

## Course Syllabus

### Social Psychology, Psyc 231 section 004, Fall 2012

Class Meeting Time 3:00--4:15 AM, Robinson Hall B111

**Professor:** John H. Riskind (DK Hall 2043, 993-4059, [jriskind@gmu.edu](mailto:jriskind@gmu.edu))  
Office Hours T Th 1:50 -2:50 or by appointment

**Course Objectives:** This course provides an introductory overview of issues, theory, and research in the field of abnormal psychology.

**Textbook:** Aronson, Wilson, & Akert (2013). *Social Psychology* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Prentice Hall. SBN-10: 020591201X ISBN-13: 978020591201

**Final Course Grades will be assigned based on your scores on three regular exams (50 multiple choice questions) and a longer cumulative multiple-choice Final Exam.** Each of the exams is worth 25% of the final course grade. The final exam is required. The lowest exam grade score of the three regular exams will be dropped

*Extra credit for experimental participation.* Up to 5 extra points (1 point for each hour experimental credit) can be earned on your total final points by participating in psychology experiments through the SONA website or by participating in equivalent hours of alternative lectures. For some people, this can raise their grade a whole level.

**There are no Make-up Exams except under extraordinary cases:** You **must have documents to support** a medical emergency, religious holiday, or required university activity. Any make-up exam will be an **essay** exam. By university policy, *you* must provide me, within the *first two weeks* of the semester, with the dates of major religious holidays on which you will be absent, and the dates for which you are requesting an excused absence for participation in any university-sponsored activity scheduled prior to the start of the semester, and as soon as possible otherwise.

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**Academic Integrity and the Honor Code:** GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. The GMU Honor Code states that, "Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work."

**Office of Disability Services:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

**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."\*

## SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC 231) TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Dates and scheduled topics are tentative and somewhat flexible. Some topics are covered over more than one date so you may wish to divide your reading up accordingly (e.g., read the first half of the chapter for the first class and the second half for the second class).

Date	Topic	Assigned Chapters
Tues., Aug. 28	Introducing Social Psychology	1
Thur., Aug. 30	How Social Psychologists Do Research-I	2
Thur., Sep. 6	How Social Psychologists Do Research-II	2
Tues., Sep. 11	Social Cognition: How We Think about the Social World-I	3
Thur., Sep. 13	Social Cognition: How We Think about the Social World-II	3
<b>Tues., Sep. 18</b>	<b>Exam #1 on Chapters 1, 2, 3</b>	
Thur., Sep. 20	Social Perception: How We Understand Other People-I	4
Tues., Sep. 25	Social Perception: How We Understand Other People-II	4
Thur., Sep. 27	The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context-I	5
Tues. Oct. 2	The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context-II	5
Thur., Oct. 4	The Need to Justify Our Actions- I	6
Tues., Oct. 9	No Class Today—Columbus day week	
Thur., Oct. 11	The Need to Justify Our Actions- II	6
<b>Tues., Oct. 16</b>	<b>Exam #2</b>	
Thur., Oct. 18	Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings	7
Tues., Oct. 23	Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings	7
Thur., Oct. 25	Conformity: Influencing Behavior-I	8
Tues., Oct. 30	Conformity: Influencing Behavior-II	8
Thur., Nov. 1	Group Processes-I	9
Thur., Nov. 6	Group Processes-II	9
<b>Tues, Nov. 8</b>	<b>Exam #3</b>	
Tues., Nov. 13	Interpersonal Attraction	10
Thur., Nov. 15	<b>No Class Today--Conference</b>	
Tues., Nov. 20	Interpersonal Attraction- II	10
Thur., Nov. 22	No Class— <b>Thanksgiving Recess</b> --	
Tues., Nov. 27	Prosocial Behavior: Why Do People Help?- I	11
Thur., Nov. 29	Prosocial Behavior: Why Do People Help?-II	12
Tues., Dec. 4	Aggression: Why Do We Hurt Other People?	13
Thur., Dec. 6	Prejudice: Causes and Cures 8	14

**Cumulative Final Exam will be held on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 – 4:15 am in your classroom.**

**Have a great winter break!**

Other Important Dates:

Last day to add: September 4

Last day to drop: September 28