

Social Psychology

Psych and Soc 240
Winter, 2013

General Course Information

Instructor: Jillene G. Seiver, PhD

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Office hours: by appt

Text: *Social Psychology*, 12th edition, by Taylor, Peplau & Sears

http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_taylor_social_12

Class meets: Mon & Wed, 8:30-10:20 am, A138

Course Description

This course examines the actions of individuals and groups in a social context. Topics include the influence of social learning on attitudes, perception, and personality, persuasion, conflict, attraction, altruism, and aggression. Same as SOC 240. Either PSYCH 240 or SOC 240 may be taken for credit, not both. Prerequisite: PSYCH 100 or SOC 110 or permission of instructor.

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 is on the interaction of the social environment with intra-psychic processes as determinants of attitudes, perception, personality, and behavior. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and critique the research methods social psychologist 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, group influence, prejudice, aggression, attraction, & altruism
 - b) Apply research findings in social psychology to the mental health and court systems.
 - c) Design simple psychological research projects involving data collection and write-ups.

Course Requirements

Research reports

You will complete five research reports, chosen from the lists provided in the Canvas classroom. Select one topic from each topic list, complete the assignment, and submit your report to the Assignment tool by the due date indicated on the syllabus.

- Each report is worth 5% of your final grade.
- You will find that some topics require a very brief statement as a report, whereas others ask for longer descriptions of your thought processes or behaviors.
 - Fulfill the requirements of the topic that you've chosen.
 - Reports must exceed 150 words.
- It is OK to work with a classmate to find the information for the project that you choose, but you must each submit your own independent work.
- It is NOT acceptable to copy and paste material directly from a website; you must reword the website's information and give me the gist. Copying and pasting is a form of cheating.
- These assignments will be graded pass/fail, so if your assignment is complete, correct, and on time, you will receive full credit. If it is incomplete, incorrect, or late, you will receive no credit.

Midterms

There will be three midterms, administered on the dates indicated on the syllabus calendar. Each midterm will cover the material since the last midterm; they are not cumulative. The midterms will consist of 50 multiple choice items, drawn from material I covered in class AND that appears in the text. Each midterm will be worth 25% of your final grade.

Attendance

I expect that you will attend lectures. There is a great deal of information presented in the text, and the lectures will serve to narrow that information down. Also, there will be a large number of demonstrations, film clips, and participatory activities that will enhance your experience. Attendance will not be required, but it is encouraged.

Academic integrity

It is assumed that all students will maintain the highest academic integrity. Cheating of any sort, including copying on exams, falsifying records, plagiarism (e.g. copying and pasting from a website, collaborating on tests), etc. will not be tolerated, and suspected cheaters will be reported to the Dean of Academic Education.

Grade Distribution

A:	95-100%
A-:	90-94%
B+:	87-89%
B:	84-86%
B-:	80-83%
C+:	77-79%
C:	74-76%
C-:	70-73%
D+:	67-69%
D:	60-66%
F:	<=59%

Grade Breakdown

Reports:	5 @ 10 pts	= 50 pts
Midterms:	3 @ 50 pts	= 150 pts
Total:		200 pts

Incompletes and Hardship Withdrawals

These options are reserved for students who, through unforeseeable circumstances, cannot complete a course that they were passing. If you wish to request one of these grading options, the following criteria must be met:

- You are passing the class at the time of the request.
- You must make your request in writing, explaining the circumstances and including any documentation.
- In the case of an Incomplete, the circumstances must be acute. That is, they must be something that prevents completion of the course within the current quarter, but that would be resolved in time for the student to complete the course work within the next quarter.
- In the case of a Hardship Withdrawal, the circumstances must be ongoing, such that the student would not be able to complete the course work within the following quarter. In other words, a student could not request a hardship withdrawal and then retake the course the following quarter.
- Qualifying circumstances for Incompletes and Hardship Withdrawals *are limited to:*
 - Death in the immediate family (spouse, child, parent) documented by a funeral director's note.
 - Significant illness or injury (documented by a doctor's note) of self or a person for whom the student is primarily responsible.
 - Relocation outside of the Bellevue College area.

Assignment Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter
1	1/2	Welcome! Theories and Methods in Social Psychology	1
2	1/7 1/9	Person Perception Social Cognition * Research Report 1 due *	2 3
3	1/14 1/16	The Self Attitudes and Attitude Change	4 5
4	1/21 1/23	NO CLASS: MLK's Birthday Prejudice * Research Report 2 due *	6
5	1/28 1/30	Midterm 1 Social Influence	1-6 7
6	2/4 2/6	Interpersonal Attraction Personal Relationships * Research Report 3 due *	8 9
7	2/11 2/13	Behavior in Groups	10
8	2/18 2/20	NO CLASS: Presidents' Day Gender * Research Report 4 due *	11
9	2/25 2/27	Midterm 2 Helping Behavior	7-11 12
10	3/4 3/6	Aggression * Research Report 5 due *	13
11	3/11 3/13	Social Psychology and Health Social Psychology and the Law	14 15
	3/20	Midterm 3 @ 7:30 am	12-15