

FALL 2011

PSY 240: Social Psychology

Stephen Weiss, Ph.D.	Office: D 205.6W
Office Phone #: 860-823-2819	Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00; TUTH 10:00-11:00; & by appointment
E-Mail: sweiss@trcc.commnet.edu	Class Room: D 102
Class Schedule: MW 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Website: http://smw15.org/

Course Description: This course presents an in-depth and extensive psychological study of social behavior. The major thrust of this course will focus upon attitude formation, language and communication, group interaction, leadership roles, and cultural forces. These factors will be examined as they affect individuals in contemporary society.

Student Learning Outcomes: At the completion of this course, students should have accomplished the following major objectives:

Critical Thinking: Utilize critical thinking skills to analyze psychological theories and research data

- Describe human behavior and mental processes from various theoretical perspectives in the field of psychology
- Identify the interrelationship between human biology and psychology
- Identify the manner in which psychological research on memory relates to college study skills

Information Literacy: Assess what information is needed to answer questions as well as evaluate the quality of information

- Demonstrate the skill of identifying information needed to answer questions pertaining to psychological terms and concepts
- Recognize and evaluate information sources for a specified purpose
- Develop an understanding of psychology as an ever-changing discipline, based on contemporary research data

Communication: Understand and express ideas about psychology through reading and writing

- Demonstrate the ability to comprehend and interpret written passages
- Write clearly
- Develop the ability to articulate one's viewpoint in verbal or electronic discussions

Systematic Inquiry: Understand social science research methods used in psychological research

- Demonstrate the ability to describe the science of psychology
- Describe different research methods used in psychology
- Acquire knowledge about men and women whose research endeavors made significant contributions to the field of psychology
- Develop an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of different psychology research methods

Required Text: *Social Psychology* by Kassin, Fein, & Markus (8th edition).

<i>Grading Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>	Percentage
3 Tests (100 pts each)	300	60 %
Research Paper	100	20 %
Presentation/Study Group Participation	100	20 %
Extra Credit (Total extra credit points x .10)		
Total	500	100 %

Note: Above grading criteria is not subject to change.

Grading System:

Grade	%	Total Points
A	94+	470+
A-	90-93	450-469
B+	87-89	435-449
B	84-86	420-434
B-	80-83	400-419
C+	77-79	385-399
C	74-76	370-384
C-	70-73	350-369
D+	67-69	335-349
D	64-66	320-334
D-	60-63	300-319
F	-60	-300

Notes:

- (1) **Note:** While class attendance will not be calculated into the above grades, excessive absences (6-7) will result in a decrease of a full letter grade (for example from C to D). 8-9 absences will cause your grade to be reduced by two full letters (for example from B to D). 10 or more absences will result in failure of the course.
- (2) If you **DO NOT** complete this course, you must formally withdraw at the registrar's office by Dec. 9th. Failure to do so will likely result in you receiving an F on your transcript for this course.

Extra Credit:

- **Experiment Participants:** There will be extra credit points given for involvement as research participants in my survey studies. While this extra credit opportunity will be an option for everyone in this class, your participation is voluntary.
- **There will be no individual extra credit opportunities.**

Tests: All tests will be part multiple choice, true/false and part short answer format. There will be **no make-ups** for the tests (unless, there is an emergency and I am informed immediately).

Research Paper Guidelines: See website

Group Presentations Guidelines: See website

Study Group Participation: To assist me in determining this grade, study group members will be required to fill out a study group evaluation form. This grade will be based on your attendance and participation in the in-class sessions, communication outside of class,

cooperation, and research. For each in-class study group session, students will be required to bring in one journal article that relates to the general topic under study.

Reading Assignments: The majority of the readings will come from the textbook. Additional readings will be assigned well in advance of the exams.

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism: Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor.

If I have determined that you have copied from another student or other source, you will receive a grade of zero on that assignment or exam. This zero cannot be counted as your lowest exam grade (it cannot be dropped). A second offense will result in failure of the course. See your student handbook for additional information concerning academic integrity.

Disabilities Policy: Students with a documented disability are provided supportive service and accommodations to assist them with their academic objectives. Services are strictly confidential. Disability services may include individualized accommodations, advising, advocacy, counseling, technical assistant and referral information. For further information read this policy in your student handbook.

Schedule of Classes

<i>Date</i>	<i>Tentative Topics</i>	Ch
Aug 29, 31	Syllabus; What is Social Psychology? Person vs. Situation debate; Social Psychology Research	Cha Cha
Sep 5	Labor Day – No Class – Enjoy!	
Sep 7, 12	The Social Self	Cha
	In-Class Study Group Session: First 15:00 of next class (Sep 14)	
Sep 14, 19	Perceiving Persons	Cha
Sep 21, 26	Stereotypes, Prejudice, & Discrimination	Cha
Sep 28	TEST 1: Chapters 1-5 Click on this link for the Study Guide for Test 1	
	In-Class Study Group Session: First 15:00 of next class (Oct 3)	
Oct 3, 5	Attitudes	Cha
Oct 10, 12, 17	Conformity	Cha
Oct 19, 24, 26	Group Processes Video: Stanford Prison Experiment	Cha
Oct 31, Nov 2	Attraction	Cha
Nov 7	TEST 2: Chapters 6-9 Click on this link for the Study Guide for Test 2	
	In-Class Study Group Session: First 15:00 of next class (Nov 14)	
Nov 9, 14, 16	Helping Others Video: Silent Witnesses	Cha
	Reminder: Papers are due Nov 21st	
Nov 21	Aggression	Cha
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Break – No Class – Enjoy!	
Nov 28	Aggression (continued)	
	In-Class Study Group Session: First 15:00 of class on Dec 5	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Tentative Topics</i>	Ch
Nov 30, Dec 5	Health	Cha
Dec 7	TEST 3: Chapters 10, 11 & 14 Click on this link for the Study Guide for Test 3	
Dec 12, 14	Presentations Extra Credit Options	