

Psyc 231 Social Psychology
Fall 2006
Thursday 7:20 – 10:00

Instructor: Sarah Caverly, Ph.D.
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:45-9:45
Thursday 6:00pm to 7:00pm or by appointment
Office Location: David King Hall rm. 1024
Office phone number: (703) 821-6185
Email: scaverly@gmu.edu or scaverly@yahoo.com

Course Description: This course will examine the influences of social factors on individual and interpersonal behaviors. Topics covered include conformity, attitude change, person perception, interpersonal attraction, prejudice, aggression, prosocial behavior, and group behavior.

Course Objectives:

1. To develop a scientific view of social behavior.
2. To gain working knowledge of terms and concepts used in social psychology.
3. To identify and appraise the theoretical, methodological, and ethical controversies of social psychology that have stimulated intellectual debates and empirical research.
4. To learn to apply social psychology to everyday life.

Required Readings:

Baron, Byrne, & Branscombe (2006). Social Psychology, 11/E. Allyn & Bacon, New York, NY.

Technology: Students will be expected to have activated their GMU email account by the first week of class. I will use this account to contact you periodically during the course of the semester, so you are encouraged to check this account frequently, or have your mail forwarded to an account that you do use regularly. WEBCT will not be used for this course. Student will also be required to use the internet for research purposes on select homework assignments, as well as their 'lot in life' paper project. Internet access is available on campus at the various computer labs.

Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance and class participation:** In this course active discussion and contributions from each member of the class is expected. Regular attendance will be necessary for you to fully understand the material.
1. **Exams:** There will be 4 exams over the course of the semester, with the option to drop the lowest score. The exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, essay and true/false items. The final exam will be a cumulative exam. Make-up exams will not be offered; instead students will be required to use that as their exam score that is dropped. Students will need to bring scan-tron sheets, lined paper, #2 pencils, and an eraser to all exams.

2. **Projects:** In addition to the exams, there will be homework assignments, and short in-class assignments that may not be announced. All of these assignments will be worth between 5 to 15 points each. If you must miss class, you may submit the homework via e-mail before class. For the in-class assignments you must be in-class to participate or no points will be received. Some of the projects may require internet access to complete.

3. **Research Paper:** Student will be required to write a research review paper on a topic within Social Psychology of their choice. The paper should contain a review of the research available, as well as a section concerning what information is missing from the current research and new areas of research that are possible. The paper will be broken down into four phases, selecting a topic, a brief abstract/summary of the topic, a reference list, and the final paper. Refer to the course outline for dates. It is expected that students will perform topic searches using the library databases and the internet in order to obtain current research. Paper guidelines will be presented in detail.

Grading procedures:

Exams (100 points each)	300 pts.
In-Class projects	150 pts.
Research paper	225 pts (total)
A = 628 – 675	C+ = 526 - 539
A- = 627 – 607	C = 492 - 525
B+ = 587 - 606	C- = 472 - 491
B = 560 – 586	D = 405 - 471
B- = 540 – 559	F = 404 and below

Extra credit:

- a. Option 1: You may participate in psychology research projects for up to 5 Hours of extra credit. Each hour will be worth 2 pts. I will need to be notified by the researcher at the end of the semester of your participation and you will need to write one short paragraph about each project and turn it in to me, no later than May 5, 2005. The paragraph needs to identify the study, and comment on the mechanics of the study – clear instructions? Demand characteristics a problem? Etc.
 - i. To sign up for an experiment, you must follow the following instructions:
 1. log on to www.experimetrix.com/gmu and click on new user link
 2. enter all the required information
 3. don't include dashes in your SSN
 4. use your GMU e-mail account (your password will be sent to this account). If you do not know your GMU e-mail account, log on to <http://www.gmu.edu/mlnavbar/finder/index.html> and enter your last name to find your GMU e-mail account
 5. click on register
 - ii. Your login and password will be sent to your GMU e-mail account. You will need to log on to the site to activate your account within 3

days or else you will need to re-register. Click 'log in' to access your account. You will need to select your course by clicking on the 'Edit your course Selection link' (Psyc 313 004). You can also edit your information (change your password, add an additional e-mail account, ect.).

- b. Option II: You may sign up to participate in the psychology research lectures that are offered if you are not interested in participating in research. You will need to write one short paragraph about each lecture, and turn it in to me, no later than May 5, 2005. The paragraph needs to identify the purpose of the lecture, and comment on the contents. Follow the same steps as above to sign up for a lecture.

Honor Code:

The Honor Code will be strictly enforced. "Cheating encompasses the following: 1) the willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students; 2) 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; 3) attempted cheating. 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. 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." See the University handbook for further information regarding cheating and plagiarism. (<http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/>)

Disabilities:

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.

Last Day to Add Classes – Sept. 12

Last Day to Drop Classes – Sept. 29

Tentative Course Outline		
Date	Topic	Reading
Aug. 31	The Field of Social Psychology	Chap 1
Sept. 7	Social Perception	Chap 2
Sept. 14	Social Cognition	Chap 3
Sept. 21	Attitudes Paper Topic Due (25 points)	Chap 4
Sept. 28	Exam 1	Chap 1-4
Oct. 5	Social Identity	Chap 5
Oct. 12	Prejudice Abstract for Research Paper Due (50 Points)	Chap 6
Oct. 19	Interpersonal Relationships	Chap 7
Oct. 26	Close Relationships	Chap 8
Nov. 2	Exam 2	Chap 5-8
Nov. 9	Social Influence 5 Empirical Article References Due (50 Points)	Chap 9
Nov. 16	Prosocial Behavior & Aggression	Chap 10 & 11
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
Nov. 30	Groups and Individuals Final Draft of Research Paper Due (100 Points)	Chap 12
Dec. 7	Exam 3	Chap 9-12
Dec. 14	Final Exam	Comprehensive