

**PSY 456 - Attitudes and Social Behavior
Spring 1996
Tues/Thurs 2-3:20, Straub Hall 142**

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COURSE CONTENT/OBJECTIVES/PREREQUISITES:

This course focuses on social influences on human behavior. Included among these influences are other people, social situations, learned social cues, and internalized social norms and expectations. The unit of analysis will generally be the individual, but consistent with a traditional social psychological perspective, relatively little emphasis will be placed on individual differences, although we will at times touch on how social influences interface with other influences on behavior, such as development, personality, and biology.

By the end of the course, you should have a good understanding of what some of the major topics of study are in social psychology, and how social psychology research is done. The course is research based, meaning that the information taught is mostly derived from empirical research in social psychology. Thus, you will not only study theories of social behavior, but also study experiments and observations that have been carried out to test and demonstrate the theories. Many of the readings in this course (those in Readings About the Social Animal) are "primary sources"--that is to say, reprints of original journal articles. For this reason, Psychology 302 and 303 (Statistical Methods and Research Methods), or their equivalents, are required as prerequisites for this course.

Many people--formally trained social psychologists and others too--have pointed out that "everyone is a social psychologist." This observation will be capitalized upon--you are strongly encouraged to be on the lookout for examples of the phenomena we are covering in your everyday life. However, keep in mind that many of our "everyday" social psychology theories may be off, and that some of the most famous social psychological research findings are counter-intuitive (not what you would expect). In fact, the science of social psychology can sometimes predict how and why everyday social psychology theories will be wrong.

COURSE READINGS:

The required texts for this course are The Social Animal by Elliot Aronson (7th edition) and Readings About the Social Animal, edited by Elliot Aronson (7th edition). There is also a required readings for class week 7 on reserve at the Knight Library. In addition, there is an optional reading on reserve at the Knight Library about how to read journal articles.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) Class participation and attendance: You are expected to attend class. Some topics not found in the books will be covered in lecture. In addition, there will some in-class activities in which you will be expected to participate. Furthermore, your contributions to the class are a potentially valuable resource to the other class members. I don't plan on taking attendance regularly, but I may do so periodically, and

absences will count against your participation grade.

I strongly recommend planning to attend EVERY class. If you miss a quiz or an in-class assignment, you cannot make it up. If you miss more than two classes, I will not use office hours to go over what you missed. (I reserve the right to grant exceptions to the two previous statements under dire circumstances, but don't count on being an exception.) If you know you must miss a class, I would appreciate you telling me in advance.

I hope to foster a class environment in which you will feel comfortable speaking up in class, but I realize that some of you may be intimidated by the possibly 60+ other students. You may feel more comfortable making your comments over email, or writing them down and giving them to me, or speaking with me or the GTF.

Your attendance at the scheduled exam period is mandatory. If you do not attend, you will fail the course.

2) E-mail: If you don't already have an e-mail account, please get one, as there may be additional class information that I will distribute via e-mail. However, in general, I will not use e-mail to discuss things that have not been previously introduced or announced in class. Thus, I may use e-mail to remind you of an assignment that is already on the syllabus or was announced in class, or I may use e-mail to answer a question that someone asked after class. If something is announced first on e-mail, it is almost definite that you will have been told in class that such an announcement is impending and that you should check your e-mail for it, or it will be an announcement that would have been impossible to make in class (for example, if class has to be unexpectedly canceled). The idea is that e-mail will ADD to the amount of instruction you get in this course, rather than REPLACE any traditional instruction.

If you need help getting an account, go to the University Computing Center. **Once you have your account, or if you already have one, send me an E-mail message (sdhodges@darkwing.uoregon.edu)** so I will know you are on-line. (The content of the message is up to you--you can just say hi, or tell me about a particular interest or reason you are taking Psych 456, or tell me something else about you). **This is your first class assignment and it is due no later than April 8.** If you are having trouble with it, please let me know.

If you send me E-mail questions about the class, I will try to answer them as soon as I can; however, if they are long or complicated, it is possible (but unlikely) that you will have to wait until my next office hours for an answer.

