

PSYC 240: Social Psychology

Bellevue College
Spring 2015



Contact Information

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Required Course Materials

Course website: Canvas <http://bc.instructure.com>

App: TopHat <https://app.tophat.com/register/student/>

Lecture & seminar books:

Aronson, *The Social Animal*, 11th edition

Tavris & Aronson, *Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me)*

Class meetings: M-Th 11:30-12:20, L221

Office hours: M-Th 12:30-1:00, D100A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

You're about to learn *a lot* about why people do the things they do. This class examines the actions of individuals in a social context. We'll cover a variety of social contexts, including how the actual or imagined presence of others influences our thoughts (e.g., attribution, heuristics), feelings (e.g., ingroup biases, prejudice, attraction), and behavior (e.g., conformity, aggression, persuasion, bystander intervention). This syllabus is your guide to the class. If you have questions, read the syllabus before asking me.

EXPECTATIONS

My Role as Instructor

I will do my best to make class time interesting, engaging, and enjoyable for everyone. I will use on a variety of methods to promote learning, including videos, discussions, and activities. I will create and enforce a learning atmosphere that is safe, comfortable, and respectful for everyone. I will communicate my expectations clearly and hold all learners to equitable standards. I will welcome questions, comments, and suggestions, and I will adapt to individual needs whenever possible. I may modify this syllabus as needed to accommodate your learning. I am here to guide you in exploring this fascinating material – please see me as a resource!

Your Role as Learner

Take active responsibility for your education. This means that you *read* the book before class, *think* about what you read, and come prepared to *discuss* the ideas in class. Challenge assumptions: ask “why?” or “how do we know?” Come to office hours and debate ideas with me. Consider the implications and applications of course material. Share the ideas you learn, or the thoughts they inspire, with other people. Get to know your classmates, and discuss the ideas in this class with them over coffee. Write down your thoughts privately, and reflect on them later. Thinking deeply about the course material will be worth your time (really!).

This is a fast-paced class in which you will be given a good deal of independence. Consequently, you will need to be responsible for managing your time appropriately, and to contact me in a timely manner if any circumstances arise that interfere with your ability to participate fully in class.

CLASS POLICIES

Hybrid Structure

This is a hybrid class with in-class, online, and experiential components. Hybrid classes combine traditional classroom interaction with online resources and real-world experiences. To succeed in this class, you must regularly use a computer with Internet access. An [open computer lab](#) is available in N250.

Reading

You will need to complete the assigned lecture reading by the start of the week and the assigned seminar reading before each Thursday's seminar. **Reading is an active process** that should include note-taking, in-text annotations, and questions/comments/applications as you go. Bring reading notes, questions, and comments with you on every lecture day. Copies of both books are on reserve in the Library, or you may purchase personal copies of the books.

Attendance

If you miss any class session, consult the schedule to see what topics were covered. You are responsible for obtaining notes and information on any in-class announcements from peers. Do not contact me to ask what you missed. If you have questions concerning the missed class that you are unable to answer yourself after reviewing a classmate's notes, please see me during office hours for clarification.

Punctuality

Please be on time for class. Arriving late breaks the flow of the class and causes a distraction.

If you *must* occasionally arrive late, do not disrupt class by walking through the middle of the room to wherever you "usually" sit. Take a seat near the door. If you need to leave before class is over, you should also sit near the door. Also, please wait until class ends to pack your things. I will always end class on time. Packing early is distracting to everyone and may result in your missing important information.

Classroom Atmosphere

Food and drink are fine in the class (especially if you share!) – just be respectful and clean up after yourself. Keep your phone silenced and out of reach during class (except to log your attendance). Research has shown that typing notes results in *worse* learning of the material compared to writing them, and laptops/tablets can be a powerful source of distraction and temptation to multitask, so I encourage you *not* to use them in class unless absolutely necessary.

Guidelines for Discussion

- When the class is engaged in lecture and whole-class discussion, please raise your hand to contribute your opinion. Side comments are distracting. If you feel tempted to whisper comments to a classmate, either contribute to the whole-class discussion instead or write your comments to share privately later.
- If you contribute frequently, I may call on other people instead to get a variety of perspectives.
- In an academic setting, everyone has the right to express different views in a respectful atmosphere. Please be considerate of your classmates.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Weekly Structure (Overview)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
In Class	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Seminar	
In Your Life					Activity: every other week
Online	Quiz		Activity Paper (AP): every other week	Reading Summary (RS)	

