

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology 240/ Sociology 240

SPRING QUARTER, 2011

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SYLLABUS

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: Class time will include lecture/discussions, demonstrations, experiments, films, research projects, and exams. Students are expected to cover assigned reading on their own.

All course materials will be posted on MyBC.

TEXT: Myers, D. G. (2010). Social Psychology (Tenth Edition). New York: McGraw-Hill.

TEXT WEBSITE: <http://www.mhhe.com/myers10e> (click on Student Edition, then Online Learning Center in the drop-down menu)

REQUIREMENTS:

EXAMS: There will be five unit exams worth 100 points each. Exams will be given roughly every two weeks and will cover the reading, lectures, videos, and demonstrations. Exams will consist of 50 objective (multiple choice) questions; 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. Exam scores will be doubled at the end of the quarter. There will be no comprehensive final exam.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY ESSAYS: Students will be expected to write five short papers applying some principle in each unit to their own experience. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, and one or two pages in length. The papers will be due as scheduled at the beginning of class and will be shared with other students on the date they are due. Papers will be assigned a letter grade based on both content and form, including completeness and relevance to the material in the unit. Each paper will be worth 40 points; all five papers will be worth 200 points or 20% of the final grade. Late papers will be docked 5 points for each day they are late for any reason, and 5 points will be deducted if the essay discussion is missed. In general, students may select any phenomena or principle covered in the reading for that unit and use the following format:

1. Briefly describe one (or more) of the social psychology principles or phenomena covered in the reading for the current unit. Give a brief explanation of the theory or research dealing with this phenomenon or process (with reference to the text using APA style*).
2. Provide a short description of a personal experience or observation which illustrates or exemplifies the principle(s) described in #1.
3. Evaluate the "fit" of the theory (#1) to your life experience or observation (#2). Did your experience match the description well (if so how) or were there differences?

Possible topics for the weekly paper will be discussed during class. The format will be the same for all five papers. On the day that the papers are due, students will share and discuss their essays in class.

RESEARCH PROJECTS: Students will be asked to do three social psychology research projects involving the collection of actual data and write-ups of the results. You are encouraged, but not required, to work in pairs or groups of three on the first project; the others are individual efforts. Each project will be worth 40 points, for a total of 200 pts. (or 20% of the final grade). Explicit instructions for each project will be posted on MyBC, but a brief description follows:

Project 1: Students will come up with two versions of a survey, asking the same three questions but worded differently, administer them to five people (for each person) for each version, and then summarize the results. (50 pts)

Project 2: Students will be asked to analyze 3 advertisements using principles from the unit on persuasive techniques. (50 pts)

Project 3: Students will apply social psychology principles to a current or historical social situation or event, using library resources. (70 pts)

Project write-ups will be due at the beginning of class on the days noted in the calendar. Late papers will be docked 5 points a day regardless of the reason.

IN-CLASS RESEARCH: On the day noted on the calendar, students will complete an in-class research project on conformity. (30 pts)

PARTICIPATION: Since the bulk of the class will involve demonstrations and discussion, class attendance and participation is essential. Ten percent of the grade or 100 points will be assigned based on attendance and occasional classroom and homework assignments. Points will be assigned based on the percentage of classes attended and assignments completed. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. **Students must be on time to be counted as attending.**

GRADING SYSTEM:

	<u>Points</u>
Exams (5 @ 50 pts each x 2)	500
Essays (5 @ 40 pts. each)	200
Research Projects (2 @ 50 pts., 1 @ 70 pts.)	170
Participation/Attendance/	100
In-Class Research	<u>30</u>
Total Possible Points	1000

FINAL GRADE ASSIGNMENT:

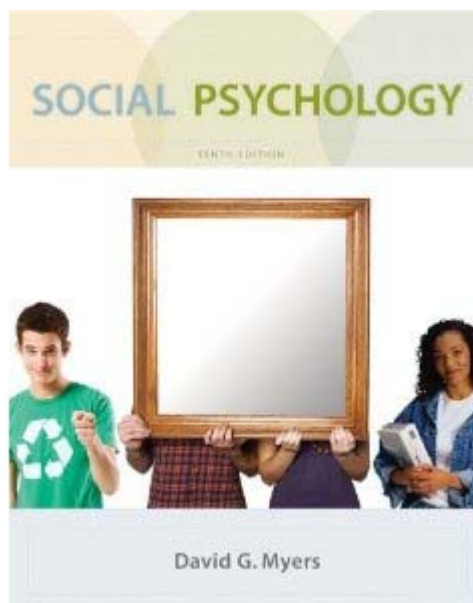
A	94-100%	940-1000	C+	77-79%	770-799
A-	90-93%	900-939	C	74-76%	740-769
B+	87-89%	870-899	C-	70-73%	700-739
B	84-86%	840-869	D+	67-69%	670-699
B-	80-83%	800-839	D	64-66%	640-669

Class Conduct Guidelines

- Please arrive at class on time (attendance will be taken at the beginning of class)
- Please treat each other and the instructor with respect and common courtesy
- Please turn off all cell phones and pagers when entering class and refrain from texting or using laptops during class

Accommodations

If you need course modifications / adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have not done so already, you can contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in B132 or by calling 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110. Information is also available on their website at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/drc/>.



TOPIC/READING SCHEDULE/ DUE DATES:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Reading</u>
I	1	Introduction, Research Methods (Ch.1)
	2	Self in a Social World (Ch. 2)/ Social Beliefs and Judgments (Ch. 3)
		Survey questions (Project 1) due 4/12 Essay 1 due 4/14 Project 1 due 4/15 Exam I: 4/18
II	3	Sustainable Future (Ch. 16)/ Behavior and Attitudes (Ch. 4)
	4	Social Psych in the Clinic (Ch. 14)/Genes, Culture and Gender (Ch. 5)
		Essay 2 due 4/28 Exam II: 5/2
III	5	Conformity (Ch. 6)/ Persuasion (Ch. 7)
	6	Group Influence (Ch. 8)
		In-class Research: 5/4 Essay 3 due: 5/12 Project 2 due: 5/13 Exam III: 5/16
IV	7	Prejudice (Ch. 9)/ Aggression (Ch. 10)
	8	Social Psych. in Court (15)
		Essay 4 due: 5/26 Holiday: 5/30 Exam IV: 5/31
V	9	Attraction (Ch. 11)/ Altruism (Ch. 12)
	10	Conflict and Peacemaking (Ch. 13)
		Project 3 due: 6/3 Essay 5 due: 6/9 Exam V: 6/14

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION
Revised Winter 2010

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process