Course Syllabus, Fall 2006
Psychology 2606: Social Psychology
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:45, HUMN 150
Course website: http://psych-swiki.colorado.edu;8080/2606-003

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Schmiege
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Office hours: Tuesday 2-3, Thursday 11-12

Teaching Assistant: Joanne Kane, M.A.
Email: Joanne.Kane@colorado.edu
Phone: (303) 735-1138
Office: Muenzinger, Room E314
Office hours: Monday 4-5, Wednesday 1-2

How to contact the instructor:
Students can reach me by stopping by my office during office hours, by calling my office, or by sending an email. I will also be available for a few minutes after each class. I will do my best to make myself accessible throughout the semester, and I will try to respond quickly to student questions. On weekdays, both the phone and email are effective ways to reach me; on weekends, email is the fastest.

Course description:
Social psychology is the scientific study of individuals in their social environment. Social psychologists tackle such questions as: "Why do we buy things that we really do not want?", "Why might a woman in her 20s be attracted to an elderly man?", or "Why do we stereotype others?" In this course, we will focus on a number of topics related to human social behavior, such as social cognition, aggression, prejudice and discrimination, social influence, and relationships. Social psychology is directly and clearly relevant to your daily life. As such, we will regularly apply course material to the "real world."

Prerequisites
General Psychology (PSYC 1001) or an acceptable equivalent is a required prerequisite. If you have not successfully completed General Psychology, you must drop this course or you will be administratively dropped.

Goals of the Course:
By the end of the course, I would like you to have:
1) An understanding of social psychology as a science
2) Familiarity with the topics and research findings covered under social psychology
3) An understanding of person/situation interactions
4) An understanding of the applications of social psychology to everyday life

Text (required):

Disability Services
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices
Course Grading:
Your grade will be based on your performance on:
1) 4 exams (worth 100 points each)
2) A writing project (worth 50 points)
3) Class Activities (worth 25 points)

Evaluation method:
Your final grade in the course is based on your total points accumulated on the four tests, the writing project and the class activities. There may be opportunities throughout the semester to obtain extra credit points by participating in experiments or class activities. Any opportunities will be announced during class time. Your grade will then be determined based on the percentage of total points earned.

A  93-100%
A-  90-92%
B+  87-89%
B   83-86%
B-  80-82%
C+  77-79%
C   73-76%
C-  70-72%
D+  67-69%
D   63-66%
D-  60-62%
F   59% or below

Attendance:
It is up to you to come to class. Although attendance is not required, it is strongly recommended and is a key factor for success in the course. Don’t assume that my lectures (and exams) will be based entirely on the textbook. Regardless of reasons for absences, students are responsible for all information from missed classes (e.g., lecture material; changes to syllabus). Class lecture notes are not provided by the instructor or the TA; students are encouraged to obtain missed notes from classmates. I will count attendance and class participation into your grade through a series of 6 in-class discussion/participation assignments. Only 5 of these assignments will count, however, thus allowing you a margin of error (and an opportunity for extra credit if you complete all 6 assignments). Each assignment is worth 5 points for a total of 25 points. These assignments might be a discussion question based on the required reading or on a film or video we’ve seen, or they might simply be a class exercise. These can only be done in class unless otherwise noted. In-class discussion and participation points cannot be made up, regardless of the legitimacy of the reason for your absence.

Exams:
Please refer to the schedule for tentative exam dates. There will be four exams throughout the course of the semester, each worth 100 pts. Each exam will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Exams will cover both text and lecture material. I will provide a study guide prior to each exam, so there should be no surprises. The final is, for the most part, non-cumulative, but will include some concepts covered in previous units that are central to a complete understanding of social psychology. Again, these will be noted on the final exam study guide -- you should thus not be surprised by any of the questions on the final. You must take all four tests. None will be dropped and I will only allow for make-up exams with a medical excuse for a documented illness or family emergency. The make-up exam will not be the same test taken by the rest of the class. Students not taking the exam will receive a zero.
Writing project

The writing project will be worth a total of 50 points. Because you all have different reasons for taking the course, career goals, and ways in which you learn best, I’m offering several options from which you may choose. I provide a brief overview of each option below -- specific guidelines and a grading rubric for each option will be provided in a separate handout to be posted on the course website. General guidelines are that papers must be at least 3 pages, typed, double-spaced and stapled together (no paper clips or folders please) with 1 inch margins. 10% (5 points) will be deducted for each day the paper is late, and papers will not be accepted via email. All papers will be due Tuesday, December 5th. So that you’re not scrambling to finish everything at the last minute and so we can make sure you’re on the right track, you must turn in an outline on November 2nd specifying which of the three options you have chosen and the specific film, newspaper article, or journal article on which your project will be based.