COURSE SCHEDULE: Topics, Reading, & Assignment Due Dates

Week (Dates)	Mon-Wed: Lecture		Thu: Seminar	Fri: Real World Activity	Assignments Due on Canvas by 11:30am*
	Topic	Reading	Reading		
1 (4/6-10)	Welcome & Introduction What is Social Psychology?	Syllabus Aronson, ch 1 (<i>optional</i> : ch 9)	(No reading)	Day of Self- Fulfilling Prophecies	Quiz: 4/10
2 (4/13-17)	Social Cognition	Aronson, ch 4	Tavris & Aronson, intro and ch 1		Quiz: 4/13 AP: 4/15 RS: 4/16
3 (4/20-24)	Social Cognition	Aronson, ch 4	Tavris & Aronson, ch 2	Day of Nonconformity	RS: 4/23
4 (4/27-5/1)	Conformity	Aronson, ch 2	Tavris & Aronson, ch 3		Quiz: 4/27 AP: 4/29 RS: 4/30
5 (5/4-5/8)	Mass Communication, Propaganda, and Persuasion	Aronson, ch 3	Tavris & Aronson, ch 4	Day of Nonviolence	Quiz: 5/4 RS: 5/7
6 (5/11-15)	Aggression	Aronson, ch 6	Tavris & Aronson, ch 5		Quiz: 5/11 AP: 5/13 RS: 5/14
7 (5/18-22)	Prejudice	Aronson, ch 7	Tavris & Aronson, ch 6	Day of Social Justice	Quiz: 5/18 RS: 5/21
8 (5/25-29)	Prejudice (Mon: No Class)	Aronson, ch 7	Tavris & Aronson, ch 7		AP: 5/27 RS: 5/28
9 (6/1-5)	Liking, Loving, and Interpersonal Sensitivity	Aronson, ch 8	Tavris & Aronson, ch 8	Day of Compassion	Quiz: 6/1 RS: 6/4
10 (6/8-12)	Leading a Happy and Meaningful Life	See Canvas	See Canvas		AP: 6/10 Quiz: 6/12
11 (6/15-19)	Conclusions (Mon & Tue)	(No reading)			Personal Mission Statement: 6/15
	Finals Week: No Class Wed-Fri				

*AP = activity paper, RS = reading summary

GRADING

Grading Category	Points Each	Total Points	Category Points
Reading Quizzes (Aronson) [8]	20	160	160
Attendance & Contribution			70
• Attendance [41 days]	1	40	
• Contribution to class atmosphere		30	
Activities			120
• Participation & papers [5]	20	100	
• Personal mission statement [1]	20	20	
Seminars (Tavris & Aronson)			150
• Reading summaries [8]	10	80	
• Participation [6 days]	5	30	
• Facilitation [2 days]	20	40	
Total Points Possible			500

Reading Quizzes

Quizzes covering the textbook, Aronson's *The Social Animal*, will be due on [Canvas](#) by the beginning of class on the first class day that we start a new chapter. Two exceptions are the first quiz, which is due Friday of Week 1 (and also covers the syllabus), and the last quiz, which is due Friday of Week 10. You are welcome to take quizzes before the due date. Late quizzes are accepted with a penalty of five points per day.

Attendance & Contribution

[Top Hat](#) technology will be used to take **attendance** daily. The randomized attendance code will be available for the first two (2) minutes of class *only*. In addition, your **contribution to the class atmosphere** will be assessed at the end of the quarter by my judgment of how attentive you were in class, on average. This includes contributing to discussion, responding to questions in class, actively listening (i.e., appearing awake and focused), and avoiding distracting or disruptive activities.

Activities

Every other Friday, you will participate in an outside of class related to the lecture material. Activities will help you apply content from this class to improve yourself and your social world. You will try your best to behave in a particular way all day and carefully observe and analyze what happens during the experience. If outside events make it difficult for you to participate on the selected day, or if you feel dissatisfied with your performance on the assignment, feel free to repeat the exercise on a later day. A one-page **paper** related to each activity is due on [Canvas](#) by class time the following Wednesday. Materials may be submitted after this due date with a penalty of five points per day. If at any point you prefer not to complete an assignment (or if your attempt to complete it is unsuccessful), you can still receive full credit by submitting a one-page report discussing the barriers that prevented you from carrying out the assignment.

You will also submit a one-page **personal mission statement** at the end of the course describing how you will use your knowledge of social psychology to improve yourself as an individual and as a member of society. You will recite a portion of this mission statement to your classmates.

Seminars

You will be assigned to a seminar-style **discussion group** of approximately 10 people. Every Thursday, your group will discuss one chapter from Tavris & Aronson's *Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me)*. See the course schedule for reading assignments. While you are reading, I encourage you to annotate by taking notes, writing questions in the margins, underlining relevant passages, and so forth.

