

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Course Syllabus, Fall 2014</b> <b>Psychology 456: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12 :00 – 1 :30</b> <b>166 Lawrence Hall</b></p>
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**Instructor:** Jordan Pennefather, Ph.D.  
**Office:** 202 Franklin  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursdays 4:00-5:00, or by appointment.

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**Office Hours:** TBA

**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. The schedule lists some readings, but these may be changed with notice via email and in class.

**Text:** Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. *Social Psychology* (8<sup>th</sup> Edition) Prentice Hall.

**Course Requirements:** Your grade for this class will be based on 4 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. Exams will mostly be multiple choice, though short answer and mini-essay questions may also be included. The final exam will NOT be cumulative.

*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. **Paper:** You will have one paper due during the term. You will select one topic within Social Psychology and write a review of it. You will be required to include at least 3 peer-reviewed journal articles discussing the topic. A list of topics is provided on Blackboard, however if you would like to write about something not on the list please discuss it with Jordan either during office hours or via email. If you would like assistance finding journal articles on your topic please contact Jordan or Melissa. In your paper, summarize the history of the topic, current research, and application of the research.

You will each submit a draft which will then be reviewed by another student and returned to you for editing. More details on the papers will be made available online.

3. **Quizzes:** You are required to read the chapter and supplemental reading for each section which will be tested with a weekly quiz available on Blackboard. The quizzes will be made available after class on Wednesday and will be due by the following Sunday evening. The tests will be about 10-15 questions and will be timed (1.5 minutes per question).

4. **In-Class Activities:** Attendance is not required but is strongly recommended. We will cover some material in class that is not in the textbook. Additionally, there will be in-class activities that will be awarded points, if you are not in class you will not receive the points, there will be no make-ups for in-class activities.

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

Exams (120 points each)	= 240 points
Short papers (75 points for final draft 25 for first draft and review)	= 100 points
In-class Activities	= 40 points
<u>Quizzes (8 at 10 point each)</u>	<u>= 80 points</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 460 points</b>

The following grid provides the letter grade associated with each percent.

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:** The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall, (541) 346-1155 or [uoaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoaec@uoregon.edu).

**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.

***Class Etiquette & Norms:***

- Arrive on time and stay for the entire class.
- Treat your fellow students and your instructors with respect.
  - Turn the ringer off on your cell phone during class.
- If you attend class, please be attentive (no texting, reading novels, web-surfing, etc).
  - Ask questions and speak up during class.
- Stop by and see Jordan and Melissa during office hours.
- Attendance is not required; do not attend class at all if you cannot meet these norms.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Reading is to be completed **before** the first class for which it is listed. I reserve the right to change the selected readings, though this will be announced via email.

**Note: Last date to drop courses without receiving a “W”:** October 6<sup>th</sup>

**Last date to drop courses with “W” or change to pass/no pass:** November 16<sup>th</sup>

### Week One

Textbook Reading: Chapter 1 - Introduction to Social Psychology and Chapter 2 - Methodology

No supplemental readings.

Due: Complete Quiz #1 on Blackboard (outside of class) by midnight **Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**. Quiz will show up on Blackboard Wednesday evening after class (all quizzes will appear on Wednesday and be due by Sunday at midnight).

### Week Two

Textbook Reading: Chapter 3 - Social Cognition

Supplemental Reading:

Correll, J., Park, B., Judd, C. M. & Wittenbrink, B. (2002). The police officer's dilemma: Using ethnicity to disambiguate potentially threatening individuals. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 83, 1314-1329.

Jussim, L. (1986). Self-fulfilling prophecies: A theoretical and integrative review. *Psychological Review*, 93, 429-445.

**Due: Quiz #2** Sunday at midnight.

### Week Three

Textbook Reading: Chapter 4 - Social Perception

Supplemental Reading:

Bodenhausen, G. V., & Macrae, C. N. (2006). Putting a face on person perception. *Social Cognition*, 24, 511-515.

**Due: Quiz #3** Sunday at midnight.

### Week Four

Textbook Reading: Chapter 5 - Self-Knowledge

Supplemental Reading:

Gilovich, T., Medvec, V. H., & Savitsky, K. (2000). The spotlight effect in social judgment: An egocentric bias in estimates of the salience of one's own actions and appearance. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 78, 211-222.

**Due: Quiz #4** Sunday at midnight.

### Week Five

Textbook Reading: Chapter 6 - Justification

Joule, R. V. & Aschia, T. (2003). Cognitive dissonance, double forced compliance, and commitment.

*European Journal of Social Psychology*, 33, 565-571.

**Due: Quiz #5** Sunday at midnight.

### Week Six

**Tuesday: EXAM 1(Chapters 1-6):**

Textbook Reading: Chapter 8 - Conformity

Supplemental Reading:

Milgram, S. (1963). Behavioral study of obedience. *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 66, 371-378.

**Due: Quiz #6** Sunday at midnight.

### Week Seven

Textbook Reading: Chapter 10 - Attraction

Supplemental Reading:

Buss, D. M. (1985). Human mate selection. *American Scientist*, 73, 47-51.

Buss, D. M. & Barnes, M. (1986). Preferences in human mate selection. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 50, 559-570.

**Due: First Draft of Paper: Thursday**

**Quiz #7** Sunday at midnight.

#### Week Eight

Textbook Reading: Chapter 13 - Prejudice

Supplemental Readings:

Sherif, M. (1961). Experiments in group conflict.

Steele, C. M., & Aronson, J. M. (1995). Stereotype threat and the intellectual test performance of African-Americans. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 69, 797-811.

Swim, J. K., Aiken, K. J., Hall, W. S., & Hunter, B. A. (1995). Sexism and racism: Old-fashioned and modern prejudices. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 68, 199-214.

**Due: Return the Reviewed Copy of Paper: Thursday**

**Quiz #8** Sunday at midnight.

#### Week Nine

**NO CLASS Thursday due to Thanksgiving**

Textbook Reading: Chapter 11 - Prosocial Behavior

Supplemental Reading:

Latané, B., & Darley, J. M. (1968). Group inhibition of bystander intervention in emergencies. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 10, 215-221.

**Due: Final Draft of Paper Due: Tuesday**

**Quiz #9** Sunday at midnight.

#### Week Ten

Textbook Reading: Complete Chapter 11 - Prosocial Behavior

Supplemental Reading: None

**Due: Quiz #10** Sunday at midnight.

#### FINALS WEEK

**Wednesday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am. FINAL EXAM (Chapters 8, 10, 11, and 13).**