

Psychology 231 – Social Psychology FALL 2006

Section 1: M, 4:30 – 7:10 p.m. (Innovation 204)
Section 2: MWF, 1:30 – 2:20 p.m. (Robinson B 113)

Instructor: Alicia Stachowski
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Office: Robinson B, 215 C (walk through door 213)
Mailbox: David King mailboxes
Office hours: Monday 2:30 to 4:30, or by appointment
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Required Textbook: *Social Psychology*. Baron, Byrne, & Branscombe. 11th Edition.

Course Overview:

Social Psychology is an interesting topic, and so the class should be interesting, fun, and informative at the same time. Classes will involve lectures, and group/class activities. In order to facilitate these lectures/activities, you will need to be prepared for class; there are reading assignments that are generally outlined in the following course schedule. Readings listed for each week should be read *before* class.

Week	Dates	Topic	Chapter(s)	Due Dates
1	Aug 28th-Sept 1st	Introductions & Chapter 1	1	
2	<i>Sept 4th note:</i>	<i>Labor Day – No Class</i>	-----	
2	Sept 4 th -9th	The field of Social Psych, Introduce Ch. 2	1/2	
3	Sept 11 th – 15 th	Thinking about the Social World	2	Last day to add 9/12
4	Sept 18 th -22nd	Social Perception: Perceiving & Understanding Others	3	
5	Sept 25th	EXAM 1 (chapters 1-3)	-----	EXAM 1
5	Sept 25 th -29th	Attitudes: Evaluating the Social World	4	Last drop date 9/29
6	Oct 2 nd – 6th	More on Attitudes, The Self: Who Am I?	4/5	
	<i>Oct 9th note:</i>	<i>Monday classes MEET on Tuesday, Tuesday classes DO NOT meet</i>	-----	
7	Oct 9 th -13th	Prejudice: Causes, Effects, and Cures, Introduce Ch. 7	6/7	Journal Set One (10/13) *in my mailbox by 2:00!
8	Oct 16 th -20th	Interpersonal Attraction: Meeting, Liking, & Becoming Acquainted	7	
9	Oct 23rd	EXAM 2 (chapters 4-7)	-----	EXAM 2
9	Oct 23 rd -27th	Close Relationships	8	
10	Oct 30 th -Nov 3 rd	Social Influence: Changing Others' Behav.	9	
11	Nov 6 th -10 th	More on Influence, Prosocial Behavior	9/10	
12	Nov 13th	EXAM 3 (chapters 8-10)	-----	EXAM 3
12	Nov 13 th – 17 th	Aggression: Nature, Causes, & Control	11	
13	<i>Nov 20th</i>	<i>No Class Monday 20th</i>	-----	
	<i>Nov 22nd – 26th</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</i>	-----	
14	Nov 27 th –Dec 1 st	More on Aggression, Introduce Ch. 12	11/12	Journal Set Two (12/1) *in my mailbox by 2:00!
15	Dec 4 th – 8 th	Groups & Individuals: Consequences of Belonging	12	
Finals Week	Section 1: 12/18 Section 2: 12/13	FINAL EXAM (note the date/time for your section!)		Section 1: 12/18, 4:30 – 7:15 Section 2: 12/13, 1:30 – 4:15

Course Objective:

After taking this class...you will not be able to analyze your friends or family members to “figure them out.” However, you will be able to recognize things about yourself: how you think and respond to situations, attributions you may make about others, and how your communication style may influence how others respond to you. You will find that you can easily identify many of the concepts we discuss in class in your own life – this should increase your understanding (and even your interest/appreciation!) for the material we discuss.

Grades:

There are a total of 200 possible points. Here’s how those points break down:

- Four exams worth 50 points each (150 pts of the total)
 - There will be four exams (three plus the final), students may *drop their lowest score*.
 - This exam policy allows you to miss/bomb one exam, but note that there are **NO** make-up exams. Please note exam dates on the above course schedule.
 - Exams 1 -3 are not cumulative. The final exam will focus on the new material covered since exam 3, but will also include questions covering material learned earlier in the semester.
 - Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.
 - Remember to bring a scantron.

- Ten Journals worth 5 points each (10 x 5 = 50 of total grade). These are due in sets on the dates specified above.
 - Late papers will not be accepted.
 - These journals will be short (2 to 3 pages each) and should be your reflection of the course material. It can be your reaction to something we have discussed in class that surprised you. It can be your integration of the material and a movie or TV show you have seen in which you recognized a social psychology concept. Or, it can be your reaction/thoughts on an event in your own life in which you realized that something we have discussed in class was relevant or helpful. Each journal should focus on the material covered in the current chapter.
 - You need to turn in 10 journals; however, you may choose any ten (of 12) chapters.
 - Journals will be evaluated on: clarity, the extent to which you demonstrate understanding of the concept you are discussing, the extent to which the story/experience you are describing is related the concept, and the extent to which you have integrated your own thoughts and ideas. I will not accept unstapled submissions, nor will I accept electronic submissions.

- The final grades will be based on the following scale:
 - A) 90% – 100%
 - B) 80% – 89%
 - C) 70% – 79%
 - D) 60% – 69%

- Extra Credit Opportunities: Students may earn up to 5 points of extra credit by serving as participants in research studies in the Psychology Department. One point will be awarded for each hour of participation. Please sign up by using the Experimentrix Web site.

Honor Code:

The University has set out a clear Honor Code – you can read it below. The bottom line is: do not cheat, do not plagiarize, do not lie to me, and do not steal. If you have questions about any of this, please ask me.

The Honor Code of George Mason University shall deal specifically with

- A. Cheating and attempted cheating
- B. Plagiarism
- C. Lying
- D. Stealing

A. Cheating encompasses the following:

1. The willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students. The above may be accomplished by any means whatsoever, including, but not limited to, the following: fraud, duress, deception, theft, trick, talking, signs, gestures, copying from another student, and the unauthorized use of study aids, memoranda, books, data or other information.
2. Attempted Cheating.

B. Plagiarism encompasses the following:

1. Presenting as one's own the works, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgement.
2. Borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement.

C. Lying encompasses the following:

The willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Lying to administration and faculty members.
2. Falsifying any University documents by mutilation, addition, or deletion.
3. Lying to Honor Committee Members and counsels during investigation and hearing. This may constitute a second charge, with the Committee members who acted as judges during that specific hearing acting as accusers.

D. Stealing encompasses the following:

Taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the George Mason University community or any property located on the University campus. This section is relevant only to academic work and related materials.

Disability/Assistance:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Add and drop deadlines:

Last day to add - September 12th

Last day to drop - September 29th

*Syllabus subject to change.