



Social Psychology: HSS 280

College of Arts and Letters

Spring 2018

Meeting Times: Thursday 3:00 – 5:30
Classroom Location: Peirce 220
Instructor: Ashley Lytle
Email: alytle@stevens.edu
Office: Morton 321
Office Hours: Monday 2:00 - 3:30, Thursday 11:00 – 12:00, by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social psychology is the scientific study of how people's thoughts, feelings, and behavior are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of other people. This course introduces students to theoretical perspectives, research methods, empirical findings, and practical applications of social psychology. Various topics in social psychology such as interpersonal processes, obedience to authority, social influence, social perception, attitude change, prejudice and discrimination, attraction and liking, and aggression and violence are covered. This course will encourage you to think critically about the methods used and conclusions drawn in psychological research on these topics. The pervasiveness of social psychological principles in contemporary culture will be illustrated through news stories, films, and other mass media.

During class, we will cover topics from the textbook in greater depth, as well as material not found in the textbook. Students should attend all classes and complete the reading assignments from the textbook for the day on which they appear on the schedule.

COURSE OUTCOMES

1. You will expand your knowledge of social psychology, human behavior, and mental processes
2. You will understand the ethical implications of the research methods used in social psychology.
3. You will learn the main concepts, theories, and research findings within social psychology (e.g., social influence, social cognition, social perception, aggression, prejudice, etc).
4. You will be able to apply social psychological concepts/theories discussed in class to the real world (e.g., your own behavior, the behavior of others, and behavior among humans in general)

FORMAT AND STRUCTURE

Class time will consist of a combination of lectures, films, discussions, group activities, in-class activities and exams. It is essential that you attend each class and also complete all required readings. Participation in the form of questions and/or discussion of material is always encouraged. **This is your class!** The more actively engaged you are, the more you will enjoy the class. You will be responsible for submitting a total of 2 short (3-4) page papers throughout the course of the semester. Each paper assignment will be discussed in class. Due dates are listed in the syllabus. There will be an in-class

midterm exam and a final exam at the end of the semester. The final exam schedule is set by the registrar.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook(s): Kassir, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H.R. (2014). Social Psychology (9th edition). New York: Wadsworth, Cengage.

Other Readings: will be announced in class and uploaded on Canvas

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In-Class Assignments and Participation (20%): Throughout the semester, you will be given in-class assignments. The purpose of these assignments is to help you develop critical thinking skills, promote participation, and active learning. You must complete each assignment by the end of class on the day the assignment is given. This means that you **MUST BE PRESENT** in class on the days in which the assignments are given in order to be able to complete the assignment – there will be **NO make-up assignments**. For these assignments, I will simply be looking to see if you put a "good faith effort" into answering the questions. If you did, then you will receive full credit for the assignment; if not, then you will not receive credit for the assignment.

I expect each student to participate regularly, therefore, you ought to do the readings in advance of class and come prepared to ask questions and share your thoughts about the materials. The quality of your comments is more important than the quantity.

Exams (60%): There will be 2 non-cumulative exams for this course. Each exam will have equal weight, each making up 30% of your total grade. The exams will be in multiple choice and short-answer/essay format. You will be tested on materials covered in assigned readings, lectures, videos and podcasts. Content from the text that I *do not discuss* in lectures will be covered less in exams.

Written Assignments (20%): There will be two written assignments during the semester. More information on the papers will be provided. Paper 1 will be 2-3 pages and Paper 2 will be 4-6 pages.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades will be based on:

In-Class Assignments and Participation	(20 % - 100 points)
Written Assignment	(20 % - 100 points)
Exam I - Midterm	(30 % - 150 points)
Exam II - Final	(30 % - 150 points)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Undergraduate Honor System

Enrollment into the undergraduate class of Stevens Institute of Technology signifies a student's commitment to the Honor System. Accordingly, the provisions of the Stevens Honor System apply to all undergraduate students in coursework and Honor Board proceedings. It is the responsibility of each student to become acquainted with and to uphold the ideals set forth in the [Honor System Constitution](#). More information about the Honor System including the constitution, bylaws, investigative procedures, and the penalty matrix can be found online at <http://web.stevens.edu/honor/>

The following pledge shall be written in full and signed by every student on all submitted work (including, but not limited to, homework, projects, lab reports, code, quizzes and exams) that is assigned by the course instructor. No work shall be graded unless the pledge is written in full and signed.

"I pledge my honor that I have abided by the Stevens Honor System."

Reporting Honor System Violations

Students who believe a violation of the Honor System has been committed should report it within ten business days of the suspected violation. Students have the option to remain anonymous and can report violations online at www.stevens.edu/honor.

EXAM ROOM CONDITIONS

The following procedures apply to exams for this course. As the instructor, I reserve the right to modify any conditions set forth below by printing revised Exam Room Conditions on the exam.

