Course Syllabus, Spring 2009
Psychology 2606(003/004): Social Psychology
2606(003) TTh 12:30-1:45, 2606(004) TTh 11:00-12:15, Muen E0046

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Email: Jordan.Pennefather@Colorado.edu

Office Hours: TTh 2-3 pm.

Class Website: http://psych-swiki.colorado.edu:8080/2606-003-004
User Name: student
Password: psych2606

Course Description: In the field of social psychology, we study the effects of the real or imagined presence of others on the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals. The questions asked by social psychologists have to do with our daily lives in the social world, and often seek to find answers to social mysteries. For example, why would a teenage boy confess to a murder he never committed? Why would someone join a cult that forces her to give away all her worldly possessions and cease all contact with friends and family? Why would a woman in her 20’s be attracted to an elderly man? In this course, we will answer these questions and many others by studying the five major perspectives of social psychology. In the context of these perspectives, we will look at the features of the person, the situation, and the interaction between the person and the situation that govern social behavior.

Research about learning has shown that students learn and retain material better in a situation in which learning is active rather than passive, and cooperative rather than individual. I have incorporated some of the principles of active and cooperative learning into my class, and try to be sensitive to the various types of learning styles that might exist among my students. To this end, we will do active learning exercises in this class that involve your participation. We will also do some group work. Oftentimes these in-class active learning and group exercises will have associated class credit. You must be in class to receive this credit.

Course Objectives: Social psychology is the scientific study of the ways in which people’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by their social environment. The aims of this course are:
- To familiarize you with the concepts and theories of social psychology.
- Help you recognize the influence of the environment on behavior, thoughts, and feelings.
- Give you the capacity to interpret research findings.

Required Readings: Weekly readings from the textbook will be required for all students. Additionally, students will be required to read supplemental journal articles for some of the sections. The supplemental readings will be made available online.
Course Requirements: Your grade for this class will be based on 3 things:

1. Exams: There will be midterm exams and 1 final cumulative exam. The first midterm exam will cover the first five sections of material and the second midterm will cover the next five sections of material. The exams will include questions taken from the text, lecture, and the supplemental readings. The final exam will cover material from the entire class. The midterm exams will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions and 10 short answer/essay questions. The final exam will consist of 80 multiple-choice questions and 20 short answer/essay questions. The midterms will each be worth 20% of the final grade, while the final will be worth 40%.

   It is important to be prepared and present for all scheduled exams. However, I recognize that there are some situations in which you simply cannot make it to an exam. In the case of a serious illness, emergency, religious observance, or university sponsored event, make up exams will be allowed. If you have a scheduled university sponsored event or religious observance, you must let me know well in advance of the listed exam date (at least 1 week) and we will arrange for you to take an exam before you leave. If you have a serious illness or an emergency, you must let me know prior to the exam (before 9:00am) and we will make arrangements for a make-up. Documentation that verifies the event (e.g., a note from a physician) will be required upon request. If you have questions about what type of documentation is required for a specific situation, contact me.

2. Final Paper: Select one of the supplemental readings, or another article from a peer-reviewed social psychology journal and write a short paper. In your paper, summarize the purpose of the study, the design of the study, the analyses used, and what the researchers found. (10% of grade).

   One of the most common tasks of a social psychologist is reading research papers that describe an experiment or study, and analyzing these papers. Reading empirical papers for the first time can be difficult and intimidating. Often, students in psychology are expected to be able to analyze such papers by the time they are in upper-division courses, but are seldom given a chance to practice these skills in lower-division courses.

   In order to give you a chance to try out these skills early on, you will be expected to read empirical papers (which will be available on reserve in electronic format through the library website) and write a short paper (3-4 pages) about one of them. For the paper, you will be required to read the research article and summarize the authors' findings (explain the authors' hypotheses, explain how they tested those hypotheses, and talk about their findings). Then, you will need to analyze the paper, identifying the strengths and weaknesses, and suggesting studies that could be done to address the weaknesses and limitations.

3. Class attendance and participation: You are required to read the chapter and supplemental reading for each section. Short quizzes and in-class activities will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Students with Disabilities: If you have specific physical or other 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).

