

Social Psychology
PSY 3023
Fall 2005

Professor: Joan C. Mulligan, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 3:30-4:30 or by appointment.

Class Meetings: Tuesday and Friday 2:00-3:15 in Ackley 336

Prerequisites: Two 2000 level electives within the department or permission of instructor.

Required Readings: Available in the campus store

Elliot Aronson, The Social Animal, 9th edition

Elliot Aronson, Readings About the Social Animal, 9th edition

Rosnow and Rosnow, Writing Papers in Psychology, 7th edition

Additional readings will be placed on reserve and in the course folder on line. A list of readings and a course schedule will be provided.

Goals and Objectives: Social Psychology provides students with an opportunity to examine issues related to groups, the aspects of social life that influence them and the influence of groups on individuals. In the broadest sense, social psychology studies the cognitive, emotional and behavioral aspect of normal human existence. Almost any activity or aspect of human life is fodder for the research of the social psychologist. This course provides an opportunity to become more aware of social influences thereby providing them with tools to improve their own lives and the lives of others.

- ❑ Students will have the opportunity to review research methods and practices in psychology.
- ❑ Students will have the opportunity to develop a research proposal, proceed through the IRB process and conduct a professional pilot study on a topic of their choice in the field of Social Psychology.
- ❑ Students will have the opportunity to review current research in the field and to offer a professional presentation on a topic of their choice.
- ❑ Students will have the opportunity to discuss, critique and design research projects.
- ❑ Students will have the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge of the field of Social Psychology and to apply their learning to real life situations.

Course Description: An examination of individual and group responses to social influence. Emphasis is on major theories, research methods, and current research topics in social psychology.

Course Organization: This course will consist in required and suggested readings, discussions, lectures, individual and group projects with the emphasis on the **active**

participation of each individual in the class. Students will have many opportunities to write and to discuss the issues raised in the readings. Presentations of reviews of articles in peer reviewed psychological journals will also be an important part of this class.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to come on time and prepared, having fulfilled the assignments for that class. Lateness is rude and is a distraction for everyone in the class. While there is no automatic grade penalty for missing class, attendance is taken and there are penalties. The penalties are: you will probably have a very difficult time keeping up with the course material; you will miss out on the contributions of your colleagues; your colleagues will miss out on your contributions; you will miss out on material that is not included in the readings. In this class we are colleagues engaged in the exciting enterprise of learning. Let us proceed with enthusiasm, élan and a passion for learning.

All assignments are due in class on the date agreed upon. **No late papers or assignments will be accepted.**

Students will complete a pilot study in an area of social psychology of interest to them and approved by the instructor. This will be a major part of your work in this class this semester. Deadlines for topics, proposals, drafts, etc. will be forthcoming.

Each student will present a review of a current article in a peer reviewed psychological journal. Articles must be preapproved. Presentations are meant to be of professional caliber including preparation, presentation of self and material and benefit to the audience.

Exams: Mid Term on October 14th
Exam on November 15th
Final Exam on Monday December 12th (1 p.m.)

In class quizzes or responses may be given at any time. **There will be no make up tests.**

Research Project: Students will be expected to conduct a pilot research study on a social psychological topic of interest to them. A separate document will provide a schedule for proposals, progress reports, first and final drafts. You will also receive a handout on the format required for the final paper and for each step along the way. Students are encouraged to assist each other and give each other feedback on the research they are conducting. However, there may be no overlap on topics which must be approved by the instructor. It is strongly suggested that you meet regularly with the instructor as you make progress with your research.

Plagiarism: includes submitting written material without proper acknowledgment of the source, deliberate attribution or citation of a fictitious source, or submitting data which have been willfully altered or contrived. **Do not use quotes, unless you absolutely cannot say it better in your own words.** (Example: "To be or not to be.")

Grades: Mid term and final grades will be based on an evaluation of your participation in the course as evidenced in class, in written and oral assignments and in exams. Written feedback will be given for all written and oral work where feasible. Be sure to maintain a folder for all assignments throughout the semester so that you can see your progress or raise questions on issues that arise. This will prove helpful in preparing for exams and in assessing your progress. All written assignments must be typed. Be sure to get your own disk and back up all your files. **This syllabus may be adjusted at the discretion of the instructor.**

I have read and understood the above and am committed to the guidelines of this course as presented.

(Signed) _____

Date: _____

Student's copy

I have read and understood the above and am committed to the guidelines of this course as presented.

(Signed) _____

Date _____

Instructor's copy