

Social Psychology – PSY 245

SUNY Broome Community College

Spring 2016 Syllabus

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Course Description:

Scientific study of social influences on human behavior. Topics include social influence, attitudes, group behavior, social perception, social cognition, aggression, and interpersonal attraction.

This is a Writing Emphasis course. The prerequisites for taking this course are General Psychology (PSY 110) and College Writing I (ENG 110). This emphasis on writing will help you to master course concepts, to reflect on your own learning process, and to fulfill the behavioral objectives outlined below.

Behavioral Objectives:

Through your work in this course, you will demonstrate:

- a working knowledge of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in social psychology;
- an understanding of, and ability to use basic research methods in social psychology;
- the ability to think critically about psychological science, especially popular press reports on research;
- the ability to describe behavioral phenomena and the theories that attempt to explain them; and
- the ability to communicate effectively about psychological issues, both within the discipline and with members of the general public.

Class Meetings:

Class meetings will be organized discussions, following the agenda below, not lectures. Each session will tackle specific issues or concepts that you have read about in the textbook. We may also engage in in-class experiments and demonstrations. For this to work, you must read each chapter before that week's class. Attendance is also very important, so that you can participate in the demonstrations and fully understand the concepts covered. If you miss a class, you are responsible for all information discussed, materials provided, and announcements made. In-class activities cannot be made up. If you miss a scheduled examination due to extraordinary circumstances (illness, etc.), you may arrange a make-up by appointment. If you know that you will miss an exam due to prior plans, you should arrange to take that examination before the conflicting event. All exams must be made up within one week of the original test date. If you require testing or learning accommodations, please alert me as soon as possible.

Textbook and other readings:

Our textbook is *Social Psychology (4th Edition)*, by Thomas Gilovich, Dacher Keltner, Serena Chen, and Richard E. Nisbett (2016). This text is available in the College Bookstore (ISBN: 978-0-393-93896-8). As noted above, you are responsible for understanding the material in each chapter before we begin to work with it. You will also be responsible for reading, and leading discussions on two specific articles, which I'll provide for you on our wiki. I may also recommend other interesting or newly released readings during the course of the semester.

Formal writing in this class will conform to the style set forth in the current edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. This book is available for your use at the BCC Writing Center. If you plan a career in psychology you may wish to purchase a copy, but this is not required. A shorter, less expensive but useful reference is the *Pocket Guide to APA Style*, by Robert Perrin.

Assignments:

Examinations

There will be three unit examinations. These will cover material from the textbook, classroom discussions, and the articles you present to each other in class.

Wiki Project (Formal writing)

Each member of the class will research a particular issue and construct a page about that issue on the class wiki. This project will be developed over the length of the semester. Grades will be assigned to two drafts, as well as the final page. You will be able to share critiques with each other. I will also comment on your pages to help you develop and refine them. Everyone will present their research to the class at the end of the term.

Discussion of Classic Articles

Primary source material is essential to understanding social psychology. Although having the entire class read several dozen articles might be a good way to give you all a flavor for what's happening in the field, I think the amount of work required might be a bit unrealistic. Instead, we will operate as a gigantic study group. You will be assigned one article to read and present to the class. These articles will be available on our wiki. Write up a critique of the article (a format for this is available on the website), then hand it in and summarize and present its most important points to the class at the appropriate time.

In Class Writing Exercises (ICWE)

These are short reaction papers. At the beginning of each class you will write a short response to a quotation or other information I present. This will help us to generate discussion, and will act as an advance organizer (something to help you center your thoughts for the class) for the topics on which we'll work for the day. At the end of the period, you'll write a short reaction to the day's topics. You can also use this as an opportunity to ask me any questions about the topic, or to comment on the class. The ICWE will help you solidify your learning of the day's topics, and will give me an opportunity to evaluate how well you're taking in the course material and whether I need to improve my teaching on particular topics.

Evaluation:

Grades are based on your accomplishments. There is no curve. I encourage you to work together. Working together, discussing issues and topics is one of the easiest ways to learn. Common expectations of collegiate level work will be applied to all evaluations.

Plagiarism, cheating, or other violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated, and will be treated harshly. You'll find SUNY Broome Community College's Academic Honesty Policy online at

https://www.sunybroome.edu/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=161669&folderId=142906&name=DLFE-762.pdf

Final grades will be computed as follows:

Examinations	60%	(3 at 20 % each)
Wiki Project Stage 1	5%	
Wiki Project Stage 2	10%	
Wiki Project Stage 3	15%	
Assigned Article Presentation	5%	
In-Class Writing Exercises	5%	(Average of daily exercises)

Classroom Etiquette:

Please observe the following, so everyone will have the best chance to participate and excel,:

1. You are welcome to bring food or drinks to class, but please do not bring things that will cause distractions, such as strong-smelling cheeses or foods that create a lot of noise.
2. Electronic communications devices (e.g., cell phones) must be turned off. The only exception is if you must monitor a child or medical situation. In such cases, please let me know at the beginning of class, set your phone to vibrate rather than ring, and sit near the door so that you can leave to receive your call.
3. Video and audio recording of the class are not permitted.

SUNY Broome Community College is committed to creating a civil learning environment. Find more information at

https://www.sunybroome.edu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=32369ca4-996f-45ab-ae14-b37fc7dc5d16&groupId=39972.

Campus Resources:

I encourage you to make the most of BCC's wide range of resources to enhance your understanding of the course material, time management abilities, study skills, and writing skills. For example, you may work with tutors at the Learning Assistance Center to improve your understanding of course concepts, or hone your test-taking skills.

