

Psychology 15: Social Psychology

Fall, 2006

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This course explores the scientific study of social thought and behavior. Main topics include an overview of the field, the role of the mind in social life, the nature of social interaction, and the application of psychology to social problems.

Requirements

1. Three exams will be given, each covering a third of the class and counting 23% of your grade. The exams each include 50 multiple-choice questions, covering lecture and text equally. You are invited to contribute questions for possible inclusion in each exam.
2. Discussion section will provide 26% of your grade. A research project conducted in section will include these steps:
 - a. A *commentary* on the project source book (one you choose from the list below) due in section the week of Oct. 16-20.
 - b. A *project proposal* due in section the week of Oct. 30-Nov. 3
 - c. A *presentation* of your project to be given in section beginning Nov. 27.
 - d. The *project final report* will be due to your TF by noon Dec. 15.
3. Participation in the Department of Psychology Study Pool for 5 hours over the semester (from Sept. 18 through Jan. 12) will provide 5% of your grade. Details are on: <http://studypool.wjh.harvard.edu/> An alternative to this assignment is a 5-page paper on a topic in social psychology chosen in consultation with your section leader.

Outline

Date	Topic	Reading
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OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

9-18	Organizational Meeting	
9-20	Introduction	1
9-25	Social Experiments	2
9-27	Attitudes	7

THE SOCIAL MIND

10-2	Obedience (the movie)	8 (pp. 272-279)
10-4	Cognitive Dissonance	6
10-11	Conscious Will	5 (pp. 145-149)

10-16	Emotion	4 (pp. 92-103), 5 (pp. 150-154)
10-18	Mental Control	3
10-23	Exam Review	
10-25	Exam 1	

SOCIAL INTERACTION

10-30	Mind Perception	4 (pp. 104-129)
11-1	Attraction	10 (pp. 316-334)
11-6	Intimate Relationships	10 (pp. 335-355)
11-8	Self-Awareness	5 (pp. 130-144, 155-163)
11-13	Social Influence	8 (pp. 236-271)
11-15	Social Evolution	~
11-20	Self-Fulfilling Prophecy	12
11-22	Exam 2 Review	
11-27	Exam 2	

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

11-29	Justice and Victimization	SP in Action 3 (pp. 526-554)
12-4	Prejudice and Stereotyping	13
12-6	Helping	11
12-11	Crowds	9
12-13	Popular Delusions	~
12-18	Social Psychology Rules	SP in Action (pp. 474-503) SP in Action 2 (pp. 504-525)
1-13/23	Exam 3	

- Readings are chapters in Aronson, Wilson, & Akert, *Social Psychology* (5th Ed.) and should be completed before the class for which they are assigned.
- Project source books (get only one!) include: Cialdini, *Influence*; Gilovich, *How We Know What Isn't So*; Pennebaker, *Opening Up*; Buss, *The Evolution of Desire*; Wilson, *Strangers to Ourselves*.
- Section meetings begin on Oct. 2.
- Class notes will be posted by 11:00 AM each class day on the course website at my.harvard.edu