

Social Psychology (PSY 435)
MWF 10:10-11:00, LSCB 43

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Foster

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Office hours: MWF 12:15-1:15 and by appointment

Class website: www.joshuadfoster.com (click on the penguins)

Book:

Kenrick, D.K., Neuberg, S.L., & Cialdini, R.B. (2007). *Social psychology: Unraveling the mystery, 4th edition*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Course objectives:

This semester you're going to get a brief and general overview of social psychology's major concepts. Because social psychology is first and foremost a research discipline, you will hear and read about literally hundreds of scientific studies. My hope is that by the end of the semester you will know social psychology's basic concepts and be familiar with the research well enough to discuss it intelligently and correct people who don't understand social psychology as well.

Grading policy:

Midterm exam (50-75 questions): 34%

Final exam (50-75 questions): 40%

Take-home exam (200 questions): 15%

Article discussions: 6%

Literature search project: 5%

Grading scale: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 59% and below = F

All exams are multiple-choice, true-false format. In-class exams cover both lecture/book material. Take-home exam comes directly from book. Take-home exam given out during the first month of classes. It is due on the final exam date.

Article discussions:

We will spend three classes discussing assigned research articles. The articles were chosen because they are of particular interest and importance to social psychology. To adequately prepare for discussions, it will be necessary to read the articles. On the date of discussion (see calendar for dates), you will turn in 3 multiple-choice questions (4 answer options) suitable for use on the next exam (questions must be typed). You must circle the correct answer and specify what page of the article the answer can be found (if the answer is broader/more general than a specific point or fact, explain this). If your question(s) is actually used on the exam, you will receive a 2 point bonus added to your exam grade. Questions turned in late will not be accepted unless a valid and documented excuse is presented.

Literature search project:

This project will introduce you to searching for articles using PsycInfo. If you've already done this before then it will be an easy project. If not, then it will be useful since PsycInfo is the primary search engine that psychological researchers use to locate scholarly literature. The due date for this project is listed on the calendar. Late projects will get a 25% penalty for each day (not class) that they are late, including weekends.

Can I get extra-credit?

No.

Missed classes/exams:

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the material from your fellow students (not from me). You are not entitled to makeup exams. You are more likely to get a makeup exam if you tell me about your absence before the exam. Makeup exams may be more difficult and may be of a different format (e.g., essay or oral format).

What is the policy on cheating?

It is not allowed. Don't look at each others' tests, including the take-home (Warning: I have ways to determine whether students are working together on take-home exams). You know what cheating is. If you don't, then you need to ask me about it because ignorance is never an excuse. Anyone deemed to be cheating will receive an F in the course (don't give me any reason to suspect you) and possibly be reported to the University. If you do not accept this policy then you should drop this course. The credibility and reputation of the University (and your future degree) is based upon academic integrity. Those who put the University at risk will not be tolerated.

Disability statement:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me, and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Student Services). The Office of Special Student Services is directed by Ms. Bernita Pulmas and is located in the Student Center, Room 270, Phone 460-7212.

Graduate students:

If you are a graduate student, see me for additional course requirements.

Can I talk to my friends during class?

Students are not permitted to be disruptive during class. A disruption is defined as anything that distracts students from what is being taught in class. This includes talking that is loud enough for students not involved in the conversation to hear (including whispering), receiving cell phone calls, text messaging, doing crossword puzzles, or any other behavior that gains the attention of other students.

Students who are disruptive will first be warned. Students who are further disruptive will be administratively withdrawn from the course. *Don't be afraid.* If your cell phone accidently rings in class, I'm not going to toss you from class (although you will be expected to show a certain amount of embarrassment). Likewise, if you need to take a phone call in class, let me know ahead of time. Your professor is not a monster. It is the case, however, that even 1 or 2 disruptive students can ruin an entire class. This policy is designed to remove these students from class so that the remaining students will have a more effective learning environment.

TENTATIVE SEMESTER CALENDAR

[THIS SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE—YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS.]

Week	Date	Day	Topic (Chapter #)
1	8.18	M	Introduction/Review syllabus
		W	Introduction to social psychology (1)
		F	
2	8.25	M	
		W	The person and the situation (2)
		F	
3	9.1	M	NO CLASS (Labor Day)
		W	
		F	
4	9.8	M	Social cognition (3); Literature search project due
		W	
		F	
5	9.15	M	
		W	Article discussion (Tversky & Kahneman, 1974)
		F	Presenting the self (4)
6	9.22	M	
		W	
		F	Attitudes and persuasion (5)
7	9.29	M	
		W	
		F	
8	10.6	M	
		W	Article discussion (Kassin, 1997)
		F	Exam Review
9	10.13	M	MIDTERM EXAM (Chapters 1,2,3,4,5)
		W	Love and romantic relationships (8)
		F	
10	10.20	M	
		W	Social influence (6)
		F	<i>Last day to drop class (4:59 p.m.)</i>
11	10.27	M	
		W	Aggression (10)
		F	
12	11.3	M	
		W	Article discussion (Cohen, Nisbett, Bowdle, & Schwarz, 1996)
		F	Prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination (11)
13	11.10	M	
		W	
		F	
14	11.17	M	Groups (12)
		W	
		F	
15	11.24	M	Movie (Human Behavior Experiments)
		W	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)
		F	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)
16	12.1	M	Exam Review
FINAL	12.5	F	FINAL EXAM (Chapters 6,8,10,11,12); 10:30-12:30