I highly recommend consulting with the staff at the BCC Writing Center. Working with these writing professionals can help you formulate the ideas for your papers, as well as provide guidance for your efforts on subsequent drafts. Meeting with them in the initial stages of your projects (*before you begin writing*) can save you a lot of time and effort at later stages, and help you produce a better paper in the end.

Be sure to explore my website, where you'll find many useful tools to help you organize your thoughts, work together in groups, and improve your study skills, as well as links to other helpful resources. Of course, you're also encouraged to see me during office hours for assistance with course work, writing, or other concerns.

In addition, you may want to form your own study groups, to provide peer review and study support on a more frequent basis. A major advantage of such a group is that by having a set meeting time every week you encourage each other to complete your work in a timely fashion, and to higher standards of quality. Feel free to use the class mailing list to organize study groups.

SUNY Broome Community College is committed to learning environments that are inclusive of and accessible to students with disabilities. All students who are diagnosed with a disability are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student who requires reasonable academic accommodations or use of auxiliary aids in class should contact the Accessibility Resources Office at ARO@sunybroome.edu or call them at 607-778-5150. Please note that in order to receive accommodations in this course, a student must present a valid Campus Accessibility Plan and discuss individual needs with the instructor in a timely manner.

Nota bene: I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time. All changes will be announced in class.

Social Psychology Lecture, Project, and Examination Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter	Work Due	Birthdays & Events
M 1/25	Introduction to the course			Virginia Woolf – 1882
W 1/27	Introduction to the Wiki Assignments		Sign into the wiki and mailing list	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – 1756
F 1/29	An Invitation to Social Psychology	1		Thomas Paine – 1737
M 2/1	Wiki Work Day		Select your research topic and create and outline your wiki page	G. Stanley Hall – 1844
W 2/3	The Methods of Social Psychology	2		George A. Miller – 1920
F 2/5	The Methods of Social Psychology	2		John Dunlop – 1840
M 2/8	The Social Self	3		Alfred Adler – 1870
W 2/10	The Social Self	3		Bertolt Brecht – 1898
F 2/12	Wiki Work Day	4		Charles Darwin – 1809
Sat. 2/13	Wiki Editing Frozen for Grading		Wiki Stage 1 Grading	
M 2/15	BREAK – No classes			Paul Ekman – 1934
W 2/17	Social Cognition			Thomas Robert Malthus – 1766
F 2/19	Social Cognition	4		Nicolaus Copernicus – 1473
M 2/22	Social Attribution	5		Heinrich Hertz – 1857
W 2/24	Social Attribution	5		Wilhelm Grimm – 1786
F 2/26			Examination 1	John Bowlby – 1907
M 2/29	Emotion	6		Gioacchino Rossini – 1792
W 3/2	Emotion	6		Dr. Seuss – 1904
F 3/4	Attitudes, Behavior, & Rationalization	7		Hans Eysenck – 1916
M 3/7	Attitudes, Behavior, & Rationalization	7		J. P. Guilford – 1897
W 3/9	Persuasion	8		Yuri Gagarin – 1934
F 3/11	Wiki Work Day			Bobby McFerrin – 1950
Sat. 3/12	Wiki Editing Frozen for Grading		Wiki Stage 2 Grading	
M 3/14	Persuasion	8		Albert Einstein – 1879
W 3/16	Social Influence	9		Jerry Lewis – 1926
F 3/18	Social Influence	9		Kurt Koffka – 1886
M 3/21	BREAK – No classes			John Ridley Stroop – 1897
W 3/23	BREAK – No classes			Akira Kurosawa – 1910
F 3/25	BREAK – No classes			Aretha Franklin – 1942
M 3/28	Relationships & Attraction	10		Reba McEntire – 1955
W 3/30	Relationships & Attraction	10		John Astin – 1930
F 4/1			Examination 2	Toshiro Mifune – 1920
M 4/4	Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination	11		Dorothea Lynde Dix – 1802
W 4/6	Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination	11		Harry Houdini – 1874
F 4/8	Groups	12		Edmund Husserl – 1859

Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter	Work Due	Birthdays & Events
M 4/11	Groups	12		Robert Fripp – 1945
W 4/13	Aggression	13		Samuel Beckett – 1906
F 4/15	Aggression	13		Max Wertheimer – 1880
M 4/18	Altruism & Cooperation	14		Lucretia Borgia – 1480
W 4/20	Altruism & Cooperation	14		George Takei – 1940
F 4/22			Examination 3	Lee J. Cronbach – 1916
M 4/25	Special Topic #1: Choices: Social Ψ & Health Social Ψ & Personal Finance Social Ψ & Education Social Ψ & The Law			Henry C. Lavery patented the Phrenometer – 1905
W 4/27	Special Topic #1			Mary Wollstonecraft – 1759
F 4/29	Special Topic #2: Choices: Social Ψ & Health Social Ψ & Personal Finance Social Ψ & Education Social Ψ & The Law			Duke Ellington – 1899
M 5/2	Special Topic #2			Catherine the Great of Russia – 1729
W 5/4	Open Discussion Day			Thomas Henry Huxley – 1825
F 5/6	Wiki Work Day			Sigmund Freud – 1856
Sat. 5/7	Wiki Editing Suspended		Wiki Stage 3 Grading	
M 5/9	Wiki Presentation Day			John Brown – 1800
W 5/11	Wiki Presentation Day			Salvadore Dalí – 1904
F 5/13	Wiki Presentation Day			Henry A. Murray – 1893
M 5/16	Wiki Presentation Day			Liberace – 1919