

Sociology 212/Psychology 212
Social Psychology
Fall 2003

Instructor:	Kenneth Carter, PhD Associate Professor of Psychology	Office:	Seney Hall 214A
Phone:	770-784-8439	Office Hours	I'm in my office most every day between 9am and 5pm. You can drop in anytime between 10:30 and 11:30. If you need to see me at another time, just catch me before or after class and we can make an appointment.
E-mail	kcart01@emory.edu	Drop-in consultati on hours	

TEXT:

Aronson, E.. (1999) *The Social Animal* (8th edition)

INTERNET RESOURCES:

Gradebook and reading assignments <http://www.mygradebook.com>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the course is to introduce you to the field of social psychology. The theme of the course and of the discipline is that of social influence. A goal of the class is to emphasize the development of critical thinking skills and to prepare you to be a cautious and analytical consumer of information that proclaims to be scientific or based on research.

The goal of social psychology is to understand and explain how our thoughts, feelings, and behavior are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. At the heart of social psychology is the recognition that our responses are greatly influenced by social situations and are not simply the product of our individual personalities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will provide you with an overview of research and theory in social psychology. Topics to be studied include social perception, social cognition and information processing, the self, attitudes and persuasion, stereotyping and discrimination, social influence and group behavior, romantic relationships, aggressive behavior, and helping behavior. Throughout the course, there will be strong emphases on (1) research methodology and (2) the application of social psychological research to your everyday lives. In order for you to fully appreciate research and be able to differentiate good research from bad research, it is important that you are able to critically evaluate it. This ability will be useful to you in your everyday life in numerous ways, particularly as you are constantly bombarded with the results of research in the media.

Course Syllabus (cont.)

REQUIREMENTS:

There are three regularly scheduled exams, a presentation, a paper, and peer reviews for this class. The assignments are discussed below in greater detail.

TESTS. There will be 50 points on each of the three exams. The test items will be taken primarily from class material, but you can expect some test questions on reading material, films, or any class activity. If you feel that the answer you chose for a test question is better than the correct answer, submit your case in WRITING to me (after a 24 hour “cool down” period). You will have until the next exam to turn in these written explanations.

PAPER/PRESENTATION.. The focus of your paper and 15 minute presentation will be a particular social issue or behavior and how social psychology can be used to correct or prevent it. The paper and presentation should include a case example, a brief review of literature concerning your topic, including relevant research regarding the cause, current thinking, your own opinions and past interventions. Presenters will be able to assign readings of reasonable length and with appropriate notice to the class. Be sure to arrange this at least one week in advance. Attendance during presentations is mandatory. An unexcused absence will result in deductions from your presentation grade. The paper is a more detailed version of your presentation and must be in APA format. A detailed guideline on the paper and oral presentation will be distributed in a separate handout. The presentation of your paper is worth up to 48 points. You can earn an additional 25 points for your written paper. Your written paper is due the next class period after your presentation.

INTERMEDIATE DEADLINES

SEPT 18 Paper topic due in class. Hand in the title page and your abstract page
OCT 16 Outline of your paper due in class

PRESENTATION EVALUATIONS

You can also earn points for your evaluation of your peer’s presentations. More information on this will be available in a separate handout. You can earn up to 5 points for peer presentation evaluations. There will be a form available for your peer evaluations. These are due on the last day of class.

EVALUATION:

The final grade will be based your three TESTS (150 points) your PAPER (25 points) and the PAPER PRESENTATION (48 points) and PRESENTATION CRITIQUES (10 points) for a total of 233 points. A letter grade will be assigned to the TOTAL points accumulated during the semester. Here is a chart with the minimum number of points required for each

Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Min percentage	90.00	80.00	70.00	63.00	62.40<

Course Syllabus (cont.)

COURSE POLICIES

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The class outline on the following page should be considered very fluid. Any and all of the dates, topics, values, and assignments listed are subject to change by the instructor. In fact, some changes are very typical for my courses as circumstances warrant. Some topics may take longer to cover than anticipated while others may require less time; each class is different. Every effort will be made to follow the outline and policies on this syllabus. However, if the class is particularly interested in a given topic, I may decide to spend more time on it, or if the class is interested in a topic not assigned, I may decide to include it. You will be notified of any changes that become necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY

There are no make-up exams.

Course Schedule

CLASS SCHEDULE

Overview of Social Psychology and Social Influence

Aronson Chapters, 1,9,2,3 exam is on September 23

Social Thinking

Aronson Chapter 4 and 5 exam is on October 9th

Social Relations

Aronson Chapter 6,7,8 exam is on November 4th

READING

The Aronson text reads fairly quickly. I plan to cover the information in a different order than the Aronson text presents it. A good strategy will be to skim the clusters of chapters early on and then read for more detail as we cover the information.

Cluster I: Overview of Social Psychology and Social Influence (1,9,2,3)

Cluster II: Social Thinking (4,5)

Cluster III Social Relations (6,7,9)

Date	Topic
August 28	What is social psychology
September 2	Research methods
September 4	Research methods
September 9	Social Influence
September 11	Social Influence
September 16	Social Influence
September 18	Social Influence
September 23	Exam for Cluster I topics
September 25	Social Thinking
September 30	Social Thinking
October 2	Social Thinking
October 7	Social Thinking
October 9	Exam for Cluster II topics

October 16	Social Relations
October 21	Outlines Due
October 23	Social Relations
October 28	Social Relations
October 30	Social Relations
November 4	Exam Cluster III
November 6	Flex Day
November 11	Flex Day
November 13	Presentations 1,2,3,4
November 18	Presentations 5,6,7,8
November 20	Presentations 9,10,11,12
November 25	Presentations 13,14,15,16
December 2	Presentations 17,18,19,20
December 4	Presentations 21,22,23,24
December 9	Last day of classes
	Flex

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Violation of academic integrity in this course includes plagiarizing (submitting the work of another person as your own) and tampering with the work of another student. All students are expected to act with civility, personal integrity; respect other students' dignity, rights and property; and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their own efforts. An environment of academic integrity is requisite to respect for self and others and a civil community.

All work done in this class is subject to the Oxford College Honor Code. Work produced through academic misconduct (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism) will be dealt with according to the policies of the Honor Code and will result *in a failing grade for the entire course*. Unless I tell you otherwise, all work in the course should be done on your own. Please note that exams may not be removed from the exam room or copied at any time. Cheating is a very serious matter and will not be taken lightly. The College imposes serious penalties for breaches of academic honesty and all cases of suspected breaches of honesty will be reported. Please <http://www.emory.edu/OXFORD/CampusLife/honor.html> for more details on the honor code.
