

# PSY456: Social Psychology

Summer 2006, Mo-Th. 4:00-5:50, 107 Esslinger

Instructors	Office	E-mail	Phone	Office Hours
Stephan Dickert	309 Straub	<a href="mailto:sdickert@uoregon.edu">sdickert@uoregon.edu</a>	346-4937	Wednesday 11:00-12:00 And by appointment
Steve Guglielmo	337 Straub	<a href="mailto:sgugliel@uoregon.edu">sgugliel@uoregon.edu</a>	346-5770	Tuesday 10:00-11:00 and by appointment

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

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## 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, and the primacy of mental representations and/or emotions. **Please note that since this is a Summer class, you will be expected to do the same amount of work in 4 weeks that is normally required for a 10-week course. Readings and class meeting times are adjusted accordingly.**

## 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 class discussions. Overall, it is our 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
- Appreciate and evaluate research in social psychology through exposure to empirical articles

**Writing Skills:** The assigned reading responses in this course require that are able to concisely present ideas and concepts. 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.bartleby.com/141/>.

**Learning Adjustments:** Please contact Stephan 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.**

This course will use a variety of texts, including primary research articles, review articles, and the textbook **Baron. Byrne & Branscombe (2006)**. All additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

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

**2. Attendance.** Because the topics covered in social psychology are naturally diverse, the lectures are aimed at giving structure to the psychological ideas discussed in the readings as well as provide illustrative examples that should facilitate learning of the key concepts. 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 strongly encouraged.

**3. In-class exercises.** Throughout the course we will use in-class exercises to illustrate key concepts and give you hands-on experience in social psychology. Participation in these exercises counts towards your final grade.

**4. Exams.** Study guides for the two exams for this course will be posted on Blackboard. The two exams have the same general structure but may focus on different topics. In brief, each exam may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, application questions, and short answer/essay questions.

**5. Response Papers.** You will read empirical research papers that supplement the topics we discuss in class and write 8 short (up to 1 page, single spaced) response papers. These response papers usually address a specific issue that is studied in social psychology and require you to apply your knowledge of the field to critically evaluate the readings. Specific questions for you to answer in these papers will be provided to you when each is assigned. The general format of the response papers should be APA style (but you do not need to submit a reference page). Your experience in PSY 303 or a similar research course will be invaluable for this assignment.

### **Class point breakdown for grades (500 possible points)**

Exams: 200 pts (2 exams at 100 points each)

Response papers: 200 pts (8 papers at 25 points each)

In-class exercises: 100 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 the instructor (Stephan or Steve) 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 Stephan or Steve during their office hours

### **Tentative List of Class Activities**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Jul. 24	Orientation/Definitions/ History	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 1
Jul. 25*	Social Perception / Attribution	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 3
Jul. 26	Social Cognition – part 1& 2	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 2 Aronson (1999) Ch. 4
Jul. 27 *	Attitudes	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 4
Jul. 31*	Persuasion	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 4
Aug. 1	Prejudice, Discrimination, Stereotypes – part 1 & 2	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 6
Aug. 2*	Emotions, Decision Making, and Rationality	Slovic et al (2002)
<b>Aug. 3</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	
Aug. 7	Social Influence: Conformity and Compliance	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 9
Aug. 8*	Social Identity	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 5
Aug. 9	Group Dynamics	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 12
Aug. 10*	Attraction & Close Relationships	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 7 & 8
Aug. 14 *	Aggression	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 11
Aug. 15	Prosocial Behavior	Baron & Byrne (2006) Ch. 10
Aug. 16*	Applied Social Psychology	Baron & Byrne (2006) Module A
<b>Aug. 17</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	

\* Denote due dates for reading responses. See Blackboard (Assignments section) for details.