

**SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY – PSYC 231-C01
SUMMER 2013 SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Alex Lindsey (alindse3@gmu.edu)
Office: Robinson B210
Hours: Mondays at 12pm, or by appointment

Days: MTWR
Time: 9:30-11:45am
Room: SNDBGE 107

REQUIRED TEXT: Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. (2013). Social Psychology (8th Ed). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course provides an introduction of the issues, theory, research, and conceptual implications in the field of social psychology. 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;
- Identify, evaluate and properly cite resources appropriate to the field, such as audio/visual/online/print materials, or artifacts;
- 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.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: All students are expected to attend class regularly, be on time, and stay for the entire duration of the lecture. Attendance is extremely important because information will be presented that is not available in the textbook.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

EXAMS (70%): There will be a total of 3 exams administered throughout the semester. Exams will consist of concepts covered in class (lecture, discussion, and activities) and the textbook readings. You will be responsible for basic definitions, research findings, theory, and applications of social psychology to everyday life. Your final course grade will be based on only 2 of the 3 exams during the semester (i.e., your two highest scores). Because I will drop the lowest exam grade, there will be NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.

TERM PAPER (30%): There will be a term paper associated with this class. This paper will require you to read a journal article relevant to social psychology, summarize its findings, critique the methodology, and connect the concepts back to what we have been discussing in class. More information on this paper will be provided as the due date approaches.

POINTS FOR THE COURSE:

Exam 1	}	35%
Exam 2		35% (the lowest of the three exams will be dropped)
Exam 3		
Term Paper		30%

LETTER GRADE: Based on the percentages that you receive on your exams and your participation, your final letter grade will be calculated using the following scale:

B+(3.33) = 89 - 87	A (4.00) = 100 – 93	A- (3.67) = 92 - 90
C+(2.33) = 79 - 77	B (3.00) = 86 – 83	B- (2.67) = 82 – 80
D (1.00) = 69 – 60	C (2.00) = 76 – 73	C- (1.67) = 72- 70
	F (0.00) = below 59	

TECHNOLOGY

I will use Blackboard to post notes and grades. It is your responsibility to check this regularly. To access this website go to courses.gmu.edu. To login, use your username and password from your GMU email account. I will also use email to send out any announcements relating to this course. In order to guarantee confidentiality (i.e., protect your best interests), I will only send and reply to emails from your gmu.edu account.

During lecture if you decide to use your laptop you will not be on facebook, gchat, online shopping, or engage in any other types of distractions. In addition, cell phones must be turned on vibrate or off.

CLASS ENVIRONMENT:

The success of this class depends on your involvement as well as the involvement of other students. Therefore, it is important to establish the classroom as a safe learning environment. While open dialogue and debate will be encouraged, there will be zero tolerance for disrespectful behavior or speech toward each other, the instructor, guests, or groups of people in general.

HONOR CODE

As the instructor for the course, I reserve *“the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an Honor Code violation.”* Violations of the honor code include (but are not limited to) lying, cheating, plagiarism, as well as turning in or accepting credit for work that is not yours. I take this very seriously. For more information, go to www.gmu.edu/catalog/9798/honorcod.html.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS

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

EXAM SCHEDULE*

Exam 1 – July 10th
Exam 2 – July 22nd
Exam 3 – August 1st

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** We may take more or less time to cover certain material than is noted on the schedule. Students are responsible for all announcements and any changes to the syllabus that may be made in class, even if students miss class meetings.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

July 8 - Last day to add and drop (no penalty)
July 15 - Last day to drop (50% penalty)