

Psychology 231-001: Social Psychology

Fall, 2012

Instructor: Clifford Haimann

Room: Innovation 206, Monday and Wednesday 9:00AM- 10:15am

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Office Hours: Wednesday at 2, and by appointment

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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. We will also apply the concepts of leadership and group dynamics within the context of a complex, virtual, cross-functioning task force focusing on innovation and science.

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.
 - We will apply social and behavioral science concepts to (a) understanding and enacting leadership functions, as well as understanding and managing team dynamics; and (b) evaluating social interventions

Grading: Your grade in this class will be based in part on 2 midterm exams and final examination. You will be given 3 midterm exams this semester, but will drop the lowest grade. The midterm examinations will each be worth 20% of your grade, and the final examination will be worth 30%. Make-ups for the midterm exams will be allowed only for documented emergencies. These emergencies include medical problems, religious holidays, sponsored school events (Greek events are not included), or a death. **Grades will be posted on blackboard, and you will be notified when grades are up. Once grades are posted, you will have a week to contact me if you feel that your grade is incorrect. After that point, there will be no changes to the grades on blackboard.**

One of the learning outcomes for this course is to apply the concepts of social psychology to significant issues. Accordingly, one component of your course grade (worth a total of 30%) will be based on an innovative project that will require you to work in a cross-functional global task force on an urgent environmental sustainability problem. You will complete this project as part of a two to four-member Social Psychology team (most, if not all, of the teams will have three members). Your team will ALSO be part of a larger global task force composed of a team of environmental ecology students at GMU, a team of social psychology students at Georgia Tech, and a team of international business students at the Grenoble School of Management (GEM) in France. The global task force will work together to creatively solve an environmental problem using the three areas of expertise: social psychology, environmental ecology, and international business. Your role will be the "**leadership team**" in charge of monitoring and managing this task force. You will need to submit a number of deliverables by particular deadlines (final global task force proposal is due **November 9th; please see page 3 for other due dates**). All teams will be

randomly assigned by the instructor. Clearly, communication is critical and therefore, **you will be responsible for checking your mason email REGULARLY**. Thus, this project will give you an opportunity to experience this type of complex, cross-functional global team, while providing you with an opportunity to learn how the material taught in class can be applied to real-world situations.

More details about this project will be given to you in class later in the semester. You can also visit <http://delta.gatech.edu/Innovate/index.php> additional information.

Summary of Course Grade Components:

Midterm exams	40%	(20% for each exam -- one of the three exams will be dropped)
Final exam	30%	
Global Innovation Project	30%	
Team Charter	5%	
Weekly Journals (4)	10%	
Evaluation Plan	7.5%	
Ratings & Reflection Paper	7.5%	

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:

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

Honor Code: The provisions of the George Mason University honor code apply to all aspects of this course.

Technology: Students will need access to a computer during the course.

Official Communications via GMU E-mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

Other Important Dates

Last day to drop with no penalty	September 4th
Last day to add	September 4th
Last day to drop with penalty	September 28th
Last day of classes	December 8th
Reading Days	December 10th and 11th

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

Required Textbooks:

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

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Wk	START DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING & DUE DATES:
1	Aug. 27 th	Syllabus/Course Intro	
	Aug. 29 th	Social Psych/GI Project Intro	Chapter 1
2	Sept. 3 rd	Labor Day	Enjoy!
	Sept. 5 th	Methodology	Chapter 2
3	Sept. 10 th	Group Processes	Chapter 9
4	Sept. 17 th	Group Processes/Conformity	Chapter 9/Chapter 8
5	Sept. 24 th	Conformity, Social Psychology in Action	Chapter 8, SPA-1
	Sept. 26 th	Conformity, Social Psychology in Action, Review for exam	GOAL 1 Due by 6pm EST on Sept 30 th
6	Oct. 1 st	Exam 1 (Chapters 1,2,9,8, SPA-1)	
	Oct. 3 rd	Social Perception	Chapter 4, GOAL 2 due by 6pm EST on Oct 5 th
7	Oct. 9 th	Work on GI Project	
	Oct. 10 th	Social Perception/Social Cognition	Chapter 3, GOAL 3 due by 6pm EST on Oct 12 th
8	Oct. 15 th	Social Perception/Social Cognition	Chapter 3
9	Oct. 22 nd	Self Justification	Chapter 6
	Oct. 24 th	Exam 2 (Chapters 3,4,6)	GOAL 4, including evaluation plan due by 6pm EST on Oct 26 th
10	Oct 29 th	Attitudes & Attitude Change	Chapter 7
	Oct 31 st	Interviewing Information	GOAL 5, including evaluation plan due by 6pm EST on Nov 9 th
11	Nov. 5 th	ProSocial Behavior	Chapter 11
12	Nov. 12 th	Exam 3 (Chapters 7,11,Interviewing)/ Aggression	Chapter 12
13	Nov. 19 th	Interpersonal Attraction	Chapter 10
14	Nov. 26 th	Prejudice/ Catch-up	Chapter 13 Reflection Paper due in class
15	Dec 3 rd	Prejudice/Review for Final	
		FINAL EXAM (Chapters 10,12,13)@ 12/17 from 7:30-10:15pm	

***Important Note:** We may take more or less time to cover certain material than is allocated on the schedule in order to devote some class time to questions and assistance on the GI project. Therefore, students are responsible for all announcements and any changes to the syllabus that may be made in class, even if a student misses class meetings. The syllabus is also subject to change if needed.