

PSCH 312: Social Psychology

Spring 2016

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Course Description

Social psychology is the scientific study of how the presence of others shapes our thoughts, feelings and behavior. Rather than focusing on differences between individuals, the field primarily centers on what humans as social beings have in common, and the powerful influence of situational circumstances on human behavior. Among other things, we will cover topics such as how we form impressions of others, when and how our attitudes change, what causes aggression, conformity, and interpersonal attraction, how stereotypes influence judgments and behavior, and the psychology of intergroup behavior. We will discuss prominent social psychological theories, as well as the scientific methods used to test them.

Course Objectives:

Students should leave this course with an understanding of:

Social psychological theories and explanations for how people and environments shape our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors

How social psychological theories are translated into scientifically testable hypotheses

How hypotheses are tested through experiments and observations

How to be a good consumer of research, and to critically evaluate scientific findings about social psychological issues that affect us all

How social psychology can be used to understand everyday life phenomena (e.g., interactions with other individuals and groups, relationships, and conflict)

Course Prerequisite:

Grade C or better in PSCH 242

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Materials

Textbook: Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. (2013). *Social Psychology* (9th ed.) Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall. (AWA, hereafter)

New and used copies should be available at the UIC bookstore.

If you prefer, you can purchase an electronic copy at:

<http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/social-psychology-9780133936544>

If you'd rather have a hard copy, you can try to rent or purchase the textbook from Amazon here:

http://www.amazon.com/Social-Psychology-9th-Elliot-Aronson/dp/0133936546/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1452188044&sr=1-1&keywords=social+psychology+9th+edition+aronson

Course Format and Expectations

We will meet twice a week for 75-minute sessions. Lectures will be supplemented with short videos, class demonstrations, and discussions. I will assume that you have completed the reading assignments before each class meeting. In class, we will discuss some—but not all—of the topics from the book. Instead, we will use the class time to gain an in-depth understanding of selected topics. Because you are responsible for knowing theory and research not covered in the reading material, it is a very good idea to attend every lecture. You are responsible for both book and class material on the exams. If you miss class, be sure to get notes from a classmate. Although attendance during lectures is not required, it is **strongly recommended**.

Missed or Late Work

Late homework will not be accepted under any circumstances. If you are unable to turn in a homework assignment on time, you will receive a 0 for that homework. Please note that you are welcome to hand in assignments as early as you like.

Electronic Communication

Provided that you ask a reasonable question and articulate yourself clearly in your message, I will respond to e-mails. However, please understand that I receive a lot of e-mails in a given day. Each semester I teach up to three classes and have approximately 300 students. Therefore, please expect it to take up to 48 hours until you receive my response.

Many things I am asked in emails are things that are addressed in this document (e.g., can I drop an exam? Can I get a make-up exam?), or things that I have already addressed in class. I will not respond to these emails. If what you ask is a question that is relevant to the rest of the class, I may address your question in class instead of responding to the e-mail.

If you e-mail the instructor or your TA and you would like a response, your message should be well thought out, well-written, and include information about who you are and what course you are in.

Academic Integrity

A student who submits work, at any stage of the writing process, which in whole or part has been written by someone else or which contains passages quoted or paraphrased from another's work without acknowledgment (quotation marks, citation, etc.) has plagiarized. Maintain your integrity when completing assignments and be overzealous to give credit where it is due. If you are ever unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, ask me. Students who are found to have plagiarized work may be subject to various disciplinary actions, including a failing grade on a particular assignment, failure of the entire course, and possible expulsion from the university.

For any case of academic dishonesty, I file a complaint with the Office of the Dean of

Students. For more information about violating academic integrity and its consequences, consult the website of the UIC Office of the Dean of Students at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/studentconduct.html>.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus Policy States: The faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago shall make every effort to avoid scheduling examinations or requiring that student projects be turned in or completed on religious holidays. Students who wish to observe their religious holidays shall notify the faculty member by the tenth day of the semester of the date when they will be absent unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. In such cases, the student shall notify the faculty member at least five days in advance of the date when he/she will be absent. The faculty member shall make every reasonable effort to honor the request, not penalize the student for missing the class, and if an examination or project is due during the absence, give the student an exam or assignment equivalent to the one completed by those students in attendance. If the student feels aggrieved, he/she may request remedy through the campus grievance procedure.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome, but must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). You may contact DRC at 312-413-2183 (v) or 312-413-0123 (TTY).

