PSYCHOLOGY 145: Social Psychology
Section 1: Fall 2011
4:30 – 5:45

Professor: Dr. Harrison
Office: 361B Amador Hall
Phone: 278-6815
You can e-mail me via SacCT

Office hours: Tuesdays 5:45 – 6:45
Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00
Thursdays 5:45 – 6:45

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Empirical examination of the emotion, behavior, and cognition of individuals in social situations. Topics can include: social psychology methods, social perception, social cognition, attitudes, persuasion, social identity, gender identity, prejudice and discrimination, interpersonal attraction, close relationships, conformity, compliance, obedience to authority, helping behavior, aggression, group processes, and social psychology applications. Multiple perspectives discussed. Prerequisite: PSYC 001 or PSYC 005. 3 units.

COURSE MATERIALS


2. Four readings posted on SacCT. Each is posted in the learning module associated with the topic.
   - Four Roots of Evil
   - The Education of a Torturer
   - The My Lai Massacre: Crimes of Obedience and Sanctioned Massacres
   - Extraordinary acts of ordinary people: Faces of heroism and altruism.

3. Respondus lockdown browser.
   - You will use this browser to take all quizzes. All campus computer labs have this browser. If you choose to use your own computer to take the quizzes and exams you must download the Respondus lockdown browser. You should also use Internet Explorer if you use a PC and Safari if you use a Mac. See the link below.

   http://www.csus.edu/atcs/tools/lockdown-browser/installation.stm


**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand important topics in the field of Social Psychology.

2. Understand how human behavior is influenced by the interaction of situational factors and dispositional factors.

3. Understand how Social Psychology can be used to understand real world issues and historical events.

4. Use critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate social psychological theories and research.

5. Gain experience in independent learning of social psychological theories and research.

6. Understand that Social Psychology is a scientific field of inquiry and that social psychological theories regarding human behavior are based upon empirical research.

7. Understand how gender and ethnicity influence social psychological theories and research.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Exams**

♦ There will be three semester exams and a comprehensive final exam. Each is worth 100 points.

♦ Exams will test students on the lecture material, textbook chapters, readings, movies, and class discussions. The exam questions may be a mixture of multiple choice questions, true/false, and essay questions.

♦ In addition, it is important that you understand that each exam will cover one textbook chapter that you are expected to learn independently. Exam questions on independent-study chapters will only cover material presented in the textbook. It is important that you spend time reading and studying this material in order to demonstrate the ability to independently learn social psychological theories and research. Please contact Dr. Harrison if you find any of the material to be confusing.

**What if you miss your exam?**

The exams will only be given on the scheduled dates. If you miss an exam and you can provide documentation that the work was missed due to illness, military service, extreme hardship, or death in the immediate family, you will be allowed to complete a make-up exam. However, you must contact Dr. Harrison immediately to arrange for a make-up exam. In addition, you must provide documentation concerning your absence before you take the make-up exam. **You have one week following your return to class to arrange to make-up the work you missed.**

If you miss an exam for any reason other than illness, military service, extreme hardship, or death in the immediate family, you will not be allowed to complete a make-up exam. Thus, you will not be allowed to take a makeup exam because you have work obligations or are going on a vacation.
Chapter Practice Quizzes

There will be a practice quiz available for each textbook chapter. These quizzes are designed to be a study aid to help you learn the material in the textbook. The practice quizzes are in SacCT and you may take each three times.

After taking the quizzes you will be able to study the questions to help you learn the chapter material. You will be given feedback concerning whether you answered each question correctly. However, if you answer a question incorrectly you will not be given the answer. This is to encourage you to spend time studying the material you do not understand.

Each attempt will have different questions, but you must wait 2 hours before retaking a chapter practice quiz.

You can earn up to 10 points for the chapter practice quiz. Your highest grade will be counted toward your final grade.

These quizzes will be available until 4 pm of the due date.

