

PSY456: Social Psychology

Fall 2004, T,TH 14:00-15:20, 142 Straub

Instructor	Office	E-mail	Phone	Office Hours
Chuck Tate	356 Straub	ctate1@uoregon.edu	346-1060	Tuesdays 15:30-16:30 Wed 14:00-15:00 (& appt.)

Class Blackboard site: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>

Course Overview:

Social psychology is a field of study concerned with: (a) how humans represent and understand their social world and themselves within it, and (b) how humans interact with each other in various ways and for various purposes. As such, social psychology focuses on a variety of topics and questions. For instance, how does one's self-concept influence social behavior? How do people form impressions of each other and make sense of human behavior? How do social situations influence human thinking and behavior? What are the roots of aggression, stereotypes, and prejudice? Why are some attitudes so difficult to change? Which factors govern attraction and relationships? In order to answer such questions diverse research programs have been initiated and these programs employ a variety of approaches including evolution, culture, the primacy of mental representations and/or emotions.

Course Goals:

This course is designed to acquaint you with the philosophical assumptions of and current research topics within the field of social psychology. You will also participate in this field by applying what you've learned on exams and proposing an empirical research plan along with appropriate statistical analysis suggestions. Overall, it is my hope that this course sharpens your analytical reasoning skills, improves your ability to identify phenomena from different perspectives and different levels of analysis, and relates these phenomena to substantive issues in your chosen field of study (e.g., psychology, sociology, etc.). By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Think critically about psychological concepts, with a broader appreciation of how these issues can be framed and studied
- Understand more fully how data analysis plans relate to how psychological issues are studied
- Create and develop research in social psychology through an empirical research proposal

Writing Skills: The final paper in this course requires that you propose a plan for empirical research. Strunk & White's *The Elements of Style* can help you write concise, precise sentences, which are good for communicating scientific information. Review the

eight elementary rules of usage and the ten elementary principles of composition at <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/strunk/index.html>

Learning Adjustments: Please contact Chuck right away (first week of class) if you have been diagnosed with a learning disability (confirmed by the Academic Learning Center), if American English is not your first language, or if you have some other special needs that may require adjustments for you to learn/understand the material.

Class Requirements and Activities:

1. Readings.

Main Text: Baron, R. A. & Byrne, D. (2004). *Social Psychology* (10th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

(See the last page of the syllabus for list of topics and corresponding chapters)

(Also see Blackboard for supplemental readings for various topics covered in class)

2. Attendance. Attendance during class is not required, but be warned: it will be difficult to learn anything in this course without attending lectures. Participation in the class is encouraged.

3. Exams. Study guides for the three exams for this course will be posted on Blackboard. The three exams have the same general structure but focus on different topics. In brief, each exam consists of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and application questions.

4. Final Paper. The final exam for this course will be an empirical research proposal on any topic covered in this course. Specific guidelines for writing this paper will be posted on Blackboard. I (Chuck) have also chosen a few articles that can serve as excellent templates for the final paper. These papers will also be posted in Blackboard. The final paper will have major two parts: (a) literature review relevant to your chosen topic, which identifies an unresolved or yet to be examined issue and (b) an outline of an empirical investigation of this issue, complete with methodology and proposed statistical analyses. Your experience in PSY 303 or a similar research course will be invaluable for this assignment. The final paper is due by 1 PM on Thursday, December 9, 2004. Turn the paper in at Chuck's office, 356 Straub.

Class point breakdown for grades (650 possible points)

Exams: 450 pts (3 exams at 150 points each)

Final paper: 200 pts

Course grades based on percentage of points earned			
A+	97-100	C	73-76.9
A	93-96.9	C-	70-72.9
A-	90-92.9	D+	67-69.9
B+	87-89.9	D	63-66.9
B	83-86.9	D-	60-62.9
B-	80-82.9	N	< 70
C+	77-79.9	P	70

Cheating, if detected, will earn **a failing grade** in the course. Cheating = turning in the work of others as your own, copying other people's exam answers or final paper (in part or whole).

Class Culture (Norms and Expectations)

If you must miss a class or leave early, let Chuck know

Treat your fellow students and your instructors with respect

Turn your cell phone OFF during class (unless you are a doctor on call or have some other legitimate reason)

Ask questions and speak up during class

Ask questions on Blackboard site

Stop by and see Chuck during his office hours

Tentative List of Class Activities

Date	Topic(s)	Reading
Sep. 28	Orientation/Definitions	Ch. 1
Sep. 30	Social Perception	Ch. 2
Oct. 5	Social Cognition – part 1	Ch. 3
Oct. 7	Social Cognition – part 2	Ch. 3
Oct. 12	Attitudes	Ch. 4
Oct. 14	Exam 1	--
Oct. 19	Social Identity – part 1	Ch. 5
Oct. 21	Social Identity – part 2	Ch. 5
Oct. 26	Prejudice – part 1	Ch. 6
Oct. 28	Prejudice – part 2	Ch. 6
Nov. 2	Attraction	Ch. 7
Nov. 4	Exam 2	--
Nov. 9	Close Relationships	Ch. 8
Nov. 11	Social Influence	Ch. 9
Nov. 16	Prosocial Behavior	Ch. 10
Nov. 18	Aggression	Ch. 11
Nov. 23	Group Dynamics	Ch. 12
Nov. 25	<i>Thanksgiving Day – U.S.</i>	--
Nov. 30	Exam 3	--
Dec. 2	Applications	Ch. 13
Dec. 9	Final Paper due – 1:00p.m. – Straub Hall 356	--