



PSY21: Introduction to Social Psychology

Basic Information

Instructor Name	Carol M. Donnelly
Home Institution	Northwestern University

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to important theory, research, and concepts in social psychology. Social psychology examines how people interpret the social world and the influence of the social environment on individuals' thoughts and behaviors. We will examine the classic topics in social psychology: social cognition, social influence, conformity, group processes, interpersonal relationships, helping, aggression, and prejudice. Because social psychologists sometimes investigate "everyday" behavior, students often believe that they can rely on intuition or common sense to learn about social psychology. Unfortunately, one core finding in social psychology is that common sense can be misleading at best and seriously biased at worst. Thus, this course will focus on how the scientific method helps to provide empirical answers to questions about humans and their social world.

Course Objectives

Successful completion of this course should allow you to:

- Develop a nuanced understanding of key social psychological concepts and theories and the empirical findings on which these concepts and theories rest.
- Integrate your content and method focused knowledge from this class to design studies that could answer specific social psychological questions.
- Apply your knowledge of social psychology to problems or challenges in the real world.

Course Expectations

The goals of this course will be accomplished through my lectures and through your



class participation. Students are expected to read assigned textbook readings prior to the class meeting.

I am requesting that you make a commitment to attend all 20 class meetings and to be there promptly. If you are seriously ill please bring an official note from the doctor or dean.

Requirements

Exams will cover material from lectures, films, and readings from the textbook. The format for the exam will be multiple choice. There will be 'in class' review prior to the exams.

All take home assignment should be one typed page. Please bring a hard copy to class.

Discussion questions in response to the readings: 15%

**Paper or Oral presentation: explore in depth a specific area in Social Psychology
15%**

Take home Assignments: 20%

Exams: 50%

Required text: Myers, David (2012). Social Psychology (11th Edition).
McGraw-Hill Education

Dates	Topics	Reading
July 13	Introduction to Social Psychology	Chapter 1

PART ONE: SOCIAL THINKING

July 14	The Self in a Social World	Chapter 2
July 15	Social Beliefs and Judgments	Chapter 3



July 18	Behavior and Attitudes	Chapter 4
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PART TWO: SOCIAL INFLUENCE

July 19	Genes Culture and Gender	Chapter 5
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July 20	Conformity and Obedience	Chapter 6
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July 21	Persuasion	Chapter 7
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July 22	Group Influence	Chapter 8
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July 25	Review for Midterm Exam	
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July 26	Midterm Exam	
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PART THREE: SOCIAL RELATIONS

July 27	Prejudice: Disliking others	Chapter 9
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July 28	Aggression: Hurting others	Chapter 10
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July 29	Attraction and Intimacy: Liking and Loving Others	Chapter 11
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Aug 1	Helping	Chapter 12
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Aug 2	Conflict and Peacemaking	Chapter 13
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PART FOUR: APPLYING SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY



Aug 3	Social Psychology in the Clinic	Chapter 14
Aug 4	Social Psychology in Court	Chapter 15
Aug 5	Social Psychology and the Sustainable Future	Chapter 16
Aug 8	Review for Final Exam	
Aug 9	Final Exam	