Option 1: Film project

In addition to entertaining us, movies offer detailed portrayals of human social behavior. Your task in this assignment is to analyze -- from a social-psychological perspective -- the behaviors and events depicted in a feature film. You will be given a selection of films from which to choose -- be sure you pick the one that will best allow you write a good paper. You are not being asked to critique the film in terms of its value as a work of art or as entertainment. Rather, you should think carefully about the human actions and events portrayed in the film in terms of their relevance to the concepts covered in this course.

Option 2: Finding the Social Psychology

Find a major news article in a well-known newspaper (e.g., New York Times, L. A. Times, Denver Post) that relates to at least one social psychological concept that we have covered in class. First, briefly summarize the newspaper article. Then, thoroughly explain the social psychological concept(s) and how they are relevant to the article. Finally, discuss your reaction to the article. Please include a copy of the newspaper article with your assignment.

Option 3: Understanding social psychology journal articles

Locate a journal article in one of three primary academic journals for social psychology (The Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, or Journal of Experimental Social Psychology). The article can be recent or older, but it should be one that interests you. Summarize the article in your own words, explaining the theory, hypotheses, methodology and findings. Then, discuss your reaction to the article. Please include a photocopy of the journal article with your assignment.

Cellphone Policy: Turn them off!

Academic Honesty

Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams, copying answers off of other students during exams, and having other students falsify your attendance on group activity days will absolutely not be tolerated in this class. At the very least, you will receive a zero on the assignment. All incidences of academic dishonesty will also be referred to the University’s Committee on Academic Ethics, where you may face expulsion from the university.
### Tentative schedule of exams and topics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 29</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Overview of course</td>
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<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Psychology</td>
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<td>Sept 05</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Research Methodology</td>
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<td>Sept 07</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Methodology/Social Cognition</td>
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<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Social Cognition</td>
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<td>Sept 14</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Social Perception</td>
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<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Self-Knowledge/Self-Presentation</td>
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<td>Sept 21</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Self-Presentation/ Overview of Exam 1</td>
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<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>EXAM 1 (covers Chapters 1 – 5)</td>
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<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Attitudes/Cognitive Dissonance</td>
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<td>Oct 03</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Attitude Change/Persuasion</td>
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<td>Oct 05</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Conformity/Social Influence</td>
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<td>Oct 10</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Conformity/Social Influence</td>
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<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Groups</td>
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<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Groups</td>
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<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>EXAM 2 (covers Chapters 6-9)</td>
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<td>Nov 24</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Relationships/Attraction</td>
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<td>Nov 26</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Relationships</td>
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<td>Nov 31</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Relationships</td>
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<td>Nov 02</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Prosocial behavior (writing project outline due)</td>
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<td>Nov 07</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Prosocial behavior</td>
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<td>Nov 09</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Aggression</td>
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<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Aggression</td>
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<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>EXAM 3 (covers Chapters 10-12)</td>
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**Fall/Thanksgiving break, November 20-24th**

| Dec 28 | Tues | Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination | Chpt 13 |
| Dec 30 | Thurs | Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination | |
| Dec 05 | Tues | Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination (final writing project due) | |
| Dec 07 | Thurs | Social Dilemmas/Application to the environment | pp. 504-525 |
| Dec 12 | Tues | Application to Health | pp. 475-503 |
| Dec 14 | Thurs | Putting it all together/Review and wrap-up | |

**Final Exam: Saturday, December 16th 4:30pm-7pm**

*Note: I reserve the right to change any or all of this schedule as I see fit. Changes in the schedule will be announced in class and posted on the class website.*