

# SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology 240/ Sociology 240

FALL QUARTER, 2008

**INSTRUCTOR:** Julia Wales

**MAILBOX:** D200F

**OFFICE HOURS:** M – Th 12:30 or by appointment

**EMAIL:** jwales@bellevuecollege.edu

**TEXT:** Myers, D. G. (2005). Social Psychology (Ninth Edition). New York: McGraw-Hill.

## REQUIREMENTS:

**EXAMS:** There will be three unit exams worth 100 points each. Exams will cover the reading, lectures, videos, and demonstrations. Exams will consist of 40 objective (multiple choice) questions and an essay section; students will need to bring #2 pencils and scantron sheets available for sale at the bookstore. Students are expected to take the exams as scheduled; in the event of a legitimate problem, a make-up exam may be scheduled once during the quarter. There will be no comprehensive final exam.

## STUDY GUIDES

You will be given a study guide before each Exam. The study guides will consist of a comprehensive set of questions pertaining to the upcoming Exam. In addition to being a study aid, study guides are also assignments and are due on the day of the exam. They are worth 50 points each, and I encourage you not just to complete them, but to USE them to study. I have several suggestions on how to use the study guide as a tool to study for exams – please come talk to me about this if you need any ideas. Also, the study guide is your grade insurance. If you are unhappy with your grade on any exam, you may make an appointment with me to take an oral exam. To take the oral exam, bring your study guide to my office. I will take it from you and ask you any questions that I choose from the study guide. If you answer every question correctly, I will change your grade to a 90%. This is an all or nothing option – you cannot get any answers wrong. Also, YOU MUST TURN IN YOUR STUDY GUIDE ON THE DAY OF THE EXAM or you cannot take an oral exam.

## PARTICIPATION

Participation points will be given for being involved in class discussions, demonstrations, and for in class and out of class assignments.

### **GRADING SYSTEM:**

	<u>Points</u>
Participation/Assignments	100
Exams (3 @ 100)	300
Study Guides (3 @ 50 points each)	150
Total Possible Points	550

### **FINAL GRADE ASSIGNMENT**

Final grades will be determined based on point totals. You can calculate your grades using the following percentages. For example  $465/550 = 84\%$  which would be a grade of B.

A	94-100%	B-	80-83%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-93%	C+	77-79%	D	64-66%
B+	87-89%	C	74-76%	D-	60-63%
B	84-86%	C-	70-73%	F	0-50%

Students with special learning needs should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course surveys the field of social psychology, the scientific study of how people think about, influence, and relate to one another. Emphasis will be on the interaction of the social environment with intrapsychic processes as determinants of attitudes, perception, personality, and behavior. Upon completion of the course, students will be better able to:

1. Identify and critique the research methods social psychologists use.
2. Explain how social cognition influences beliefs, perceptions, explanations, and attitudes.
3. Describe psychological and social influences on the following attitudes and behaviors:
  - a. Conformity and obedience
  - b. Group behavior
  - c. Prejudice
  - d. Aggression
  - e. Attraction
  - f. Altruism
  - g. Conflict and peacemaking
4. Apply research findings in social psychology to public forums, including mental health, the court system, and consumerism.
5. Identify and apply the principles of social psychology to one's own life
6. Design simple psychological research projects involving data collection and write-ups

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In addition to lectures, class time will be largely devoted to discussions, demonstrations, experiments, films, and exams. Students are expected to cover assigned reading on their own.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

Exam 1  
Jan 29  
Chapters 1 - 4

Exam 2  
February 26  
Chapters 5 - 8

Exam 3  
March 23  
Chapters 9 - 13

No classes will meet on campus on the following dates:

January 18 holiday  
February 2 professional development day  
February 15 holiday  
March 4 college issues day

This class will not meet on January 8, or January 11. You will be given an assignment to earn participation points for those days.