RULES DURING CLASS/EXAMS

When you are in class, I ask that you be courteous to me as well as your fellow students. **Please do not have conversations with fellow students during lecture. In addition, please do not listen to music, send text messages, or engage in similar distracting behaviors during lecture.** You may feel like you are an anonymous student in a class and that the instructor doesn't notice. Instructors do notice these things, and it ultimately disrupts the class. If I ask that you stop doing some behavior and you persist, I may ask you to leave the class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, METHODS OF EVALUATION, & GRADING POLICIES

Exams

There will be four multiple-choice exams throughout the semester (progress exams), as well as an optional, cumulative final exam. All exams will consist of multiple choice questions and will be worth 100 points each (including the final exam). The lowest score from all of the five exams (including the final exam) will be dropped. If you cannot attend on at least four of these exam dates (including the final exam), you should not enroll in this course. For the four progress exams, questions will be focused on the material from the previous few weeks of class. That said, there may be some questions on content tested on previous tests, making each test somewhat cumulative. Exams will cover material from the textbook as well as from lectures. Note that questions may cover materials from the book that has not been discussed in class, as well as material that has been discussed in class, but that is not covered in the textbook.

Exam grades will be posted on blackboard. If you are interested in going over your exams, you may come to our office hours or set up an appointment to meet with one of us. If you choose to go over an exam, you must do so within 2 weeks of taking the exam. I impose this limit because (a) it is more useful for you to go over your exam early, and (b) many students try to cram all the

reviews into the days just before the final exam, which leads to overcrowded office hours.

Because your grade is based upon the top four of five potential exam scores, THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. If you must miss an exam, for whatever reason, there is no need to contact me. Missing an exam means that the final exam is no longer optional for you. Of course, you should miss an exam only if absolutely necessary, as you cannot predict whether something may interfere with your ability to take a future test.

As mentioned above, your lowest score from the five exams will be dropped. I will drop your lowest exam for several reasons. You may be sick or out of town on a particular exam day, or oversleep on the day of the exam. If this were to occur, you would not need to worry about missing the exam because that exam will be dropped. Furthermore, anyone can have a bad day. If you happened to take an exam on a day you were not sufficiently prepared, you can make up for it by studying hard for the final exam. If your score on the final exam is better than one of your previous exams, the earlier exam would be dropped from your final grade. In addition, if you are happy with your first four exam scores, you are not required to take the final. Finally, another reason for this policy is that it eliminates the need for make-up exams. Again, **make-up exams will not be given under any circumstances**.

Homework

You will have two homework assignments over the course of the semester. Homework assignments must be typewritten, and uploaded on blackboard using safeassign before the deadline stated in the syllabus. Late assignments will not be considered. As with exams, there will be no Make-up assignments.

Course Grading

Course grades will be based on exams (80%), and homework assignments (20%). Grades will be based on the following scale.

Your final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Item	Possible Points	Earned Points
Exam 1	100 points	
Exam 2	100 points	
Exam 3	100 points	
Exam 4	100 points	
Exam 5 (*optional*)	*100 points*	
Homework #1	50 points	
Homework #2	50 points	
Total Possible Points	500 points	

Grade	Percent	Raw Points
A	89.5 – 100	447.5-500
B	79.5 – 89.4	397.5-447.4
C	69.5- 79.4	347.5-397.44
D	59.5 – 69.4	297.5-347.44
F	0 – 59.4	0-297.44

Incompletes:

University policy on incomplete grades is very strict, and I will grant an incomplete only under very extreme circumstances. Do not request an incomplete unless the following conditions apply (taken from the undergraduate catalogue):

Course work is incomplete when a student fails to submit all required assignments or is absent from the final examination; incomplete course work will normally result in a failing grade. The IN (incomplete) grade may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The instructor must submit an Incomplete report with the final grade roster for the IN to be recorded. This report is a contract for the student to complete the course work with that instructor or one designated by the department executive officer in the way described and by the time indicated on the report. In resolving the IN, the student may not register for the course a second time, but must follow the procedures detailed on the report. An IN must be removed by the end of the student's first semester or summer session in residence subsequent to the occurrence, or, if not in residence, no later than one calendar year after the occurrence. When the student submits the work, the instructor will grade it and change the IN to the appropriate grade. If an undergraduate fails to meet the stated conditions, the instructor will assign an E for the final grade.

