

PSYCHOLOGY 240 – SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2009, Course reference number: 40891

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 – 11:20

Location: AW 210

Instructor: Dr. David Sattler
Office: Academic Instruction Center 578
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:30 – 12:30
and by appointment
Phone: 650-3525 (please leave message on voice mail if not in)
Webpages: www.wvu.edu/~sattled

Course Materials

Myers, D. G. (2008). *Social psychology*, 9th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Course Goals and Objectives

This course is a comprehensive survey of social psychology. Social psychology is the scientific study of how people think about, influence, and relate to one another. During the course, we will consider important questions and issues concerning social behavior. We will examine the challenges to studying social behavior, and discuss strategies social psychologists use to learn about social behavior. Throughout the course, we will explore how social psychological theory and research can be applied to contemporary problems. After completing the course, you will be able to (a) identify and evaluate classic and contemporary social psychological theory and research, (b) apply social psychological theory and research to social behavior and contemporary social issues, (c) understand basic correlational and experimental research designs that social psychologists use to study behavior, and (d) identify and evaluate ethical issues in social psychological research.

Western Washington University is committed to equal opportunity and non-discrimination in all programs and activities. For accommodation or assistance requests, please contact the Office of Student Life at 650-3844.

Prerequisite

The course prerequisite is Psychology 101.

Attendance

Students are required to attend all class meetings.

Examinations

There will be four in-class exams. The first exam will be on Friday, October 16, at 10:00 a.m., the second exam will be on Friday, November 6, at 10:00 a.m., the third exam will be on Monday, November 23, at 10:00 a.m., and the final will be on Tuesday, December 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The multiple-choice exam questions are based on material presented in the textbook and during lecture. The final exam is comprehensive.

Research Experience

Students and faculty in the Psychology Department conduct scientific investigations on many of the topics covered in this course (such as person perception, attitudes, memory, and group behavior). These research projects typically require the participation of students enrolled in Psychology 101 and 200 level Psychology courses. Participating in our Department's research efforts can be beneficial for several reasons: it's educational and gives you a unique opportunity to learn first hand about psychological research; you'll be providing an opportunity to help train our advanced psychology majors and graduate students (who are conducting the projects under faculty supervision); and your participation may give you an opportunity to contribute to the body of psychological knowledge. Some of you, for whatever reason, may prefer not to participate in psychological research. You have the option of completing your research experience in an alternative fashion. The option is to read short scientific articles in social psychology journals and write a brief report. Please talk with me if you prefer to complete the research experience in this way.

Whichever research experience option you choose to participate (i.e., participating in the research projects or reporting on the short scientific articles), you must participate in two hours of research. The last day to complete the research experience requirement is Wednesday, December 2. To sign-up to participate in a study, go to <http://www.wvu.edu/~psych>, and click on Research Sign-Up.

Academic Dishonesty Policy and Procedure

Please read the Western Washington University Academic Dishonesty Policy and Procedure, as listed in the 2009-2010 Western Washington University Catalog. This policy states, in part: "Western Washington University students have an obligation to fulfill the responsibilities of their particular roles as members of an academic community. Honesty is essential to learning. Without it, fair evaluation for all is impossible. Academic integrity is demanded, and academic dishonesty at Western Washington University is a serious infraction dealt with severely. Students shall not claim as their own the achievements, work or arguments of others, nor shall they be a party to such claims." For complete information and a list of examples illustrating academic dishonesty and plagiarism and procedures for academic dishonesty cases, please see the 2009-2010 Catalog.

Grading

Students may earn up to 229 points.

Exam I	–	50 points
Exam II	–	50 points
Exam III	–	50 points
Final Exam	–	75 points
Research Experience	–	4 points
Total	–	229 points

For each exam, grades will be assigned as follows:

A	=	92 – 100%
A-	=	90 – 91%
B+	=	88 – 89%
B	=	82 – 87%
B-	=	80 – 81%
C+	=	78 – 79%
C	=	72 – 77%
C-	=	70 – 71%
D+	=	68 – 69%
D	=	62 – 67%
D-	=	60 – 61%
F	=	59% and less

Making-up an Examination

If you know that you are going to miss the exam, please contact me to make arrangements to take the exam *before* the scheduled time of the exam. If you miss an exam due to other reasons such as illness, please immediately send me an e-mail with an explanation about the absence. Only those people who miss an exam and have excusable reasons will be allowed to take the alternative version of the exam (of equal length and difficulty to the exam given to the class).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Reading Assignment
9/23	Introducing Social Psychology/Theories and Methods	Ch. 1
9/28	The Self in a Social World/Social Beliefs and Judgments	Ch. 2, 3
10/5	Social Beliefs and Judgments/Behavior and Attitudes	Ch. 3, 4
10/12	Behavior and Attitudes, Continued	Ch. 4
	Fri, 10/16, EXAM I – <u>Covering:</u> <u>Text:</u> Ch. 1-4; <u>Lectures:</u> 9/23 to 10/14	
10/19	Gender, Genes, and Culture Conformity/Persuasion	Ch. 5 Ch. 6, 7
10/26	Group Influence	Ch. 8
11/2	Group Influence Fri, 11/6, EXAM II – <u>Covering:</u> <u>Text:</u> Ch. 5-8; <u>Lectures:</u> 10/19 to 11/4	
11/9	Prejudice Wed, 11/11 – Veteran’s Day – No Class	Ch. 9
	Aggression	Ch. 10
11/16	Aggression, Cont’d/Altruism	Ch. 12
11/23	Mon, 11/23, EXAM III – <u>Covering:</u> <u>Text:</u> Ch. 9, 10, 12; <u>Lectures:</u> 11/9 to 11/20	
	Fri, 11/27 – Turkey Day! Gobble Gobble! No Class	
11/30	Social Dilemmas/Conflict and Peacemaking Applied Social Psychology	Ch. 13 Module C
12/8, Tues	FINAL EXAM – <u>Covering:</u> All chapters listed above; <u>Lectures:</u> All lectures 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	