SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
Psychology 2606

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Course Philosophy

This course is designed to provide you with the basic tenets of social psychology. Using classic and current research as our primary resources, we shall discuss and analyze “why we do what we do.” Social psychology historically has been devoted to understanding “normal” human behaviors. Topics such as attraction, love, aggression, conformity and social cognition are just some of the examples that we will investigate.

Ours is the only century in which human social behavior has not been a major focus of study! We are just beginning to form even the most basic understanding of such topics as aggression, love, belief formation, etc., simply put, our question is age old: WHY DO WE - YOU AND I - BEHAVE THE WAY WE DO???

This class is a small step in trying to answer, or at least speculate, about possible answers to this question. Why do we help vs hurt? Why do we love and hate the same person? Why are certain groups identified for abuse? Our questions have no easy answers, but the joy of the class is in the asking and speculation.

We are looking to provide you with a working proficiency of the knowledge base that is available. We want to be provocative, yet humane. In a sense, the course is the study of who and what we are as social animals.

While our course is comprehensive by design, I don’t want to miss out on what is of personal value to each of you. As such, the course is seen as a classic, liberal arts approach to social psychology. Few of you will become social psychologists, but you, hopefully, always remain fascinated by the human condition.

I am very interested in both the theoretical and the applied aspects of the field. With each topic, I will be asking you to apply what you read to your own experiences. What I would hope that you achieve as you leave the course is an increased appreciation for the complexities of human behavior.

Course Structure

Class time will be spent in lecture, discussions, group work, films and guest speakers. It is a lot to try and do in a short period, but I am quite sure it will be both interesting and fun! My teaching style is Socratic in nature. What this means for you is that I shall be asking you numerous questions regarding the readings and other course activities. I firmly believe this is the best single way for me to find out what you know. We have a great deal to learn from each other and the Socratic style is a good way to share that knowledge. Your full participation is expected. I should very much like to know not only what you think, but more importantly, why. Your on-going involvement in this process is essential to our mutual success.
Course Topics

Typically, social psychology courses have been concerned with topics such as aggression, conformity, self-cognition, persuasion, prejudice, etc. We will be covering these topics, but not in the typical fashion. This term we will look at the aforementioned topics via recent publications on social problems, the idea being to use current literature as a pathway to investigation. As we read, I will be asking you to identify where, when and how the classic issues of social psychology are being demonstrated. For example, if we are reading an article on race relations, it would be quite easy to identify the forms, consequences and ramifications of prejudice.

Consultation

I want to encourage each and every one of you to come into my office at any time throughout the course. If there is anything I might do to enhance your learning, I want to do so. Please feel free to call me so that we might set up a mutually convenient time to meet.

Assessment

There will be three methods of evaluating your work:

First, will be the more traditional combination of objective/short answer/questions format-in-class exam.

Second will be a take-home essay exam. I will ask you three essay questions of which you will select only one. This essay question will be broad based - i.e. asking you to show various relationships both across and within the theories.

Third will be a brief four to six page paper on a topic of your choice. The only provision is that this topic MUST BE international in flavor. Specifically, I am looking for a compare and contrast style of paper. For example, compare and contrast child rearing practices in a third world country with those of the United States, etc.

Each of the above will constitute 30% of your mark. The remaining 10% will come from your attendance and on-going participation.

N.B. No make-up exams or late papers!

Extra Credit

You will also have the option of extra credit. Throughout the term I will ask you to write a single page reaction to various topics, speakers, films etc. These short reaction papers are completely optional. They will work only in a positive fashion - namely to raise your grade. Not doing the extra credit will not negatively effect your mark in any way. These short papers must be turned in on the last day of class.
Readings for the Week of:

Jan. 28  Introduction to Social Psychology
Feb. 4  Chapter 2  The Self in a Social World
Feb. 11 Chapter 3  Social Beliefs and Judgement
Feb. 18 Chapter 4  Behavior and Attitudes
Feb. 25 Chapter 5  Genes, Culture and Gender

Review of Current Literature for Chapters 2-5

Mar. 4  In-class exam-objective and short essay style on 2/26/01
        ***Please remember no make-up exams or late exams accepted!

Mar. 11 Chapter 6  Conformity
Mar. 18 Chapter 7  Persuasion
Mar. 25 Chapter 8  Group Influence

Apr. 1  SPRING BREAK

Apr. 8  Chapter 9  Prejudice

Essay Exam Questions Passed Out*****

Apr. 15 Chapter 10  Aggression

Essay Exams Due!!