Homework Assignments

There are 3 homework assignments that will help you understand important topics we will cover in the class. All the homework assignments are posted in WebCT. Also, you will submit all your homework assignments within WebCT. Hard copies of your homework assignments will not be accepted.

The homework assignments are due at 4 pm of the due date. 10% will be deducted from your grade for each day your assignment is late. You cannot turn in an assignment later than one week after the due date.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Consideration of others in class should be important to us all. To be fair to everyone else in class, I ask that you follow these standards.

1. **Be prompt & do not leave early.** Late arrivals and early departures distract everyone’s attention from the business of the class. It is rude to both the instructor and to the other students. If you ABSOLUTELY MUST leave class early, discuss this with Dr. Harrison before class begins.

2. **Don’t chat.** Talking privately to the person sitting next to you is rude and distracting, even if your conversation is related to the class topic. Please raise the topic in discussion with the whole class, or save your personal discussion until after class.

3. **No napping.**

4. **No electronics. This includes cell phones, PDAs, and mp3 players.**
**INCOMPLETES**

I will only give incompletes to a student who is unable to complete the requirements of the course due to documented illness, military service, extreme hardship, or death in the immediate family. In addition, you must have completed at least 50% of the course work at a passing rate.

**ACCOMODATING DISABILITIES**

If you have a documented disability and verification from the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD), and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student’s responsibility to provide documentation of disability to SSWD and meet with a SSWD counselor to request special accommodation before classes start. SSWD is located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at sswd@csus.edu.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

**Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures**

“The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. California State University, Sacramento expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades.”

**Definitions**

At Sac State, “cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.” “Plagiarism is a form of cheating. At Sac State, “plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgment.

If you are in doubt as to whether some act constitutes a violation of the honesty policy, please ask me. If you cheat or plagiarize, you will receive an F for the course and I will report you to the Dean’s Office.
**GRADING POLICY**

There are a total of 570 points available. Because I give extra credit I do not curve grades or bump students’ grades up. Your final grade will be calculated as follows.

10 practice quizzes based on textbook chapters: 10 points each
3 homework assignments: 20 points each
3 semester exams: 100 points each
Cumulative final exam: 100 points
Total possible points = 560

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Class Schedule

Underlined chapters will only be briefly discussed during class, or will not be discussed at all. However, students are responsible for independently learning information in these chapters as laid out in the study guide. Please feel free to discuss any material with Dr. Harrison.

August 30 – September 22
- Chapter 1: Introducing Social Psychology
- The Social Psychology of Evil
  - Assigned Readings
    - Four Roots of Evil
    - The Education of a Torturer
    - The My Lai Massacre
- Independent Study
  - Chapter 4: Social Perception
Exam 1: September 27

September 29 – October 25
- Chapter 6: The Need to Justify Our Actions
- Chapter 8: Conformity
- Chapter 13: Prejudice
- Independent Study
  - Chapter 7: Attitudes
Exam 2: October 27

November 1 – December 1
- Chapter 9: Group Processes
- Chapter 12: Aggression
- Chapter 11: Prosocial Behavior
- Independent Study
  - Chapter 16: Social Psychology and the Law
Exam 3: December 1

December 6 – December 8
- Heroism
  - Assigned Reading: Extraordinary acts of ordinary people

Final Exam: Dec 15, 3:00 – 5:00
Due Dates
Quizzes and Homeworks are due by 4:00 pm

Friday, Sept 16 = Ch 1 quiz
Thursday, Sept 22 = Homework 1
Friday, Sept 23 = Ch 4 quiz
Tuesday, Sept 27 = Exam 1

Monday, October 17 = Ch 6 & Ch 7 quiz
Thursday, October 20 = Homework 2 due
Monday, October 24 = Ch 8 & Ch 13 quiz
Thursday, October 27 = Exam 2

Monday, November 14 = Ch 9 quiz
Monday, November 21 = Ch 12 quiz
Monday, November 28 = Ch 28 quiz
Tuesday, November 29 = Homework 3 due
Thursday, December 1 = Exam 3

Thursday, December 15 = Final Exam