I require, however, an equal effort on your part to make the class successful. Specifically, I expect you to attend class punctually, to be prepared and to contribute to the class discussion. This means that there will be no sleeping, reading the newspaper or grooming (e.g. putting on make-up, painting nails, brushing hair, etc.) during class.

A word about cell phones during class: Incoming calls are extremely disruptive to the discussion and your taking the call is disrespectful to others in the class. Please turn your cell phone off during class. The only exception I will make about cell phones is if you are a medic, police officer or other emergency personnel. If you are a medic, police officer or other emergency personnel, I expect that you will set your cell phone's ringer to vibrate and that you will sit near an exit.

E-mail Return Policy

Students are expected to access their PSU e-mail accounts. Some messages will be sent to the whole class while other will be sent to individuals if the need arises. I will respond to e-mail message within 48 hours.

Statement of Disability Awareness

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to providing access to a quality education for all students, including those with documented disabilities. If a student has a disability and wants to request an accommodation for a course, it is the responsibility of the student to first obtain a university accommodation letter confirming the disability and suggesting appropriate remedies. This letter can be obtained from the Penn State Office for Disability Services or the campus Disability Contact Liaisons. The contact persons at Penn State New Kensington are Elaine Zarichnak, ext.6066 and Judy Lindberg, ext. 6098.

It is encouraged that students request their accommodation needs early in the semester, and once identified, a reasonable accommodation will be implemented in a timely manner. Students may also access the web site for the Office for Disability Services at University Park: www.lions.psu.edu/ods/.

Course Help

If you need help with the course, please see me during office hours. If you cannot make office hours, please contact me to set up an appointment. Alternatively, the Learning Center has peer and professional tutors. You may access information about peer and professional tutors and the courses in which they can provide assistance at <http://www.nk.psu.edu/StudentServices/LRC/30996.htm>

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to act with civility, personal integrity (respect other students' dignity, rights and property) and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their

own efforts. An environment of academic integrity is requisite to respect for self and others and a civil community.

Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate act of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another persons’ work as one’s own, using Internet sources without citation, fabricated field data or citations, “ghosting” (taking or having another student take an exam), stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students’ acts of academic dishonesty, etc.

As part of Penn State’s efforts to improve the climate for academic integrity, Penn State has licensed a tool from Turnitin.com that will help faculty prevent or detect plagiarism. Turnitin performs originality checks on submitted papers, checking the submission against four sources: 1) the Internet; 2) ProQuest databases; 3) a database of student papers submitted to Turnitin from other Universities; and 4) papers submitted from Penn State. If a student’s paper has strong similarities to materials in any of these four sources, the software indicates the sources. Papers submitted in fulfillment of requirements for this course may be checked by the Turnitin software.

Students charged with a breach of academic integrity will receive due process and, if the charge is found valid, academic sanctions will result in an F for the course.

The University’s statement on academic integrity, from which the above statement is drawn, is available at www.psu.edu/dept/oue/aappm/G-9.html.

Acknowledgement of Course Conditions

I anticipate that we will follow the schedule I have outlined below, but I may make adjustments based on our progress in the course. Please check with a classmate after an absence to see if assignments have changed. I may also change the basis for the course grade and if I do so, I will so inform you in writing. Your enrollment in this class implies that you understand and agree to the conditions set forth for this course.

Syllabus

WEEK	DATE	CHAPTER	PAGES	DISCUSSION LEADER/ ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Week 1	Aug 28	NA	Review course objectives, policies & syllabus	Harnish
	Aug 30	Chapter 1. Theories and Methods in Social Psychology.	Pages 2 (In the News) – 31 (Key Terms)	Harnish
Week 2	Sept 4	Chapter 2. Person Perception: Forming Impressions of Others.	Pages 32 (In the News) – 46 (The Perceiver’s Cognitive and Emotional State)	
	Sept 6		Pages 46 (Attributing the Causes of Behavior - 63 (Key Terms)	
Week 3	Sept 11	Discussion of Thought Paper Ch 2		All/Thought Paper 2
	Sept 13	Chapter 3. Social Cognition: Understanding the Social World.	Pages 64 (In the News) – 80 (Organization of Schemas)	
Week 4	Sept 18		Pages 80 (Schematic Processing) – 94 (Key Terms)	
	Sept 20	Discussion of Thought Paper Ch 3		All/Thought Paper 3
Week 5	Sept 25	Chapter 4. The Self: Learning About the Self.	Pages 96 (In the News) – 113 (Self-Awareness)	
	Sept 27		Pages 114 (Motivation and the Self) – 131 (Key Terms)	
Week 6	Oct 2	Discussion of Thought Paper Ch 4		All/Thought Paper 4
	Oct 4	Chapter 5. Attitudes and Attitude Change.	Pages 132 (In the News) – 147 (Automatic Acquisition and Activation of Attitudes)	
Week 7	Oct 9		Pages 147 (Persuasion) – 167 (Key Terms)	
	Oct 11	Discussion of Thought Paper Ch 5		All/Thought Paper 5
Week 8	Oct 16	Chapter 6. Prejudice.	Pages 168 (In the News) – 186 (Advantages and Disadvantages)	

WEEK	DATE	CHAPTER	PAGES	DISCUSSION LEADER/ ASSIGNMENTS DUE
	Oct 18		Pages 186 (Social Identity) – 203 (Key Terms)	
Week 9	Oct 23	Discussion of Thought Paper Ch 6		All/Thought Paper 6
	Oct 25	Chapter 7. Social Influence.	Pages 204 (In the News) – 215 (Minority Influence: Innovation in Groups)	
Week 10	Oct 30		Pages 215 (Compliance) – 230 (Key Terms)	
	Nov 1	Discussion of Thought Paper Ch 7		All/Thought Paper 7
Week 11	Nov 6	Chapter 8. Interpersonal Attraction.	Pages 232 (In the News) – 247 (Limits to the Similarity Effect)	
	Nov 8		Pages 247 (Desirable Personal Attributes: Warmth and Competence) – 262 (Key Terms)	
Week 12	Nov 13	Discussion of Thought Paper Ch 8		All/Thought Paper 8
	Nov 15	Chapter 9. Personal Relationships.	Pages 264 (In the News) – 279 (Gender and Intimacy)	
Week 13	Nov 27		Pages 279 (The Balance of Power) – 295 (Key Terms)	
	Nov 29	Discussion of Thought Paper Ch 9		All/Thought Paper 9
Week 14	Dec 4	Chapter 10. Behavior in Groups.	Pages 296 (In the News) – 311 (Cohesiveness)	
	Dec 6		Pages 296 (Group Performance) – 332 (Key Terms)	
Week 15	Dec 11	Discussion of Thought Paper Ch 10		
	Dec 13			

Note: Syllabus is subject to change.