3) Papers: Paper topics will be distributed in class no less than one week before the paper is due. Papers will be short (2-5 pages). For all but one of the papers, you will not be required to do any additional reading other than that on the syllabus.

All papers in this class will be typed in a readable font, double-spaced, left justified only, and with margins of one inch at the top, bottom, left side and right side (these are all consistent with the APA style). Use the APA Publication Manual (4th edition) style for reference citations. A reference copy of the manual is available in the Knight Library. If you foresee problems meeting these qualifications, please discuss them with me.

In order to improve the quality of papers, and to provide you with experience editing, papers will be peer edited. The system will work this way: On the day that a paper is "due for editing" (see schedule), you will turn your paper in at the beginning of class. At the end of class, you will be given someone else's paper to edit. You will have 2 days to edit the other student's paper, then you will bring the paper to next class (2 days later) and return it to the student. Your paper, meanwhile, will have been edited by someone else. You will then have 5 days to consider the corrections, incorporate those you think are good, revise the paper, and then turn in your "final version" of the paper AND the corrected original (see schedule for dates). Your grade on the paper will be based mainly on the final version, but your original will be

considered too, in order to prevent people from turning in sloppy first drafts. Your editing will also be evaluated, and you will receive points toward your final grade for it (see grading section, "peer edits"). Guidelines for editing will be distributed in class.

Important note: ALWAYS keep a copy of your paper, either on disk, or a hard copy. Your peer editors are no more reliable than you, perhaps less so, and they may misplace or forget your paper. If your peer editor does not return your edited paper to you, you will not be penalized (except your paper will not have the benefit of having been edited—you may wish to ask a friend in the class to edit your paper for you), but you will still be responsible for turning in an original and final version of the paper when it is due.

Papers are due at the **beginning** of class on the day they are due. If you don't turn your paper in at the start of class, it is not eligible for peer editing, and you will not be given a paper to peer edit (so you will lose your peer editing points). If you cannot be in class the day a paper is due for peer editing, you may turn the paper BY NOON the day it is due to the Psychology Office (Straub 131), and you will be eligible for the peer editing system, but it is your responsibility to arrange to pick up the paper you are to peer edit from me. If you cannot be in class the day peer edited papers are to be returned to their authors, you can also return an edited paper BY NOON to the Psychology Office on the day papers are to be returned. Note, however, that turning in papers early will probably alert me to your absence from class!

Final version of papers are also due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Final versions of papers turned in after the start of class are half a day late, with a 5% penalty, up until 5 pm of the due date; papers turned in after 5 are 1 day late with a 10% penalty. Each subsequent day rolls over at 5 pm, with an additional 10% penalty. Do not plan to skip class to finish your paper--your paper will be penalized anyway, and you will miss class and get behind.

4) Reading assignments: Reading assignments should be completed before lecture on the day they are listed on the syllabus. Some information in the texts will not be covered in class. Thus, you must do the reading to cover the full subject matter. Despite the fact that two texts for this course look a lot alike, they are very different. The Social Animal is written in an engaging, narrative style (note that APA style for references has not been used--Aronson, the author, has done this so that the text is not interrupted by parenthetical citations). However, most of the chapters in it are not short. The articles in Readings About the Social Animal are mostly reprinted versions of journal articles. They may be shorter in pages than the chapters in The Social Animal, but you will find that it is much harder to digest each page. In other words, you should allow yourself ample time for doing the readings in this class, regardless of which book they are in! If you are having troubles reading the articles, you should read the Ellyson and Halberstadt article on reserve at the Knight Library.

5) Quizzes/Final Exam: There will be 5 quizzes during the quarter and a final exam during exam week. The quizzes will take approximately 20 minutes (probably 10-15 short answer questions). Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. If you plan to drop the last quiz, you don't have to take it, but please come to class anyway. Questions will test understanding of concepts more than recognition or identification. Quizzes will cover class material and reading since the last quiz (i.e., they are not cumulative, although later concepts that build on earlier ones are fair game). The final exam is cumulative.

