PSYC 5323.001 Advanced Social Psychology

Fall 2013 SYLLABUS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is designed to provide an in-depth review of the major principles, findings, and themes of social psychology, including but not limited to: social cognition, attitudes, social influence, group dynamics, and aggression. We will discuss both classic as well as contemporary social psychology research and theories.

After this course students should be able to...

- consider the ways in which human social behavior is influenced by errors in reasoning, attitudes, prejudices, and situational factors.
- describe the most influential studies conducted in social psychology.
- apply social psychological theories to explain human behavior and cognition.
- critically evaluate social psychology research findings.
- understand the ways that social psychological phenomena influence health.
- facilitate and participate in scholarly discussions of social psychological principles.
- communicate original research ideas using professional writing standards (APA style).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS


Exams: There will be three exams for this course given on the dates specified on the course calendar. Exams will consist of short answer and essay questions. Please expect that any material presented in lecture / class discussion or covered in the assigned readings may be included on the exams.

Paper: Each student will develop an original research idea on a social psychology topic of their choice. The paper will be written in the form of a research proposal with an introduction (literature review) and methods section. Details of the assignment will be provided in class at a later date.

Presentation: Each student will lead a class discussion on an assigned topic and date. You will be responsible for summarizing the assigned readings and for posing open-ended questions that will generate discussion (discussion questions should be turned in to me the day before class meets). As the discussion leader, you will be expected to
synthesize and respond to other students’ comments and questions throughout the
discussion.

**Class discussion:** The success of this class depends on the involvement of every student in class
discussions. Therefore, consistent attendance and participation is expected. Your grade will
reflect the quality (not just the quantity) of your comments and questions during class
discussions. Discussions will be most beneficial if you complete the assigned readings before
class.

**GRADING**

Each component of the course will be worth the following percentages of your final grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3 exams, 20% each)</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper (research proposal)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation (discussion leading)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Final letter grades will be assigned based on the following total percentages. If you have
questions about your grade at any time, please come see me.

Over 90% = A
80 – 89% = B
70 – 79% = C
60 – 69% = D

**EXPECTATIONS**

Class will start on time every day, and you should expect it to run the full 120 minutes.
Please avoid disturbing other students (by arriving late, leaving early, talking to your
neighbor, etc). Make sure your electronic devices are turned off during class.
I expect students to make every effort to attend each class. By missing class, you will
miss out on lecture, discussions, and any assignments relevant to the exams. It will be
your responsibility to speak with a classmate about the course content you missed. If
you let me know about an absence ahead of time (or if a true emergency arises
and you notify me within 24 hours of the missed class), I will arrange with you an
alternate time for you to take an exam. Late papers will be accepted with
significant grade deductions.

You are expected to check Blackboard on a regular basis for class assignments and
announcements. It is your responsibility to check your grades on Blackboard. If you believe
there is a mistake with your grade, you must notify me within 2 weeks of the grades being posted.
I will also post the lecture slides on Blackboard either before or after each class. These slides are
NOT a replacement for your attendance or for your own note-taking.

am committed to making myself available to answer questions, discuss concerns, and to
provide/accept feedback concerning course content, exams, or anything else. I check
my email frequently (less often during nights and weekends) and will do my best to
respond to your messages quickly. I also encourage you to visit during my office hours
or to set up alternative meeting times with me. Remember that should you begin to
struggle in this course, it is always better to talk to me about it sooner rather than later; if
you wait until the very end of the semester there is usually little I can do to help you.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
All forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. This includes,
but is not limited to: handing in another’s work as your own, using unauthorized notes in
an exam, copying another’s answers for an exam, turning in the same papers for two
different classes, purchasing or otherwise obtaining papers written by another and
turning that work in as your own. It is expected that ideas and information used in your
work, which are not part of your own personal experience, will be appropriately
referenced using APA guidelines. If academic dishonesty is suspected, I will follow the
disciplinary guidelines in the TAMUCC student code of conduct.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act
in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you
suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability,
psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities
Office, located in Corpus Christi Hall Room 116, at 825-5816. If you need disability
accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon
as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan,
which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The
College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E and can be reached at
825-3466.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who
believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined
in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may
appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to
demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a
grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details,
including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of
days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule13.02.99.C2,
Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade
Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web
site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or
guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student
Affairs.
## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

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<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>9/17</td>
<td>The Self</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td>9/24</td>
<td>Social Cognition and Attribution</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Attitudes</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>10/8</td>
<td>Cognitive Consistency and Dissonance</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>10/22</td>
<td>Social Influence and Social Comparison</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<td>10/29</td>
<td>Attraction and Relationships</td>
<td>Chapter 12 and 13</td>
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<td>Group Processes</td>
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<td>11/12</td>
<td>Intergroup Relations and Prejudice</td>
<td>Chapter 10 and 15</td>
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<td>Last Day to Drop Class</td>
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<td>Prosocial Behavior</td>
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<td>12/3</td>
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<td>Evolutionary Social Psychology</td>
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<td>12/17</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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