

PSY 607: Interpersonal and Self-Perception (Spring, 2006)

First class meeting Monday, April 3, 1:00 PM – 2:50 PM in Straub 143
Subsequent meetings TBA

Prof. Sanjay Srivastava
sanjay@uoregon
Office hours: Wed 11-12, Straub 327 or by appointment

This graduate seminar will consider selected issues in the study of interpersonal perception and self-perception. We will begin by considering some basic conceptual issues: What does it mean to call a social perceiver “accurate?” How is the interpersonal perception approach informed by an interactionist perspective? Next, we will consider the social relations model and other models (generalizability theory, Brunswik’s lens model) that account for multiple influences on interpersonal perception. Finally we will turn to selected topics in interpersonal perception, such as minimal-acquaintanceship effects, expectancies and behavioral confirmation, the role of emotions in interpersonal perception, and self-perception biases.

Interpersonal perception is a broad topic, and this course will not attempt to be comprehensive. One major theme will be the study of accuracy and bias. Another major theme will be approaches that examine perceptions of real people (with relatively less emphasis on the complementary approach of studying perceptions of prepared stimuli). Because of its focus on ecological approaches, this course may be of interest to students who use social perceptions as research methods (e.g., self-reports, peer and parent reports, clinical observations, etc.) as well as those with a substantive interest in interpersonal and self-perception processes.

Readings

You should purchase the following book; other readings will be posted to the course website.

Kenny, D. A. (1994). *Interpersonal perception: A social relations analysis*. New York: Guilford.

Grading

Students who enroll for 3 credits will be graded based on class participation and on their in-class presentations. Students who enroll for 4 credits will also be required to write a paper.

Class meetings

Class meetings will consist primarily of discussion. The night **before** each class meeting (no later than midnight), you should post to the Blackboard site three discussion questions based on the readings. I will use these discussion questions to help plan and guide the class discussion.

Our department has a wealth of researchers who have done important work on topics related to interpersonal and self-perception. As part of this class, you will be asked to read 1-2 articles by a

faculty member in the Department of Psychology (active or retired) and interview them about how their work intersects with issues we are discussing in the class. You will then give a short, informal presentation in class (15 minutes) on what you have learned. I strongly encourage you to choose someone whose work you do not already know well. You should not give your presentation on work by your advisor or anyone you have collaborated with.

Final paper

For students enrolled for 4 credits, the final paper is due on Tuesday, June 13 at 5:00 PM. Your paper may address any topic of your choosing within the scope of the course. You should review theories and findings relevant to your topic, and the paper should support a specific conclusion (in the style of a mini Psych Bulletin or Psych Review article), develop a hypothesis or set of hypotheses (in the style of an introduction to an empirical journal article), or propose a line of research (in the style of a grant application). I recommend that you meet with me before the end of April to discuss your topic. The formatting (citations, margins, spacing, etc.) should follow APA style for manuscripts. The body of the paper should be 8 to 10 pages, no longer. References, figures, etc. do not apply toward the page count.

Disabilities

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

Changes

Any aspect of this course, including topics, readings, or grading criteria, may be changed at my discretion. Changes will be announced in class or on Blackboard.