GRADING:

5 quizzes, dropping the lowest one, leaving 4 quizzes @ 40 points each = 160 points

4 papers, 2-5 pages each @ 45 points each = 180 points

4 peer edits @ 10 points each = 40 points

Class participation, attendance, and inclass activities = 20 points

Final exam = 100 points

There are a total of 500 points. Students enrolled in 556 (i.e., graduate students taking this course) are required to do an additional term paper worth 100 points (total of 600 points), due Friday, June 7. Please see me for details.

Final grades will be curved upwards if I think it is necessary at the end of the quarter.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Note: Readings and assignments are to be **completed** by the date listed below. This schedule will be adhered to as closely as possible, but is subject to change. Should changes occur, you will be notified.

SA = Aronson, The Social Animal

RA = Aronson, Readings About the Social Animal (number following to reading number--see the book's table of contents.)

	Date	Reading	Assignments/Quizzes
Wk 1	Tues Apr 2	(first class, no reading)	
	Thurs Apr 4	Syllabus SA Chapter 1 - What is Social Psychology? SA Chapter 9 - Social Psychology as a Science RA pp. xiii-xiv ("An Open Letter to the Reader") Optional: Ellyson & Halberstadt "On Reading the Research Literature" (on reserve, Knight Library)	
Wk 2	Tues Apr 9	SA Chapter 2 - Conformity	
	Thurs Apr 11	RA 2 (Asch, pp. 13-22) RA 3 (Milgram, pp. 23-36)	Quiz 1
Wk 3	Tues Apr 16	RA 4 (Darley & Batson, pp. 37-51)	Paper 1 due for editing
	Thurs Apr 18	SA Chapter 3 - Mass Communication, Propaganda, and Persuasion (at least pp. 57-85)	Paper 1 returned
Wk 4	Tues Apr 23	SA Chapter 3 - Mass Communication, Propaganda, and Persuasion (pp. 85-115) RA 7 (Dabbs & Leventhal, pp. 89-99)	Final Version Paper 1 due
	Thurs Apr 25	SA Chapter 4 - Social Cognition (at least pp. 117-159)	Quiz 2

	Date	Reading	Assignments/Quizzes
Wk 5	Tues Apr 30	SA Chapter 4 - Social Cognition (pp. 159-173) RA 14 (Storms, pp. 201-220)	Paper 2 due for editing
	Thurs May 2	RA 34 (Dutton & Aron, pp. 501-514) RA 8 (Miller, Brickman, & Bolen, pp. 100-119)	Paper 2 returned
Wk 6	Tues May 7	SA Chapter 5 - Self-Justification (at least pp.175-198) RA 16 (Freedman & Fraser, pp. 238-249)	Final Version Paper 2 due
	Thurs May 9	SA Chapter 5 - Self-Justification (pp.198-245)	Quiz 3
Wk 7	Tues May 14	Baldwin & Holmes (on reserve, Knight Library)	Paper 3 due for editing
	Thurs May 16	SA Chapter 6 - Human Aggression	Paper 3 returned
Wk 8	Tues May 21	RA 20 (Berkowitz, pp. 293-304) RA 23 (Rogers & Prentice Dunn, pp. 327-343)	Final Version Paper 3 due
	Thurs May 23	RA 25 (Word, Zanna, & Cooper, pp. 369-382) RA 27 (Steele & Aronson, 409-421)	Quiz 4
Wk 9	Tues May 28	SA Chapter 7 - Prejudice	Paper 4 due for editing
	Thurs May 30	SA chapter 8 - Liking, Loving and Interpersonal Sensitivity (at least pp. 356-378)	Paper 4 returned
Wk 10	Tues June 4	RA 33 (Snyder, Tanke, & Berscheid, pp. 486-500) RA 11 (Kenrick & Gutierrez, pp. 151-166)	Final version Paper 4 due
	Thurs June 6	SA chapter 8 - Liking, Loving and Interpersonal Sensitivity (at least pp. 378-413)	Quiz 5

**** Final Exam: 1:00 Thursday, June 13/ Term paper (grad students only) due Friday, June 7.**