

PSYCHOLOGY 223 -01: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, CRN:23170
Spring 2013 – TR -- 8:00 – 9:15
Location: MYBK 107

Instructor: Dr. C. Vincent Spicer
Office Location: 65 Coming Street, Room 210
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:30
And by appointment
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COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbook:

Myers, David G. (2013). *Social Psychology (11th ed.)*. NY, NY: McGraw-Hill.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory level survey of the major classic and contemporary theories and research in social psychology. One definition of social psychology is that it represents "an attempt to understand and explain how the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others" (Allport, 1985). Defined more broadly, social psychologists study social behavior (i.e., how individuals think of themselves and others, how they influence one another and how they relate to each other). Correlational and especially experimental studies are the means through which social psychologists learn about social behavior. Thus, you can expect much of the content of this course to concern research studies of social behavior.

The class meetings will consist of lectures, discussions, and demonstrations. The lectures basically will be coordinated with the reading assignments. The most important information for a given topic will be presented in lecture and/or the textbook. Therefore, both attending the lectures and keeping up on the reading assignments will be essential for adequate performance in the course.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes. More than two unexcused absences may result in the student being dropped from the class.

PREREQUISITE

Students must have completed Psychology 103 (Introduction to Psychological Science).

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE

Exams: Five exams will be given over the course of the semester. Each exam will include objective and/or essay questions. The exam questions will be based on material covered both in reading assignments and in lectures. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

Make-up Examinations: If you know that you are going to miss an exam, you must contact the instructor to make arrangements to take the exam **before** the scheduled time of the exam. If you miss an exam due to other reasons such as illness, you must deliver to the instructor a written medical excuse signed by a physician on official stationary. **Only students who miss an exam and have excusable reasons that can be documented (e.g., a doctor's official stationary) will be allowed to take an alternative version of the exam (of equal length and difficulty to the regularly scheduled exam).**

Written Papers: You will write one paper for this course on a topic that you select from the list below. You will choose a topic from the list and then **access and copy three (3) research articles** from peer-reviewed journals, related to your topic and published since 2003. Each article must have a Method section, a Participants/Subjects section, and a Results section. You will read the articles and write a paper based on what you have read. **Articles not of a social psychological nature are not acceptable.**

Within your paper you are to first define the topic or phenomenon you have chosen. Additionally, you will provide a clear representation of the problem (s) investigated, the hypothesis/hypotheses tested, the characteristics of the sample (s), the method (s) of data collection, a clear representation of the results and a clear representation/explanation of your thoughts about the results and the article. The above should be completed separately for each article.

Your paper will be worth a maximum of 100 points. Well-written and informative papers will be given a score of 90-100. Papers that are very good, according to the criteria just listed, will be given a score of 80-89. Satisfactory papers will be given a score of 70-79, papers that leave quite a bit to be desired will be given a score of 60-69, and unsatisfactory papers will be given a score of 59 or less. **Any evidence of plagiarism will result in zero credit for the assignment.**

The paper assignment is being used in this course for three significant reasons. First, it will provide students with practice at academic writing. Second, it also will provide an opportunity for students to read more in depth about a topic of their interest. Finally, the thought and effort required for completion of the paper will help students better learn, understand, and appreciate the applicability of topics covered in the course. **The due date for the paper is March 26th. Papers will be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted and the student will earn zero credit for the assignment.**

In the case of an excused absence that is unanticipated (e.g., sudden, extreme illness), the instructor will determine the time and day that the work must be completed. **In all cases of excused absences that are planned (e.g., college sponsored trips), assignments must be turned in prior to the absence.**

TOPICS FOR PSYCHOLOGY 223 PAPER

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Locus of Control | 8. Persuasion | 15. Conformity |
| 2. Learned Helplessness | 9. Self-handicapping | 16. Frustration |
| 3. Altruism/Helping Behavior | 10. Self-fulfilling Prophecy | 17. Stereotype Threat |
| 4. Fundamental Attribution Error | 11. Eyewitness Testimony | 18. The Just World Phenomenon |
| 5. Aggression in Humans | 12. Racism | 19. Self-Esteem |
| 6. Cognitive Dissonance | 13. Sexism | 20. Bystander Effect/Apathy |
| 7. Obedience | 14. Stereotypes | 21. Self-Concept |

GRADING

Students may earn up to 600 regular points.

Exam I	-	100 points
Exam II	-	100 points
Exam III	-	100 points
Exam IV	-	100 points
Final Exam	-	100 points
Written Paper	-	100 points

Final grades for the course

A	=	93 – 100	4.0
A-	=	90 – 92	3.7
B+	=	87 – 89	3.3
B	=	83 – 86	3.0
B-	=	80 – 82	2.7
C+	=	77 – 79	2.3
C	=	73 – 76	2.0
C-	=	70 – 72	1.7
D+	=	67 – 69	1.3
D	=	63 – 66	1.0
D-	=	60 – 62	0.7
F	=	59 or less	0.0

If there is a student in this class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through SNAP Services, please feel free to come and discuss this with me during my office hours.

General Internet Resources for Social Psychology

www.socialpsychology.org/

- The Social Psychology Network, maintained by Scott Pious at Wesleyan University provides an updated database with links to more than 5,000 Internet resources on social psychology including information on social psychology doctoral programs, journals, online surveys, psychology organizations, and sources for research funding.

www.wesleyan.edu/spn/expts.htm

- This site allows users to participate in current online social psychology experiments (e.g., interpersonal relations and social perception) being conducted around the world. This site provides a great opportunity for students to learn about and take part in social psychology research.

www.gasou.edu/psychweb/resource/bytopic.htm#io

- This site maintains lists of articles related to psychology, psychology departments on the web, psychology journals on the web, and other megalists of psychology resources.

www.apa.org/students/brochure

- This site, maintained by APA, discusses career options in psychology and provides suggestions for high school, college and graduate students on preparing for a psychology career.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to modification)

WEEK OF	TOPIC	CHAPTER
January 7	Introducing Social Psychology	Chapter 1
January 14	The Self in a Social World	Chapter 2
January 21	Social Beliefs and Judgments	Chapter 3
January 28	EXAM I: Chapters 1, 2, and 3 Behavior and Attitudes	Chapter 4
February 4	Behavior and Attitudes Conformity	Chapter 4 Chapter 6
February 11	Conformity Persuasion	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
February 18	Persuasion EXAM II: Chapters 4, 6, and 7	Chapter 7
February 25	Group Influence	Chapter 8
March 4	SPRING BREAK: NO CLASSES	
March 11	Group Influence Prejudice: Disliking Others	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
March 18	Aggression: Hurting Others EXAM III: Chapters 8, 9, and 10	Chapter 10
March 25	Attraction and Intimacy: Liking and Loving Others	Chapter 11
****<u>Paper Due Date: March 26, 2013 at the start of class</u>		
April 1	Helping	Chapter 12
April 8	Helping Social Psychology in Court	Chapter 12 Chapter 15
April 15	EXAM IV: Chapters 11, 12, and 15	
April 22	REVIEW	

LAST DAY OF FALL CLASSES: Wednesday, April 24th
FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 2nd, 8:00 – 11:00