

Wayne State University
SOC 4100: Social Psychology
Fall - 2015

Instructor: Errol E. Liverpool, Ph.D.
Time: Th 5:30 pm – 9:20 pm
Place: OAK 0313
Reference # **15002**
Section 901
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Cell 313-399-8987

Office Hours: Call to arrange.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course is designed to guide the student into a study of the social and sociopsychological dimensions of human behavior. Unlike other domains of psychology that focus solely on the individual as the unit of analysis, social psychology investigates behavior in its social context, in patterns of interpersonal relationships and group dynamics. Therefore, social psychology takes into account not only what is “inside” the individual, such as inherited and learned dispositions, but also how context, content, and culture impact human behavior. Students will be introduced to some of the main paradigms of social psychology, with emphasis on some key concepts such as attribution, cognition, prejudice, socialization, social perception, gender and identity, marriage relations, conformity, and a few other important topics.

Students are advised to read those sections of the text that will be covered on specific class times in advance. This is the only way to ensure meaningful discussion and critical examination of the issues that will be studied. Students are also encouraged to indulge in their own reading and outside study, and come to each class ready to engage in sensible analysis. When group projects are assigned, all students who are members of those groups are expected to share the responsibility of making the group's project a success. If there is evidence that any student has done less than his/her share, that student will have points deducted from his/her total.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for this course are few and simple. They cover the following:

- 1) Attendance** - you are expected to attend all class sessions. Besides being the only way one can ensure the maximum benefit from the structured learning experiences provided by the institution, class attendance is also evidence of the student's maturity and dedication. Evidence of the value placed on your attendance lies in the fact that it will directly affect your grade.
- 2) Preparation** - you are advised to read in advance those sections of the textbook which will be covered on specific days. Each day's lecture content is specified in this course outline, please follow it carefully.
- 3) Participation** - this is a discussion type class. Your preparation and participation in discussion will determine how interesting and beneficial this class will be to you.

Emphasis will be placed upon laying a strong conceptual foundation of the discipline rather than the completion of the syllabus. In this connection, quantity yields place to quality, and chapter completion to conceptual grasp.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will learn why the study of Social Psychology is considered scientific in nature.
2. Students will learn about relationships; how they develop, change, strengthen, or end.
3. Students will understand social diversity and its impact on the concept of self.
4. Students will learn how social psychologists research the various questions about group behavior.
5. Students will learn about social cognition and social perception, in addition to the function of schemas and heuristics.
6. Students will be exposed to the causes, effects, and cures of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination.
7. Students will learn about Symbolic Social Influence, Prosocial Behavior and Aggression
8. Students will learn about neuroscience and its use in understanding human behavior.
9. Students will learn about the effect of Social Psychology on health disparities, and defendants entangled in the legal system.
10. Students will learn about Illusionary Correlations, Social Exclusion, and their impact on the social world.
11. Students will learn about Attachment Styles, Attitude Similarity, and Attribution.
12. Students will learn about Gender differences and why men often experience the Glass Escalator and women the Glass Ceiling.

GRADING

The final grade for this class will be determined by the following:

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1. Four exams: 90% of grade (22.5% each). (**Raw score:** 35 points each for a total of 140 points)
2. Attendance: 10% of grade. (Raw score: 20 points)

Total possible points: 160

Special note: *Over the years I have seen students miss out on a good grade because they paid very little attention to the value of regular attendance. Don't let this happen to you!*

Some important rules to observe

1. *No use of cell phones in class. This includes texting. If you must use phone, then step outside of classroom.*
2. *No use of headphones in class, unless you are hearing impaired, and has a doctor's certificate authorizing such use.*
3. *Laptops, tablets, etc. may only be used for class purposes. Anyone caught using such devices for any other purpose will be asked to leave the class.*
4. *During an exam, the only thing permitted on your desk is the exam. Anyone caught cheating would automatically be given a score of zero.*
5. *Anyone who leaves the room during an exam would not be permitted to continue upon returning. When one leaves the room during an exam, it would be considered that he/she has completed the exam.*
6. *Attendance will be taken at the start of class. **Anyone who is recorded present and then leaves the class without prior arrangements with the instructor to leave early, would be marked absent.** If you arrive late to class, after the attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to come to me after class so that you may marked present.*
7. *Each student is allowed one **unexcused** absence for the term. If a student has an emergency and cannot attend class, an excuse would be granted only if that student contacts the instructor within 24 hours of the emergency; preferably by email.*

8. **Excused absences** – *Because I consider you to be mature and responsible students, I do not require a doctor’s note, or the reason you can’t make it to class. An absence is considered excused just by you informing me that you would not be in class.*
9. *When sending email please remember to identify yourself, and the class for which you are enrolled. E.g. “I am John Smith from your Monday & Wednesday class.” The class you are taking with me is not the only class I am teaching. Hence, the necessity of **identifying yourself and class.***
10. *If the weather is particularly bad, please make it a habit to check BB before coming to class. If class is cancelled for any reason, I will post such notification on BB and also send you an email.*
11. *If a class is cancelled, I will post that lecture on BB.*
12. ****** You are responsible for being familiar with the information in the syllabus. If I am asked a question and the answer is already provided in this document, I will politely direct you to consult the syllabus.*
13. **Attendance requirements begins first day of class.**

TEXTBOOK

Stangor, C. (2014) Principles of Social Psychology (version 1.0). Washington, DC: Flat World Inc.
 Due to the high cost of textbooks I am using a next text which is just as good as the one I used for the last 13 years. This new text is only \$69.00. This text is required for the course.

The following earned percentages will be used to determine letter grades:

- A 90 and above
- A- 88 -89
- B+ 86—87
- B 80—85
- B- 79**
- C+ 77—78
- C 70—76
- C- 69
- D+ 67—68
- D 60—66
- F 59 and below.

STUDY AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

September 3	Class Overview & Chapter 1(Introducing Social Psychology)
September 10	Chapters 2 & 3 (Social Learning and Social Cognition) (Social Effect)
September 17	No class
September 24	Exam 1
October 1	Chapters 4 & 5 (The Self) (Attitudes, Behavior and Persuasion)
October 8	Chapter 6 (Perceiving Others)
October 15	Exam 2
October 22	Chapters 7 & 8 (Influencing and Conforming) & (Liking and Loving)
October 29	Chapter 9 Helping and Altruism
November 5	Exam 3
November 12	Chapters 11 & 12 (Working Groups, Performance and Decision Making) (Stereotypes, Prejudice and Discrimination)
November 19	Chapter 13 (Competition and Cooperation in Our Social World)
November 26	No class (Thanksgiving)
December 17	Exam 4

Student Disability Services

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TDD only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Student Disability Services' mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

Please be aware that a delay in getting SDS accommodation letters for the current semester may hinder the availability or facilitation of those accommodations in a timely manner. Therefore, it is in your best interest to get your accommodation letters as early in the semester as possible.