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| <p style="text-align: center;">Course Syllabus, Spring 2011 Psychology 456: Social Psychology Monday and Wednesday 5:30 – 6:50, 125 McKenzie</p> |
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Office Hours Wednesday 4:00-5:20 and 6:50-7:30, or by appointment.

Course Description: In the field of social psychology, we study the effects of the real or imagined presence of others on the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals. The questions asked by social psychologists have to do with our daily lives in the social world, and often seek to find answers to social mysteries. For example, why would a teenage boy confess to a murder he never committed? Why would someone join a cult that forces her to give away all her worldly possessions and cease all contact with friends and family? Why would a woman in her 20's be attracted to an elderly man? In this course, we will answer these questions and many others by studying the five major perspectives of social psychology. In the context of these perspectives, we will look at the features of the person, the situation, and the interaction between the person and the situation that govern social behavior.

Research about learning has shown that students learn and retain material better in a situation in which learning is active rather than passive, and cooperative rather than individual. I have incorporated some of the principles of active and cooperative learning into my class, and try to be sensitive to the various types of learning styles that might exist among my students. To this end, we will do active learning exercises in this class that involve your participation. We will also do some group work. Oftentimes these in-class active learning and group exercises will have associated class credit. You must be in class to receive this credit.

Course Objectives: Social psychology is the scientific study of the ways in which people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by their social environment. The aims of this course are:

- To familiarize you with the concepts and theories of social psychology.
- Help you recognize the influence of the environment on behavior, thoughts, and feelings.
- Give you the capacity to interpret research findings.

Required Readings: Weekly readings from the textbook will be required for all students. Additionally, students will be required to read supplemental journal articles for some of the sections. The supplemental readings will be made available online.

- **Text:** Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. *Social Psychology* (6th Edition) Prentice Hall.
- Articles made available on the course webpage at: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>

Course Requirements: Your grade for this class will be based on 3 things:

1. Exams: There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. The exams will include questions taken from the text, lecture, and the supplemental readings. There is no way to cover all of the information contained in the textbook during lecture, so doing well on the exams will require that you learn from the textbook, supplemental readings, and the lecture. Each exam will be worth 30% of the final grade.

Makeup Exams: It is important to be prepared and present for all scheduled exams. However, I recognize that there are some situations in which you simply cannot make it to an exam. In the case of a serious illness, emergency, religious observance, or university sponsored event, make up exams will be allowed. If you have a scheduled university sponsored event or religious observance, you must let me know well in advance of the listed exam date (at least 1 week) and we will arrange for you to take an exam before you leave. If you have a serious illness or an emergency, you must let me know prior to the exam (before 9:00am) and we will make arrangements for a make-up. Documentation that verifies the event (e.g., a note from a physician) will be required upon request. If you have questions about what type of documentation is required for a specific situation, contact me.

2. Final Paper: Select one of the supplemental readings, or another article from a peer-reviewed social psychology journal and write a short paper. In your paper, summarize the purpose of the study, the design of the study, the analyses used, and what the researchers found. (25% of grade).

You will be expected to read empirical papers (which will be available on reserve in electronic format through the library website) and write a short paper (3-4 pages) about one of them. For the paper, you will be required to summarize the authors' findings (explain the authors' hypotheses, explain how they tested those hypotheses, and talk about their findings). Then, you will need to analyze the paper, identifying the strengths and weaknesses, and suggesting studies that could be done to address the weaknesses and limitations. More details on this assignment will be given as we progress.

3. Quizzes and Participation: You are required to read the chapter and supplemental reading for each section which will be tested with a number of short quizzes. Additionally, we will have a number of in-class activities. The quizzes and activities will be worth 15% of your final grade.

Grading: Your final grade in the course is based on your total points accumulated on the two tests, your paper, attendance, and in-class assignments, as described above. To summarize:

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| Exams (120 points each) | = 240 points |
| Short paper | = 100 points |
| In-class work/Quizzes | = 60 points |
| Total | = 400 points |

Your final letter grade will be determined by calculating a reference score, which will be the average of the top 10 students' total points in the class. The percent of points you earned from this reference score will determine your final grade. This will allow for all students' grades to be corrected for particularly difficult exams or poor performance by the entire class on the paper. By calculating a percent of a reference score, you will receive a grade that is no lower than that you would receive if your grade were determined as a percent of the total points possible, while allowing all students to get a good grade if everyone does well in the course. The following grid provides the letter grade associated with each percent score calculated using the reference score.

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| A | 93-100% | B | 83-86.9% | C | 73-76.9% | D | 63-66.9% |
| A- | 90-92.9% | B- | 80-82.9% | C- | 70-72.9% | D- | 60-62.9% |
| B+ | 87-89.9% | C+ | 77-79.9% | D+ | 67-69.9% | F | 59.9% or below |

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me during the first week of classes. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability. Students without a documented disability who are experiencing learning difficulties are encouraged to consult Disabilities Services (164 Oregon Hall; 346-1155; disabsrv@uoregon.edu; <http://ds.uoregon.edu/>). If you have a non-documented disability, I encourage you to contact Disabilities Services.

Cheating/plagiarism: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams, copying answers off of other students during exams, having other students help you falsify your attendance, and plagiarizing of any kind will absolutely not be tolerated in this class. At the very least, you will receive a zero on the assignment. I encourage you to review the University policy on academic dishonesty; you are responsible for behaving in accordance with this policy and continued enrollment in this class will be considered implicit agreement that you have read and accepted the terms of that policy.

Tentative Lecture and Exam Schedule:

| Topic/Assignments Due: | Chapter: |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Intro to Social Psychology | 1 |
| Methodology | 2 |
| Social Cognition | 3 |
| Social Perception | 4 |
| Attitudes | 7 |
| Prejudice | 13 |
| *** Exam 1 *** | 1-4, 7, and 13 |
| Self-Knowledge | 5 |
| Justification | 6 |
| Conformity | 8 |
| Group Process | 9 |
| Attraction | 10 |
| | |
| Prosocial Behavior (if time permits) | 11 |
| *** Exam 2 *** | 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and perhaps 11 |

schedule will be announced in class and, if substantial, a revised syllabus will be made available to the class.

Implied consent: Attending class meetings after today will be taken to mean that you agree to the terms outlined in this syllabus and you will be bound by its content.
