PSYC/SOCI 2326.001: Social Psychology  
Spring 2015

Instructor: Steve Seidel, Ph.D.  
E-mail: steve.seidel@tamucc.edu

Class Location: CI 112  
Office: BH 314

Class Time: MWF 10-10:50  
Office Hours: MW 11am – 1pm; F 11a-12noon; and by appointment

Course Prerequisite: PSYC 2301 (General Psychology) or its equivalent

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides an introduction to the study of human thought and behavior within social contexts. In this course, we will explore how aspects of the individual (e.g., personality, attitudes, goals) interact with aspects of the situation (e.g., social norms, group characteristics, external rewards) to influence behavior. Topics to be covered include (but are not limited to) altruism, stereotypes and prejudice, attraction and close relationships, aggression, and attitudes and persuasion. We will focus on the science of social psychology by discussing the research methodologies and theoretical perspectives in relation to the various course topics.

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- critically evaluate information and research they are exposed to.
- understand and describe classic and current social psychological theories.
- consider the ways in which human social behavior is influenced by errors in reasoning, attitudes, prejudices, misconceptions, and situational factors.
- analyze human social thought and behavior by reconsidering their own natural tendency to assume that people’s behavior reflects internal characteristics.
- recognize social psychological principles in their lives outside of the classroom.
- understand how social psychological phenomena influence health.

Course Requirements

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Exams: There will be 2 exams and a final exam for this course given on the dates specified on the course calendar. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Please expect that anything presented in lecture and covered in the assigned readings (whether covered in lecture or not) may be included on the exams. Although all exams will not include any explicitly cumulative material, the concepts we cover will build on each other throughout the course. The final exam (exam 3) will not be cumulative. I will be happy to provide makeup exams for those miss an exam for sufficient cause. If an occasion presents itself in which you feel it is necessary to miss an exam, you should explain the reason behind your intent to me.
PRIOR to the time of the exam or class. Late notification is unacceptable and will result in a score of 0 on the exam. Exceptions to this are extreme emergencies or valid and DOCUMENTED medical excuses.

**Attendance Quizzes:** There will be quizzes given at random on lecture days. They will consist of a brief set of 5 multiple choice questions based on material covered that day in class. Quizzes will be worth 50 pts (total) toward your overall grade. No makeup quizzes will be given.

**Group Projects:** Students are required to complete a powerpoint presentation of a classic experiment in Social Psychology. Students may work in groups up to 4 members to put together a powerpoint presentation that covers the introduction, method, results, and conclusions of a classic study in Social Psychology. The choice of studies is up to students but choices must be approved by the instructor prior to starting on the project. Projects will be worth 50 points and be graded on the basis of how well the project: 1. Explains the rationale for the study (10 pts), 2. Presents how the study was done (10 pts), 3. Covers the results of the study (10 pts), 4. Discusses conclusions, and 5. Describes why the study should be considered a “classic” study (10 pts). All projects will be made available for viewing by students enrolled in the class by April 24th.

**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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3 at 100 pts each /20% each)</td>
<td>300 pts (75%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Projects</td>
<td>50 pts (12.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Quizzes</td>
<td>50 pts (12.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>400 (100%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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% (360 pts or higher) = A
- 80 – 89% (320 – 359 pts) = B
- 70 – 79% (280 - 319 pts) = C
- 60 – 69% (240 – 279 pts) = D
- Less than 60% (less than 240 pts) = F

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of
academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero for the assignment or exam.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Friday, April 10th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Classroom/professional behavior**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved
by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in
the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA
Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-
825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides
comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this
legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that
provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability
requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus
Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in
the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361)
825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS 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’s Office.

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 on the weekends) and will do my best to respond to your messages quickly
(within. 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.
Course Schedule
This schedule is tentative. I will notify you in advance of any changes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/21</td>
<td>Introduction Social Psychology; The Self</td>
<td>Chapter 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>The Self; Social Beliefs and Judgments</td>
<td>Chapter 2 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Social Beliefs and Judgments (cont’d); Behavior and Attitudes</td>
<td>Chapter 3 &amp; 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Behavior and Attitudes; Genes, Culture, and Gender</td>
<td>Chapter 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>Genes, Culture, and Gender; Review for Exam 1</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Exam 1 (2/20)</td>
<td>Chapters 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/23</td>
<td>Conformity and Obedience</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Persuasion</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>Group Influence</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/16-3/20</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/23</td>
<td>Prejudice</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>Prejudice; Review for Exam 2</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Exam 2 (4/3)</td>
<td>Chapters 6-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>Aggression</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>**Last Day to Drop Course with a “W”</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/20</td>
<td>Attraction and Intimacy</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CLASS POWERPOINT PROJECT DUE (4/24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>Helping</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>Review for Final Exam</td>
<td>Chapters 10-12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Final Exam (5/11 8am)</td>
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