Apr. 22 Chapter 11  Attraction and Intimacy

Apr. 29 Chapter 12  Altruism

May 6  All Papers Due – LAST CLASS
## Important Dates For Continuing Education Courses Spring 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Full Term and Session I classes begin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Deadline to petition for in-state classification for Session I classes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>5 p.m. deadline to register for Session I classes, add your name to a wait list, request pass/fail status or drop with a 100% refund/adjustment. Withdrawals from Session I classes after this date will appear as a &quot;W&quot; on student's academic record. Must obtain a Voucher form for withdraw request.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>Instructor's signature required to withdraw from (or add) Session I classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Deadline to petition for in-state classification for Full Term classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>5 p.m. deadline to register for Full Term classes, add your name to a wait list, request pass/fail status, or drop with a 100% refund/adjustment. Withdrawals from Full Term classes after this date will appear as a &quot;W&quot; on student's academic record. Must obtain a Voucher form for withdraw request.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Instructor's signature required to withdraw from (or add) Full Term classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>Petition required to withdraw from (or add) Session I classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Petition required to withdraw from (or add) Full Term classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Session I classes end.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Session II classes begin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Deadline for petition for in-state classification for Session II classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>5 p.m. deadline to register for Session II classes, add your name to a wait list, request pass/fail status, or drop with a 100% refund/adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will appear as a &quot;W&quot; on student's academic record. Must obtain a Voucher form for withdraw request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Instructor’s signature required to withdraw from or add Session II classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25-29</td>
<td>Spring Break. No classes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Petition required to withdraw from (or add) Session II classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30-May 6</td>
<td>Full Term and Session II classes end.</td>
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## Refund Schedule for Boulder Evening Classes

**FULL TERM:**
- If you drop a Full Term course before 5 p.m. February 5, you will receive a 100% refund/adjustment
- 60% February 6 through 5 p.m. February 19 *
- 40% February 19 through 5 p.m. March 5 *
- AFTER March 5 NO refund/adjustment will be given.

**SESSION I:**
- If you drop a Session I course before 5 p.m. January 29, you will receive a 100% refund/adjustment
- 60% January 30 through 5 p.m. February 5 *
- 40% February 6 through 5 p.m. February 12 *
- AFTER February 12 NO refund/adjustment will be given.

**SESSION II**
- If you drop a Session II course before October 31, you will receive a 100% refund/adjustment
- 60% November 1 through 5 p.m. November 7 *
- 40% November 8 through 5 p.m. November 14 *
- AFTER November 14 NO refund/adjustment will be given.

*All refund requests received must be in writing.*
How to Use the Wait List for a Course

Throughout the Boulder Evening registration drop/add periods, if you are eligible to take a course but find it is full, you may put your name on a computerized wait list. Boulder Evening courses will use an automatic wait list. These are set up on a first-come, first-served basis.

As a vacancy occurs in a course, the person at the top of the wait list is automatically enrolled. That's right – automatically - you will not be contacted to verify if you still want the class.

CU Connect and web registration informs you if a course you have requested has a wait list and gives you the option of adding your name to the list. On CU Connect, press 9# when prompted and listen for verification. On the web, select “submit” and wait for verification.

When you place your name on a wait list, the number of students already on the list is announced. As wait list positions constantly change during the registration drop/add periods, it's a good idea to check your schedule frequently to find out your position on the wait list. To find out your wait list position, you can either call CU Connect and list your schedule by pressing 5# or check your schedule via web registration. Wait list positions are normally updated nightly.

When a space opens up for you from a wait list, you are automatically enrolled in the class - No verification is sent.

If you choose not to remain on a wait list or if you find that you have been enrolled in a course you no longer want, you must drop yourself from the wait list as soon as possible.

It is your responsibility to find out if you have been enrolled in a course from the wait list. If you do not attend a course you have been enrolled in, you will receive an F for that course as well as being responsible for the tuition.

Not attending does not automatically drop you from the course.
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Wait list Deadlines

You may place your name on a wait list through the course wait list date (see below). At that time, all wait lists will be frozen. This means you cannot add your name to a wait list and there is no automatic enrollment from the wait lists after this date.

Boulder Evening Session I – 5:00 p.m. January 29, 2002
Boulder Evening Full Term - 5:00 p.m. February 5, 2002
Boulder Evening Session II – 5:00 p.m. March 19, 2002