

PSYCHOLOGY 240: Social Psychology
Spring 2007

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Class meets Monday and Wednesday 1st Period (7:40am-8:45am)

Overview:

This course is designed to present psychology as a social science, emphasizing a survey of human social behavior. Topics to be discussed include attitudes, conformity, persuasion, group processes, prejudice, and social cognition. Specific research from these areas will be discussed to provide examples of psychological explanation and thought. The class format will include lecture, discussion, and demonstration.

Required Texts:

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., & Nisbett, R. E. (2005). *Social psychology*. New York: Norton. (GKN).

Milgram, S. (2004). *Obedience to authority: An experimental view*. New York: Harper Perennial.

Course Requirements PSYCH 240

1. Two exams and a final examination will be given. The exams will contain multiple choice questions and essays. The final exam will be, in part, comprehensive, but will focus most on material from the last third of the course. Dates for exams one and two are listed on the syllabus; the final exam date will be determined by the Registrar and announced later in the semester.
2. An un-excused absence from an exam will be recorded as a zero (0) grade. If you must miss an exam for an important reason, then you must notify me at least three (3) days prior and arrange to take a make-up exam. If you miss an exam due to illness or emergency, then you must notify me as soon as possible.
3. Attendance and participation are expected. You are expected to attend all class meetings prepared (i.e., having read the appropriate GKN chapter. Class participation is an important part of this course and it will be graded accordingly.

If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining missed notes, discussion of assignments, and any announcements. We will be covering material not presented in the textbook during class. *Mere attendance is not the same thing as active and engaged class participation*—you will not receive a high or favorable participation grade for merely coming to class but not asking questions, offering opinions, and sharing your reactions with your peers.

Please note that I **will** be taking role, thus your absence from class will affect your participation grade (i.e., if you are not in class, you cannot contribute to discussion). If you miss a class, you are responsible for any material covered, notes given, announcements, etc. If you are absent, please see one of your classmates regarding that day's assignments.

4. *Short Essays*. I would like you to write 5 short (2 or so page) essays. Due dates are noted in the syllabus. Each paper should provide (1) a short description of a personal experience, event, or observation that illustrates *one* of the social psychological topics covered in class lecture, discussion, or our textbook. Each short essay must contain (2) a brief explanation of the theory or research on the topic discussed in (1), complete with any reference(s) (provide complete APA style references at the end of each short essay). Each paper must also have some (3) application of the research or theory in (2) to the experience described in (1), together with an evaluation of the “fit” of the theory to the actual experience.

I will be evaluating each short essay on a 5-point grading scale, where:

- 4 = *Excellent* – a thoughtful, creative, and complete essay.
- 3 = *Average* – satisfies the requirement for the short essay.
- 2 = *Incomplete* – does not satisfy the requirements for the short essay.
- 1 = *Poor* – a poor effort.
- 0 = *No Credit*

Each short essay must be double-spaced and typed. Late papers will drop one point per day late beginning in the class when the essay was due (i.e., an essay worth a 4 receives a 3, a 3 a 2, and so on). Papers that are 4 days late automatically receive a grade of zero.

5. **Policy on Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the intentional use of another person’s work, misrepresenting that work as your own. All outside sources (i.e., any and all ideas that are not your own) must be properly cited—these include quotations from books, article, etc. Having someone write a paper for you, relying on the course files from a fraternity or sorority, or purchasing papers from a professional writing service are **not** acceptable methods for satisfying course requirements. The Psychology Department requires that students keep notes, note cards, rough drafts, etc. for papers until a course grade is given. A course instructor may request the above materials at any time. Plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the new college policy on academic honesty. **In short,**

plagiarism will not be tolerated.

6. Your course grade will be based upon the three exams, the final, the two short papers, and our class participation/discussion. The grading breakdown will be as follows:

Two Exams and Final	20% each = 60%
Five Short Essay Papers	6% each = 30%
Class Participation/Discussion	10%

7. My scheduled office hours are:
- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Monday | 10:15-11:15am |
| Wednesday | 2-3pm |
| Friday | 8:30-10:30am |

When necessary, appointments for other times may be scheduled.

I reserve the right to alter the syllabus if I decide change is necessary.

Course Outline

Date	Topic and Reading Assignment
<i>Week 1</i>	Overview
M Jan 15	Organizational meeting
W Jan 17	Introduction to social psychology – Chapter 1 GKN
	<i>Connecting to Others</i>
<i>Week 2</i>	Groups
M Jan 22	Chapter 2 GKN – Essay 1 due: <i>Groups</i>
W Jan 24	Finish Chapter 2
<i>Week 3</i>	Attraction
M Jan 29	Chapter 3 GKN
W Jan 31	Finish Chapter 3
<i>Week 4</i>	Relationships
M Feb 5	Chapter 4 GKN
W Feb 7	Finish Chapter 4
<i>Week 5</i>	The Social Self

M Feb 12	Chapter 5 GKN
W Feb 14	Finish Chapter 5 - Essay 2 due: <i>The Self</i>
<i>Week 6</i>	Social Influence
M Feb 19	Exam One in class
	<i>Influencing Others</i>
W Feb 21	Chapter 6 GKN
F Feb 23	Midterm
<i>Week 7</i>	Obedience
M Feb 26	Milgram Chapters 1 - 7
W Feb 28	Milgram Chapter 8 – 15 Film: <i>Obedience</i> - Essay 3 due: <i>Obedience to Authority</i>
<i>Spring Break – March 3 (Sat) thru 11 (Sun)</i>	
<i>Week 8</i>	Attitudes and Persuasion
M Mar 12	Chapter 7 GKN
W Mar 14	Finish Chapter 7
<i>Week 9</i>	Attitudes and Behavior
M Mar 19	Chapter 8 GKN
W Mar 21	Exam Two in Class
	<i>Social Thought</i>
<i>Week 10</i>	Causal Attribution
M Mar 26	Chapter 9 GKN
W Mar 28	Finish Chapter 9 - Essay 4 due: <i>Attribution</i>
<i>Last day for Withdrawal with a W is Friday, March 30th.</i>	
<i>Week 11</i>	Social Judgment
M Apr 2	Chapter 10 GKN
W Apr 4	Finish Chapter 10

