

**PSYCH 240: Social Psychology**  
**Fall 2005**

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Class meets Monday and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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:**

Aronson, E. (2000). *Nobody left to hate: Teaching compassion after Columbine*. New York: Holt.

Myers, D. (2005). *Social psychology (8<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

## Course Requirements PSYCH 240

1. Two exams and a final examination will be given. These exams will be comprised of multiple choice, short answer, true-false, and essay type questions. The final exam will be, in part, comprehensive. Exam dates are listed on the syllabus.
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 Myers' 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

<b>Class</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<i>Week 1</i>	
M Aug 29 W Aug 30	Organizational meeting Theoretical Perspectives – Chapter 1
<i>Week 2</i>	
M Sept 5 W Sept 7	Labor Day – No Class Meeting – Summer’s End Research Methods
<i>Week 3</i>	
M Sept 12 W Sept 14	The Psychological Self - Chapter 2 <i>Short Essay 1 – The Self - due</i>
<i>Week 4</i>	
M Sept 19 W Sept 21	Social Beliefs and Judgments - Chapter 3
<i>Week 5</i>	
M Sept 26 W Sept 28	Behavior and Attitudes - Chapter 4 <i>Short Essay 2 – Attitudes - due</i>
<i>Week 6</i>	
M Oct 3 W Oct 5	<b>Exam One in class</b> Gender, Genes, and Culture – Chapter 5
Fall Break – Oct. 8 (Sat) to Oct. 11 (Tues)	
<i>Week 7</i>	
W Oct 12	Gender, Genes, and Culture continued
<i>Week 8</i>	

M Oct 17 Conformity - Chapter 6  
Film: Obedience  
W Oct 19 *Short Essay 3 – Conformity - due*

*Week 9*

M Oct 24 Persuasion-Chapter 7  
W Oct 26 **Exam Two in Class**

*Week 10*

M Oct 31 Prejudice-Chapter 9  
W Nov 2 *Short Essay 4 – Prejudice - due*

*Week 11*

M Nov 7 Aggression-Chapter 10  
W Nov 9 *Short Essay 5 – Aggression - due*

*Week 12*

M Nov 14 Teaching Compassion After Columbine – Read Aronson  
W Nov 16

*Week 13*

M Nov 21 Attraction – Chapter 11  
W Nov 23 No Class

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 23 (W) to Nov 27 (Su)

*Week 14*

M Nov 28 Altruism – Chapter 12  
W Nov 30

*Week 15*

M Dec 5 Conflict and Peacemaking - Chapter 13  
W Dec 7

*Week 16*

M Dec 12 Conclusions and Review

**Date of Final Exam to be Announced**

