Psychology 5323.001: Advanced Social Psychology
Fall 2014

Instructor: Amy Houlihan, Ph.D.  E-mail: amy.houlihan@tamucc.edu
Phone: 825-2971
Class Location: BH 201  Office: Bay Hall 311
Class Time: Tuesdays 4:20 – 6:50  Office Hours: Monday 10:00-12:00
                                 Tuesday 3:00-4:00
                                 Thursday 9:00-11:00
                                 and by appointment

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 processes, 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.
 facilitate and participate in scholarly discussions of social psychological principles.
 synthesize and communicate research findings using professional writing standards
  (APA style).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS


Additional readings: There are additional articles on reserve at the library (see the course
calendar for a list) for you to check out and photocopy. Please make sure that you return the
articles with all the pages in the correct order for the next student.

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 a topic (research question) pertaining to social psychology
theory. You will write a thorough review of the literature on your topic using APA style. 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>Literature Review Paper</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 material and class discussion 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 announcements, grades, and assignment descriptions. 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.

CONTACTING ME

I 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
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.
**COURSE CALENDAR**

This calendar is tentative. I will notify you in advance of any changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>Introduction and Overview</td>
<td>Ch. 1 (skim Ch. 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>The Self</td>
<td>Ch. 5 Markus &amp; Kitayama, 1991*</td>
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<td>9/16</td>
<td>Social Cognition and Attribution</td>
<td>Ch. 3 Epstein &amp; Pacini, 1999* Gilbert, 1995*</td>
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<td>9/23</td>
<td>Attitudes</td>
<td>Ch. 7 Breckler, 1984*</td>
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<td>9/30</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<td>10/7</td>
<td>Cognitive Consistency &amp; Dissonance</td>
<td>Festinger &amp; Carlsmith, 1959 Gibbons et al., 1997*</td>
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<td>10/14</td>
<td>Social Influence and Social Comparison</td>
<td>Ch. 11 Milgram, 1963* Festinger, 1954* Wills, 1981*</td>
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<td>10/21</td>
<td>Attraction and Relationships Paper outline due</td>
<td>Ch. 12 and 13 Hazan &amp; Shaver, 1987*</td>
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<td>10/28</td>
<td>Group Processes</td>
<td>Ch. 14 Zajonc, 1965* Latane et al., 1979* Janis, 1982*</td>
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<td>11/4</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
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<td>11/11</td>
<td>Intergroup Relations, Prejudice, Stereotypes, and Discrimination</td>
<td>Ch. 15 and 10 Payne, 2006*</td>
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<td>11/18</td>
<td>Prosocial Behavior</td>
<td>Ch. 8 Darley &amp; Batson, 1973*</td>
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<td>11/25</td>
<td>Aggression</td>
<td>Ch. 9 Bushman &amp; Anderson, 2002* Klinesmith et al., 2006*</td>
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<td>12/2</td>
<td>Evolutionary Social Psychology Paper due</td>
<td>Ch. 17 Gangestad et al., 2006</td>
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<td>12/9</td>
<td><strong>Exam 3</strong></td>
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* These articles are on reserve at the library.