Psychology 7536: 802
Historical and Applied Topics in Social Psychology
http://psych-swiki.colorado.edu:8080/7536-804

Instructor

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Office hours: After class and by appointment

Class Meetings

Thursday, 11:00 – 12:40
Muenzinger D318.

Course Description

The course is intended as a graduate-level exploration of the major ideas, theories, and findings of social psychology and their applied status, with special attention to historical issues and classic experiments. Specific topics to be considered are described on the attached reading list. Graduate students from other disciplines are welcome. The class format will include both lecture and discussion.

Readings

Course readings will be made available, primarily via the course web site.

Requirements

Attendance and Participation. All students are expected to attend all classes and to participate in class discussion. They will also be asked to select one or two topics on the syllabus and to facilitate a discussion around that topic. The discussion facilitator has the option of reviewing one additional pertinent paper (please, see me for assistance in selecting any additional papers).

In facilitating the discussion, students should provide a brief summary of some of the main issues and questions that arose in the readings. For the remainder of the time, they should facilitate a discussion by distributing or articulating comments and questions that help the class to critically appreciate the research and to consider alternative perspectives, follow-up research questions, and connections with other theories and real-world phenomena. I am available for consultation in this process.

Finally, for each class, all students are required to bring one or two thoughtful questions or comments they had in reaction to any of the readings.

Research paper. A paper, dealing with an aspect of social psychology, will be required only for students who wish to take the course for credit. The paper should address a problem or phenomenon from a social-psychological point of view. It should either offer a critical (but
sympathetic) review of an area of research or propose an original experiment. I am available to discuss your paper and potential ideas.

The paper will be due on Friday, May 4.

READING LIST

Readings encompass classic papers and contemporary extensions of the basic historical themes addressed in a given week.

Each week, a selection will be drawn, based on the direction of class discussion and student interest, from the set of readings noted under the relevant date.

THURS., JAN. 18
BACKGROUND, TRADITIONS, AND TENSIONS (Optional)


Taylor, S. E. Preparing for social psychology’s future. JESP, 40, 2004, 139-141.


THURS., JAN. 25
***NO CLASS, SPSP***

THURS., FEB. 1
INTERVENTIONS AND APPLIED STATUS OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY


Schulz, R. Effects of control and predictability on the physical and psychological well-being of the institutionalized aged. JPSP, 33, 1976, 563-573.


THURS., FEB. 8
GROUP DYNAMICS AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE


Green, D. P., & Gerber, A. S. Selections from Get the vote out! How to increase voter turnout, 2004.


Cialdini, R. B. Crafting normative messages to protect the environment. Current Directions in Psychological Science, 12, 2003, 105-109.


THURS., FEB. 15

PREJUDICE AND PREJUDICE REDUCTION


Correll, J., Uurland, G., & Ito, T. Event-related potentials and the decision to shoot: The role of threat perception and cognitive control. JESP, 42, 2006, 120-128.


THURS., FEB. 22
INTERPERSONAL AND INTER-GROUP CONFLICT

Ross, L., & Ward, A. Naive realism: Implications for social conflict and misunderstanding. In Brown, Reed, & Turiel (Eds.), Values and Knowledge, 1996.

Ichheiser, G. Appearances and reality, Chapter 4: Interpretations of personality. 1970.


Mikulincer, M., & Shaver, P. R. Attachment theory and intergroup bias: Evidence that priming the secure base schema attenuates negative reactions to out-groups. JPSP, 81, 2001, 97-115.


THURS., MARCH 1
SOCIAL IDENTITY & STIGMATIZATION

Zajonc, R. B. Compresence. In P. B. Paulus (Ed.), The psychology of group influence (pp. 35-60), 1980.


THURS., MARCH 8
ATTITUDES AND ATTITUDE CHANGE


THURS., MARCH 15
CONFORMITY AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE


Harris, J. Where is the child’s environment: A group socialization theory of development, Psychological Review, 102, 1995, 458-489.


Kim, H. & Markus, H. R. Deviance or uniqueness, harmony or conformity: A cultural analysis. JPSP, 77, 1999, 785-800.


THURS., MARCH 22
COMPLIANCE AND SOCIAL PRESSURE


Milgram, Baumrind, Orne, & Holland exchange. In A. Miller (Ed.), The social psychology of psychological research, 1972.


Berkowitz, L. Evil is more than banal: Situationism and the concept of evil. PSPB, 3, 1999, 246-253.


**THURS., MARCH 29**

**NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK**

**THURS., APRIL 5**

**AGGRESSION AND MEDIA INFLUENCE**


Twenge, J. M, Baumeister, R. F., Tice, D. M., Stucke, T. S. If you can’t join them, beat them. Effects of social exclusion on aggressive behavior. JPSP, 81, 2001, 1058-1069.

Aronson, E. How the Columbine High School tragedy could have been prevented. Journal of Individual Psychology, 60, 2004, 355-360.

THURS., APRIL 12
SELF-PERCEPTION AND INTERNALIZATION


Kim, H. S. We talk, therefore we think? A cultural analysis of the effect of talking on thinking. JPSP, 83, 2002, 828-842.


THURS., APRIL 19
FROM DISSONANCE TO SELF-EVALUATION


Schimel, J., Arndt, J., Pyszczynski, T., & Greenberg, J. Being accepted for who we are: Evidence that social validation and the intrinsic self reduces general defensiveness. JPSP, 8, 2001, 35-52.


THURS., APRIL 26
ATTRIBUTION, EMOTION, AND MOTIVATION

Lyubomirsky, S. Why are some people happier than others?: The role of cognitive and motivational processes in well-being. American Psychologist, 56, 239-249.

Schachter, S. Selections from The psychology of affiliation, 1959.


THURSDAY, MAY 3
OPEN/CATCH-UP