1. Students may not use any electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc) during exams.
2. Students may not use any materials (e.g., notes, textbooks, readings, etc) during exams
3. Students are not allowed to work with or talk to other students during exams.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Stevens Institute of Technology is dedicated to providing appropriate accommodations to students with documented disabilities. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with undergraduate and graduate students with learning disabilities, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorders, physical disabilities, sensory impairments, psychiatric disorders, and other such disabilities in order to help students achieve their academic and personal potential. They facilitate equal access to the educational programs and opportunities offered at Stevens and coordinate reasonable accommodations for eligible students. These services are designed to encourage independence and self-advocacy with support from the ODS staff. The ODS staff will facilitate the provision of accommodations on a case-by-case basis.

Disability Services Confidentiality Policy

Student Disability Files are kept separate from academic files and are stored in a secure location within the Office of Disability Services. The Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; 34CFR, Part 99) regulates disclosure of disability documentation and records maintained by Stevens Disability Services. According to this act, prior written consent by the student is required before our Disability Services office may release disability documentation or records to anyone. An exception is made in unusual circumstances, such as the case of health and safety emergencies.

For more information about Disability Services and the process to receive accommodations, visit <https://www.stevens.edu/office-disability-services>. If you have any questions please contact: Phillip Gehman, the Director of Disability Services Coordinator at Stevens Institute of Technology at pgehman@stevens.edu or by phone (201) 216-3748.

INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

Stevens Institute of Technology believes that diversity and inclusiveness are essential to excellence in education and innovation. Our community represents a rich variety of backgrounds, experiences, demographics and perspectives and Stevens is committed to fostering a learning environment where every individual is respected and engaged. To facilitate a dynamic and inclusive educational experience, we ask all members of the community to:

- be open to the perspectives of others

- appreciate the uniqueness their colleagues
- take advantage of the opportunity to learn from each other
- exchange experiences, values and beliefs
- communicate in a respectful manner
- be aware of individuals who are marginalized and involve them
- keep confidential discussions private

ELECTRONICS

I allow the use of computers in the classroom, however, with their use, comes responsibility. If I suspect you are not fully engaged in the class (e.g., on social media, email, browsing the internet, etc), it will negatively impact your participation grade. In general, laptops may be used for note-taking. During discussions, I expect laptops to be put away. The electronics policy will be revisited if problems arise. Cell phones are to be kept off or on silent (please note that vibrate is not the same as silent). If you are using your cell phone during class, you will lose all participation points for that day.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments are due by the dates specified on the course schedule by 5pm. Students with special circumstances should contact me at least 72 hours prior to the deadline to avoid penalty. The penalty for late assignments is 20% of the total assignment points per each 24 hours.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

If you have a question or concern about the course, the readings, or any assignment, I encourage you to attend my office hours. I am also happy to answer questions over email. As a general rule, I try to respond to email as quickly as possible during business hours (M-F, 9am – 5pm), however it may take me up to 24 hours to respond. Emails sent after business hours or over the weekend may require more time.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note - The instructor may modify or alter the syllabus to make up for lost classes due to weather conditions, health, or other reasons or when she feels it would help to attain course objectives, or for any other such reasons.

Week Starting	Topic(s)	Readings	Assignment
Week of January 15	- Introduction - Research Methods	Chapter 1 & 2	
Week of January 22	-Research Methods	Chapter 2	
Week of January 29	-Social Influence	Chapter 7	
Week of February 5	- Social Influence - Social Norms	Chapter 7	
Week of February 12	- Social Norms - Social Roles	Chapter 7	
Week of February 19	-Attitudes - Self-Justification - Cognitive Dissonance	Chapter 6	
Week of February 26	- Cognitive Dissonance -Midterm Exam	Chapter 6	Midterm Exam: Thursday, March 1

Week of March 5	- Social Cognition	Chapter 3	
Week of March 12	<i>No Classes - Spring Break (March 11 – 18)</i>		
Week of March 19	-Self and Person Perception	Chapter 3 & 4	
Week of March 26	-Group Processes -Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination	Chapter 8 & 5	Paper 1 Due on Friday, March 30 at 5:00pm
Week of April 2	- Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination -Pro-Social Behavior	Chapter 5 & 10	
Week of April 9	-Attraction -Aggression	Chapter 9 & 11	
Week of April 16	- Applying Social Psychology		
Week of April 23	- Social Psychology and Law	Chapter 12	
Week of April 30	- Health Psychology - Review	Chapter 14	Paper 2 Due on Friday, May 4 at 5:00pm
<i>Last day of classes – Thursday, May 3</i>			
FINAL EXAM - TBD		TBD	TBD

TIPS FOR MASTERING COURSE MATERIAL AND EARNING A TOP GRADE

1. Complete the reading assignments for the day on which they appear on the schedule. As you read, take brief notes of the key ideas and concepts. Ask questions about the readings during class.
2. Attend every class and arrive on time. You cannot complete the in-class assignments outside of class.
3. Take thorough class notes. (If you cannot avoid missing a class, borrow notes from a classmate.)
4. Don't wait until the last minute to begin studying.
5. HINT: Any major topic covered in the text is liable to be included on exams. Material that is covered BOTH in lecture and in the assigned readings is very likely to be on an exam. Be sure to MASTER this material.
6. As you are studying, be sure that you understand the similarities and distinctions between concepts and theories and that you can apply these concepts and theories to novel situations.