Each seminar day, you will submit a two-paragraph typed **summary** of the reading. The first paragraph should summarize the chapter and the second paragraph should include a minimum of two questions, connections, or real-world applications related to the reading. Please submit this summary on [Canvas](#) by class time and also bring a copy with you to class. Completing your summary after the seminar will not help you contribute to discussion, so *late summaries will not receive credit*.

During seminar, you will actively **participate** in the discussion, adding your questions and comments when appropriate and listening respectfully to your peers. (If you miss class, you cannot receive participation credit.)

In addition, you and a partner will be responsible for **facilitating the discussion** twice during the quarter. This will involve reading your chapter in advance, preparing a set of 4-6 open-ended questions for your group to discuss, keeping the group on topic during the discussion and encouraging thoughtful reflection, and making sure all group members have an equal chance to contribute. Success of the seminar series will depend on your thorough preparation for this role.

RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS

Worth Publishers Student Center

Your textbook publisher maintains a website of free and open resources for our book. You can access it [here](#).

Office Hours

Come to office hours with questions, comments, or topics for debate. I am also happy to talk about other [psychology](#)-related topics, such as getting involved in research or applying to graduate school. Office hours are a set time I have set aside specifically to talk with students. My door is open and I am *always* available during office hours – no appointment needed. Just stop by! See times and location listed at the top of this syllabus. We can correspond via email or on [Canvas](#) if those times don't fit your schedule.

Academic Success Center

Free drop-in [psychology tutoring](#) is available both in person and online through the Academic Success Center (D204). You may also seek support from the [Writing Lab](#) to improve the quality of your academic writing.

Counseling Center

You can make an appointment for [academic counseling](#) in the Student Success and Counseling Center (2nd floor B building) for help with study skills or test anxiety: 425-564-2212. The Counseling Center also provides free short-term counseling for a wide range of other issues, ranging from stress and depression to relationship problems to sexual assault and other forms of abuse.

Multicultural Services

MCS specializes in assisting students of color, LGBTQ students, and refugee and immigrant students, but all BC students are welcome to use MCS's services free of charge. MCS is really wonderful at helping all students feel comfortable and welcome at Bellevue College. MCS can help with a wide variety of personal and professional challenges, from figuring out how to pay for college and secure childcare for kids, to personal counseling and advising. Stop by their office in B233 or call them at (425) 564-2208.

TRiO Student Support Services

This department provides excellent academic support for students who have limited incomes, documented disabilities, or who are the first in their families to attend college. Students who join TRiO are given close and intensive academic advising, lessons in study skills, tutoring, and overall support not only as students but also as human beings. Learn more by stopping by B233 or visiting the [website](#).

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment, and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the DRC as soon as possible. The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call the reception desk at (425) 564-2498.

- Deaf students can reach the DRC by video phone at (425) 440-2025 or by TTY at (425) 564-4110.
- Please visit the [DRC website](#) for application information into the program and other helpful links.
- [Autism Spectrum Navigators](#) (ASN): if you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact asn@bellevuecollege.edu or (425) 564-2764. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125.
- If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please meet with me to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

Procedures and Guidelines of the Social Science Division

Please see [Canvas](#) for a full list of the procedures and guidelines of the [Social Science Division](#).

A Note on Multitasking

Research shows that when we do more than one thing at a time, we're not actually doing them simultaneously. Instead, we're shifting our attention from one thing to another. During that shift, we lose focus, and it takes effort to refocus on the new task. In fact, the more often we "multitask," the more distracted we are by irrelevant information, and the worse we are at concentrating. Avoid multitasking in class, and you'll learn more. Avoid multitasking when reading, and you'll read more efficiently.

FURTHER READING

Here are some additional psychology trade books you may enjoy. These books are all grounded in scientific research, and I recommend them as credible sources of information. If you've read another interesting, research-backed psychology book that is not on this list, feel free to let me know!

Social Psychology as a Science:

- Silver, *The Signal and The Noise*
- Wheelan, *Naked Statistics*

Social Cognition:

- Gladwell, *Blink* and *Tipping Point*
- Kahneman, *Thinking, Fast and Slow*
- Wilson, *Strangers to Ourselves*

Conformity and Obedience:

- Zimbardo, *The Lucifer Effect*

Persuasion:

- Cialdini, *Influence*

Stereotypes & Prejudice:

- Banaji, *Blindspot*
- Steele, *Whistling Vivaldi*

Love and Happiness:

- Fredrickson, *Love 2.0*
- Gilbert, *Stumbling on Happiness*