PSYC 2606 001  Social Psychology
Fall, 1998
2:00 - 3:15 TR  MUEN E0046

Professor: Dr. Diane Martichuk
Office: Muen D251E
Email: dmartich@psych.colorado.edu
Phone: 492-4246

Office Hours: 3:20 pm - 3:50 pm TR, 2 pm - 4 pm W, or by appt.

Website for class: Link from http://psych-www.colorado.edu

New York: Freeman & Co.

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Jennifer Ma
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Phone: 492-1739
Office Hours: T 12-2 pm

Welcome to Social Psychology!

Social psychology is the study of human interaction. This course is intended to provide an overview of the basic knowledge, theories, and research methods in social psychology. You will learn the answers to these and other questions:

What causes gender differences in aggression? (aggression)
Why do I feel a “chemistry” with some strangers, but I am not attracted to my good friend? (attraction)
How can I get more money out of my parents? (persuasion)
Why do I like/dislike some people based on appearance alone? (social cognition)
What is the best way to end strikes between unions and management? (conflict)
If I expect a certain behavior out of someone, will I get it? (self-fulfilling prophecy)
Why does my boss think I am stupid after I made only one mistake? (first impressions, prejudice, social cognition)
What internal beliefs influence how I interpret events around me? (self, social cognition)
Why do some advertisements work better on me than others? (persuasion)
Is prejudice against minorities declining in the US? (prejudice)
Is it a good idea to have a panel of judges or just one judge in our criminal justice system? (group decision making)
Does the full moon affect behavior? (environmental psychology)
How come some athletes perform badly during the big game (like the Superbowl)? (social facilitation)
How does our own desire to look and feel good affect how we interpret events around us? (social cognition)

The course format will be lecture- and discussion-oriented, with some class demonstrations and exercises designed to facilitate learning. Students are encouraged to ask questions both during and after class.
OTHER INFORMATION

Attendance is not required and will not DIRECTLY affect course grades. However, lecture material will be covered on exams, so students are encouraged to develop regular attendance habits.

In order to assist each individual to perform to his/her potential, it is important for a student to inform the professor of any conditions which may require some modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements/practices.

GRADES: There will be 3 unit exams each consisting of multiple choice. Each exam will cover only material covered since the previous exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points. In addition, a second set of assignments (see below) is worth 100 points. Three exams (3x100) plus assignments (100) make a grand total of 400 possible points. Makeup exams will only be given in extreme cases, and will occur during finals week (exceptions are students on official university business who should arrange to take the exam early). Make-up exams may be essay in format. Final grades will be determined by overall percentage (out of 400 possible points).

ASSIGNMENTS
You may choose from the following assignments, but you must choose an option by the third week of class.

OPTION 1: SERVICE LEARNING
Service learning is an educational tool that provides students with the opportunity to integrate community service with their traditional coursework. In this option, students gain practical hands-on experience in a non-academic setting. Students will volunteer for 6 hours at a participating organization, and will then write a summary of their experiences including: what you did, what you learned, what surprised you about your experience, how you feel about the experience in retrospect AND DURING, and any other thoughts about the experience. More details on volunteer options will be discussed in class.

OPTION 2: FIELD ASSIGNMENTS (CHOOSE 3)
Social Psychology Field Assignments are worth 33 points each (no assignments will be accepted after their due dates). Please turn in an acceptable display. News articles should be taped or otherwise affixed to paper; A wad of articles will not be accepted.

1. Collect 5 articles in newspapers or magazines that contain examples of 5 different types of bias in social perception or attribution. Highlight or circle the example of bias, explain why it is an example of bias (with complete sentences) and label it with the appropriate psychological term. (hint: check letters to the editor; possible sources of bias are fundamental attribution error, self-serving bias, cognitive confirmatory bias, and illusory correlation) Due: Tuesday, Sept. 15

2. Collect 5 advertisements from newspapers or magazines that illustrate 5 different attitude change techniques. Label each according to technique(s), and explain (in complete sentences) why it is an example of that kind of technique(s). Include which route of persuasion is being used. Also discuss why you think the advertisement is or is not successful (based on what you have learned in this class). Due: Thursday, Oct. 1.

NOTE: You may not do both #2 and #3.
TOPICS AND SCHEDULE:

Week beginning:

8/24  Chapters 1, 2 (Intro, Methods)
8/31  Chapters 3, 5 (Self, Social Perception and Cognition (Attributions))
9/07  **Labor Day Holiday, Monday, Sept. 7**
      Chapters 5, 4 (Social Perception/Cog, Attitudes)
9/14  Chapter 4 (Attitudes)
9/21  Chapters 4, 6 (Attitudes, Persuasion)
9/28  **Exam 1: Tuesday, Sept. 29 (chaps. 1-6 and lectures)**
      Chapter 7 (Social Influence)
10/05 Chapters 7, 8 (Social Influence, Attraction)
10/12 Chapters 8, 9 (Attraction, Altruism)
10/19 Chapter 10 (Prejudice)
10/26 Chapters 10, 12 (Prejudice, Gender)
11/02 Chapter 10 (Gender)
      **Exam 2: Thursday, Nov. 5 (chaps 7-10, 12 and lectures)**
11/09 Chapter 11 (Aggression)
11/16 Chapters 11, 13 (Aggression; Group Dynamics)
11/23 Chapters 13, 14 (Dynamics, Intergroup Relations)
      **Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov. 27-28**
11/30 Chapters 14, 15 (Intergroup Relations, Applications)
12/07 Chapter 15 (Applications: Environmental Psychology)
      **Last class meeting: Tuesday, 12/08**
12/11-12/18 **Final Exam week:**
      **Final exam (chaps 11, 13-15 and lectures):**
      Sat Dec. 12, 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm
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