Grading: Your final grade in the course is based on your total points accumulated on the three tests, your paper, attendance, and in-class assignments, as described above. To summarize:

- 2 Mid-term exams (70 pts ea) = 140 points
- Final Exam = 140 points
- Short paper = 35 points
- in-class work/participation = 35 points
- Total = 350 points

Your final letter grade will be determined by calculating a reference score, which will be the average of the top 3 students' total points in the class. The percent of points you earned from this reference score will determine your final grade. This will allow for all students' grades to be corrected for particularly difficult exams or poor performance by the entire class on the paper. By calculating a percent of a reference score, you will receive a grade that is no lower than that you would receive if your grade were determined as a percent of the total points possible, while allowing all students to get a good grade if everyone does well in the course. The following grid provides the letter grade associated with each percent score calculated using the reference score.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>93-100%</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>83-86.9%</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>73-76.9%</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>63-66.9%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9%</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9%</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9%</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9% or below</td>
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Cheating/plagiarism: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams, copying answers off of other students during exams, having other students help you falsify your attendance, and plagiarizing of any kind 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. I encourage you to review the University policy on academic dishonesty; you are responsible for behaving in accordance with this policy and continued enrollment in this class will be considered implicit agreement that you have read and accepted the terms of that policy.

Important University Dates to Remember:

- Last day to add/drop: January 21(add) and 28(drop)
- Spring Break (no Class): March 23-27
- Last day of Classes: Friday, May 1
- Final Exam:
  - 003: Tuesday, May 5, 4:30 – 7:00 pm
  - 004: Monday, May 4, 1:30 – 4:00 pm
Tentative Lecture and Exam Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Assignments Due</th>
<th>Chapter:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T, 1/13</td>
<td>Intro to Social Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 1/15</td>
<td>Intro to Social Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 1/20</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 1/22</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 1/26</td>
<td>Social Cognition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 1/28</td>
<td>Social Cognition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 2/3</td>
<td>Social Perception</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 2/5</td>
<td>Self-Knowledge</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 2/10</td>
<td>Self-Knowledge</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 2/12</td>
<td>Catch up day, review for exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>T, 2/17</td>
<td>*** Exam 1 ***</td>
<td>1-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th, 2/19</td>
<td>Justification</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>T, 2/24</td>
<td>Justification</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 2/26</td>
<td>Attitudes</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 3/3</td>
<td>Attitudes</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 3/5</td>
<td>Conformity</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 3/10</td>
<td>Conformity</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 3/12</td>
<td>Group Process</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 3/17</td>
<td>Group Process/Attraction</td>
<td>9-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th, 3/19</td>
<td>Attraction</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 3/24</td>
<td>Spring Break (no class)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 3/26</td>
<td>Spring Break (no class)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>T, 3/31</td>
<td>Attraction</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th, 4/2</td>
<td>Catch up day, review for exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 4/7</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
<td>6-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th, 4/9</td>
<td>Prosocial Behavior</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>T, 4/14</td>
<td>Prosocial Behavior</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 4/16</td>
<td>Aggression</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 4/21</td>
<td>Aggression</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 4/23</td>
<td>Prejudice</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T, 4/27</td>
<td>Prejudice</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th, 4/30</td>
<td>Catch up day, review for exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, 5/4</td>
<td>004's Final Exam at 1:30 – 4:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>T, 5/5</td>
<td>003's Final Exam at 4:30 – 7:00</td>
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Schedule will be announced in class and, if substantial, a revised syllabus will be made available to the class.

Implied consent: Attending class meetings after today will be taken to mean that you agree to the terms outlined in this syllabus and you will be bound by its content.
Reading List

Lesson One
Required Reading: Chapter 1 - Introduction to Social Psychology
No supplemental readings.

Lesson Two
Required Reading: Chapter 2 - Methodology
No supplemental readings.

Lesson Three
Required Reading: Chapter 3 - Social Cognition
Supplemental Reading:

Lesson Four
Required Reading: Chapter 4 - Social Perception
Supplemental Reading:

Lesson Five
Required Reading: Chapter 5 - Self-Knowledge
Supplemental Reading:

Midterm One

Lesson Six
Required Reading: Chapter 6 - Justification
No supplemental readings.

Lesson Seven
Required Reading: Chapter 7 - Attitudes and Attitude Change
Supplemental Readings:
No supplemental readings.

Lesson Eight
Required Reading: Chapter 8 - Conformity
Supplemental Reading:

Lesson Nine
Required Reading: Chapter 9 - Group Processes
Supplemental Readings:

**Lesson Ten**
Required Reading: Chapter 10 - Attraction
Supplemental Reading:

**Midterm Two**

**Lesson Eleven**
Required Reading: Chapter 11 - Prosocial Behavior
Supplemental Reading:

**Lesson Twelve**
Required Reading: Chapter 12 - Aggression
Supplemental Reading:

**Lesson Thirteen**
Required Reading: Chapter 13 - Prejudice
Supplemental Readings: