

SYLLABUS*
PSYCHOLOGY 231
Social Psychology
Summer 2013

Instructor: Rebecca Morse, PhD (rmorse@gmu.edu)

Class Hours & Location:

Class	7:20 pm - 10:00 pm	TR	Planetary Hall 212	Jun 03, 2013 - Jul 25, 2013						
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30 to 3:30PM
Also available by appointment.

Office Location: David King Hall 1027
Office Phone during hours: 703.993.4095

Absolutely REQUIRED TEXT:

Social Psychology, 8th Edition

Aronson, Wilson, & Akert (2012)

Publication Date: July 26, 2012 | ISBN-10: 0205796621 | ISBN-13: 978-0205796625

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:

Overview: This course provides students with a survey of the topics covering the social bases of behavior. We will examine some of the historical and philosophical foundations of social psychology, as well as theories and models of various social phenomena. We will also discuss empirical studies of these phenomena.

This course is part of the social and behavioral sciences general education core. Accordingly, this course will have the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate understanding of key concepts, terminology, principles or theories within the field;
- Demonstrate understanding of methodological approaches appropriate to the field;
- Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors as appropriate to the field; and
- Use appropriate methods to apply social and behavioral science concepts, terminology, principles, or theories to significant issues.
- Additionally, assigned readings and the independent research required for engaged participation will utilize and expand on research, communication, and writing skills acquired in other courses.

TECHNOLOGY:

Students will be expected to access and use Blackboard on a regular basis (<https://courses.gmu.edu/>). Important class information, such as the syllabus and weekly practicum assignments, will be posted here. To access Blackboard, students should use their George Mason email ID and password.

In addition, students should check their GMU email account regularly. Be sure to check that new messages can be received and that you are not over the message limit. You also have the option for your GMU account to be forwarded to another email address. If anything important occurs (such as information about assignments, class cancellation, etc.) you will be notified via your GMU email.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss and apply the material. In order to make the most out of your learning experience, it is imperative that you are not only present at each class meeting, but are alert, attentive, and ready to learn.

Throughout the semester we will have class discussions. You are responsible for being prepared to discuss the material, and are expected to actively participate in discussion with your classmates about the material. Participation is worth 10% of your grade. This is based on engagement, willingness to speak up, and being present. I do not grade strictly on attendance; however, if you miss more than a couple of classes, you will lose participation points accordingly. Similarly, if you are on your laptops or phones for non-class purposes, you will also risk losing participation points.

EXAMS:

There will be two exams (non-cumulative), each worth 25 points. These will be a possible combination of multiple choice, essay, and/or short answer. They will be on Blackboard, open-book, open-note, and timed.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be 4 practical assignments, which will give you an opportunity to “try out” your working knowledge of the materials covered in class. These are graded on a pass/half-pass/fail basis, and are worth 10 points each, and a total of 40 points, or 40% of your final grade. We will discuss these in class as we do them, so be prepared to discuss your assignment with the rest of the class.

GRADES:

Practical Assignments = 4 points (10 points each)

Participation = 10 points

Mid-term = 25 points

Final (non-cumulative) = 25 points

Total Possible Points: 100 points

GRADE CALCULATION:

For simplicity, the points have been assigned such that a student can track their own grade without any confusing arithmetic acrobatics (hence the even 100 points). I round to the second decimal, so a grade of 91.49 is considered a 92 (A-), and a grade of 96.03 is a 96 (A).

Grade Breakdown:

A+ 101 and up

B+ 89 – 87

C+ 79 – 77

D 69 - 60

A 94 – 100

B 86 – 83

C 76 – 73

F 59 and below

A- 93 – 90

B- 82 – 80

C- 72 - 70

HONOR CODE:

All provisions of the GMU Honor Code will be followed in this class. Information regarding the Honor Code and what constitutes academic dishonesty can be found in the 2011-201 University Catalog or online at the following website: <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/>.

DISABILITY HELP:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:

*Topics subject to change as needed to ensure that the majority of students are comfortable with material covered prior to moving to the next topic.

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
June 4	Chapter 1 Introducing Social Psychology	
June 6	Chapter 2 Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research	
June 11	Chapter 3 Social Cognition: How We Think about the Social World	
June 13	Chapter 4 Social Perception: How We Come to Understand Other People	Practical Assignment #1
June 18	Chapter 5 The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context	
June 20	Chapter 6 The Need to Justify Our Actions Chapter 7 Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings	
June 25	Chapter 8 Conformity: Influencing Behavior	
June 27	Chapter 9 Group Processes: Influence in Social Groups	Practical Assignment #2
July 2	Chapter 10 Interpersonal Attraction: From First Impressions to Close Relationships	
July 4 NO CLASS		Mid-Term Due July 7 th at midnight
July 9	Chapter 11 Prosocial Behavior: Why Do People Help?	
July 11	Chapter 12 Aggression: Why Do We Hurt Other People? Can We Prevent It?	Practical Assignment #3
July 16	Chapter 13 Prejudice: Causes and Cures	
July 18	Chapter 14 Social Psychology in Action 1: Making a Difference with Social Psychology: Attaining a Sustainable Future Chapter 15 Social Psychology in Action 2: Social Psychology and Health	Practical Assignment #4
July 23	Chapter 16 Social Psychology in Action 3: Social Psychology and the Law	
July 25	FINAL EXAM: ONLINE Due by 10:00PM	(Exam may be taken earlier, but no later than 10:00PM)

*Syllabus subject to change.

Important Dates: Please see studentaccounts.gmu.edu/dates.html for drop/add deadlines, including associated tuition penalties.