UIC RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, don't hesitate to ask for help! Come to me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your college advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus. You can get a referral to the right place, or help on the spot, from concerned advisor in the Undergraduate Success Center (USC) at usc@uic.edu.

The Writing Center, located in Grant Hall 105, offers one-on-one consultation with student writers who need help developing ideas, or need advice, guidance or additional instruction on any aspects of writing in any class. Tutors are prepared to spend fifty minutes per appointment, and there is no limit to the number of tutoring sessions you can have each semester. Make an appointment and be on time! Bring the paper on which you're working, as well as any related drafts or notes, and information about the assignment. For an appointment, call the Writing Center at (312) 413-2206, or stop by room 105 of Grant Hall. Visit the Writing Center website at www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing for more information.

Public Computer Labs are available throughout campus where you may write and/or print out your work. For a list of labs and the hours they're open, go to <www.accc.uic.edu/pclabs>.

NOTE: Do not wait until the last minute to print out papers. Sometimes labs have long lines of students waiting for access.

The Academic Center for Excellence can help if you feel you need more individualized instruction in reading and/or writing, study skills, time management, etc. Phone: (312) 413-0031.

Counseling Services are available for all UIC students. You may seek free and confidential services from the Counseling Center <www.counseling.uic.edu>. The Counseling Center is located in the Student Services Building; you may contact them at (312) 996-3490. In addition to offering counseling services, the Counseling Center also operates the InTouch Crisis Hotline from 6:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. They offer support and referrals to callers, as well as telephone crisis interventions; please call (312) 996-5535.

Tentative schedule

The following pages contain a listing of topics and assigned readings. All readings will come from the AWA textbook. Students are expected to have read the required readings before class.

Note: This topic schedule is **tentative**. Topics may take more or less time to cover depending on class understanding. It is your responsibility to track these changes.

Week #	Date	Topic	Reading
1	12 Jan	Introduction	AWA, Chapter 1
	14 Jan	Research methods	AWA, Chapter 2
2	19 Jan	Social Cognition I	AWA, Chapter 3
	21 Jan	Social Cognition II	AWA, Chapter 3
3	26 Jan	Social Perception I	AWA, Chapter 4
	28 Jan	Social Perception II	AWA, Chapter 4
4	2 Feb	***Exam 1***	
	4 Feb	The Self I	AWA, Chapter 5
5	9 Feb	The Self II	AWA, Chapter 5
	11 Feb	Dissonance & Self-esteem I	AWA, Chapter 6
6	16 Feb	Dissonance & Self-esteem II	AWA, Chapter 6
	18 Feb	Attitudes I	AWA, Chapter 7
7	23 Feb	Attitudes II	AWA, Chapter 7
	25 Feb	***Exam 2***	

8	1 Mar	Conformity I	AWA, Chapter 8
	3 Mar	Conformity II	AWA, Chapter 8
9	8 Mar	Group Processes I	AWA, Chapter 9
	10 Mar	Group Processes II	AWA, Chapter 9
10	15 Mar	Interpersonal Attraction I	AWA, Chapter 10
	17 Mar	Interpersonal Attraction II	AWA, Chapter 10
	22 Mar	SPRING BREAK	
	24 Mar	SPRING BREAK	
11	29 Mar	***Exam 3***	
	31 Mar	Prosociality & Morality I	AWA, Chapter 11
12	5 Apr	Prosociality & Morality II	AWA, Chapter 11
	7 Apr	Aggression I	AWA, Chapter 12
13	12 Apr	Aggression II	AWA, Chapter 12
	14 Apr	Prejudice I	AWA, Chapter 13
14	19 Apr	Prejudice II	AWA, Chapter 13
	21 Apr	***Exam 4***	
15	26 Apr	Applied Social Psychology	AWA, Soc PSy in Action 1
	28 Apr	Concluding Remarks	
Finals week	5 May	***Final Exam*** (8-10am; 2LCD D001)	