

**Psychology 231**  
**Social Psychology**  
**Fall 2006**

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**Class Meetings:** Tuesday & Thursday 10:30-11:45  
**Room:** Enterprise Hall 276

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**Required Textbook:** *Social Psychology*. Baron, Byrne, & Branscombe. 11<sup>th</sup> 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, discussions, and group/class activities. In order to facilitate these lectures/discussions you will need to be prepared for class; there are reading assignments that are generally outlined in the following course schedule.

Date	Topic	Chapter	Work Due
Week 1 (Aug 28)	▪ Introduction		
	▪ What is Social Psychology? ▪ Basic research methods.	1	
Week 2 (Sept 8)	▪ Are we lazy thinkers?	2	
	▪ Why we mess up ... a lot.	2	
Week 3 (Sept 11)	▪ Nonverbal communication	3	
	▪ Making a "good" first impression.	3	Last day to add – Sept 12th
Week 4 (Sept 18)	▪ Linking our attitudes and behaviors.	4	
	▪ Cognitive dissonance and other theories.	4	
Week 5 (Sept 25)		Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	Exam One
	▪ Getting to know ourselves.	5	Last day to drop – Sept 29 <sup>th</sup>
Week 6 (Oct 2)	▪ The role of gender in our social lives.	5	
	▪ Where does prejudice come from?	6	List of four group presentation ideas.
Week 7 <sup>th</sup> (Oct 9)	▪ How to counter the effects of prejudice.	6	
Week 8 (Oct 16)	▪ Attraction and meeting new people.	7	Group Presentations (Oct 17th)
	▪ Do birds of a feather flock together ...or do opposites attract?		
Week 9 (Oct 23)		Oct 24th	Exam Two
	▪ Dating relationships, marriage, and sex. ▪ Family and other close relationships.	8	
Week 10 (Oct 30)	▪ Why do we conform?	9	
	▪ How can we get others to comply with	9	

	what we want?		
Week 11 (Nov 6)	▪ Why do we help?	10	
	▪ Who do we help?	10	
Week 12 (Nov 13)	▪ What causes us to act aggressively?	11	
	▪	Nov. 16th	Exam Three
Week 13 (Nov 20)	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>		
Week 14 (Nov 27)	▪ Why we form groups.	12	
	▪ How do groups work together to make decisions?	12	▪ Group Presentations (Nov 30)
Week 15 (Dec 4)	▪ Overview/Wrap-up/Big Picture/Review for Final Exam		Journals Due (Dec 14th)
	▪		
Final Exam:			
	Thurs. 12/14	10:30 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.	

### **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.

### **Your Grade:**

There are a total of 240 possible points. Here’s how those points break down:

- Three exams worth 50 points each.
  - 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 be composed of multiple-choice questions.
  
- Over the course of the semester you should keep a journal about the material we have covered. I expect ten journal entries worth 6 points each (10 x 6 = 60). Due on the date specified above.
  - Papers are due at the beginning of class on the dates specified in the above course schedule. Late journals will not be accepted.
  - These entries should be short (2 -4 pages each) and should discuss your thoughts about the material. It can be your reaction to something we have discussed in class that surprised you. It can be your reaction to a movie or TV show you have seen in which you recognized a social psychology concept. Or, it can be your reaction to an event in your own life in which you realized that something we have discussed in class was relevant or helpful.
  - The purpose for the journal is to make sure that the course material is properly understood and can be applied to real world events.

- Journals will be evaluated on: spelling, grammar, clarity, extent to which you demonstrate understanding of the concept you are discussing, extent to which the story/experience you are describing is related to the concept, and the extent to which you have integrated your own thoughts and ideas.
- Electronic submissions will not be accepted.
- Two group presentations worth 15 points each.
  - You will work in small groups to come up with a fun way to demonstrate (act out) a concept or experiment we have discussed in class. These should be fun/in-formal presentations.
  - Group presentations will be evaluated on: enthusiasm, extent to which all group members are actively participating, extent to which you demonstrate understanding of the concept/experiment, and your ability to answer questions about the concept/experiment.
- 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 15 extra credit points to be added to any test score, writing assignment grade, or group presentation grade. During the semester, I may give extra credit assignments and/or ask extra-credit questions. I recommend keeping computerized copies of your notes for this purpose. Questions will pertain to what we discussed in the last class meeting or the material students should have read for the current class meeting. Students can earn between ½ (for being present) and 1 (for answering correctly) point.

### **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.**