**85-241, Social Psychology**

**Fall 2014**

**Instructor**: Chante Cox-Boyd **Office**: 340D Baker Hall

**Phone**: 412-268-2801 **E-Mail:** Coxboyd@Andrew.cmu.edu

**Office Hours**: Mon & Wed 11-12; Tues & Thurs 1:30 - 2:00 (or by appointment)

**TA’s E-mail Office Hours & Location**

Emily Lindsay [elindsay@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:elindsay@andrew.cmu.edu) Tuesday 10:30-12

(Grad TA- Receives all late papers) Thursday 11-12

Must call 8-8113 for entrance 455B Baker Hall

Amelia Clark [adclark@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:adclark@andrew.cmu.edu) Wednesday 9-11

Maggie Murph Cafe

Sneha Kannoth [skannoth@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:skannoth@andrew.cmu.edu) Monday 5-7

Maggie Murph Cafe

Ozi Konzi [okonkwo@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:okonkwo@andrew.cmu.edu) Tuesday 4:30-6:30

Maggie Murph Cafe

Sangha Lee [sanghal@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:sanghal@andrew.cmu.edu) Friday 10-12

Maggie Murph Cafe

Jobert Sauray [jsauray@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:jsauray@andrew.cmu.edu) Wednesday 12-2

Maggie Murph Cafe

Lucy Shen [ldshen@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ldshen@andrew.cmu.edu) Saturday 1-3

Maggie Murph Cafe

Grace Sohn [hyoseuls@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:hyoseuls@andrew.cmu.edu) Wednesday 1:30-3:30

Maggie Murph Cafe

**Please refer to the course blackboard for the exact time and location of TA office hours. All hours and locations are subject to change.**

**Text**: Aronson, E. Wilson, T. & Akert, R. (2013). Social Psychology, 8th ed. Prentice Hall. Additional readings may be assigned during the semester and will be available be posted to the class blackboard.

**Course Description**: The purpose of this course is to provide the student with a survey of the field of social psychology. Students will become familiar with the major theories of social psychology as well as the concepts and research methods used in this area. It is expected that students will gain a broader understanding of the complex social environment and how it impacts individual behavior. We will study behavior at both the individual level as well as the group level of analyses. A cross-cultural perspective will also be utilized in the understanding of variations in Social psychology issues. Lectures and reading materials are designed to acquaint the student with both classic and contemporary research trends utilized in social psychological research.

**Course Objectives and Goals**

By the end of this course students should be able to:

* Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings and trends in the field of Social Psychology
* Understand and apply basic research methods in Social Psychology
* Use critical thinking and a scientific approach to solving problems related to social behavior
* Become critical consumers of research in the field
* Understand ethical issues dealing with research in psychology
* Understand and apply social psychological principles to personal, organizational, social issues

**Grading**: Grades will be determined by performance on four tests and two papers and various class activities and assignments. Tests will cover all material presented in class as well as additional readings, classroom demonstrations, films, etc. Tests will be comprised of a variety of question types including short answer, multiple choice, and essay questions. There will be an optional comprehensive final exam for those students desiring to take it. The exam will replace the lowest test grade. Only those students who have taken all tests will have the option of replacing the lowest test grade with the score on the final.

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Test 1 | | 20% |
| Test 2 | | 20% |
| Test3 | | 20% |
| Test 4 | | 20% |
| Papers | | 10% |
| Homework | | 10% |
| **Total** | | **100%** |
| A | 90 and above | |
| B | 80-89.99 | |
| C | 70-79.99 | |
| D | 60-69.99 | |
| R | 59.99 and below | |
|  |  | |

**Late Penalty/Make-up policy**: Students are expected to take all tests and turn in all assignments on the assigned dates. Any student with a **legitimate** reason for missing a test may make arrangements with the instructor to take the test **prior to** the date the test is to be given. Written verification is required. In the event that a student does miss a test and has a verified legitimate reason for missing the test, the student may take the comprehensive final which will substitute for the missed test grade. Do note that if a student simply **chooses not to take** a given test, he or she may not take the final, but will **receive a grade of “0”** on the missed test. Any assignment or paper turned in late will be assessed a 10% per day late penalty.

**Papers:** Students will be required to write two papers. The exact details and requirements of the papers will be given at a later date. The papers are due on the dates listed on the class schedule and will receive a ten point late penalty for each day late. There will be no accepted excuses for late papers. The papers are due on the scheduled due date and will be considered late if they are not turned in by the end of class.

**Submission of assignments: All assignments for the course will be submitted via the blackboard. In addition to the blackboard submission, hard copies of all papers must be submitted in class. Assignments must be posted to the backboard by the deadline or a late penalty will be accessed. All assignments are due by 1:30 on the date listed on the syllabus.**

**Policy on Academic Dishonesty-**All students are expected to do their own original work in this course. Cheating of any type will not be tolerated. This policy applies to all work in the course including exams, homework and paper assignments. Any student found to be cheating will automatically fail the course. In accordance with the University’s policy on academic dishonesty specific example of cheating taken from the Student handbook and most relevant to this course are listed below:

*Cheating* includes but is not necessarily limited to:

1. Plagiarism (see below)
2. Submission of work that is not the student's own for papers, assignments or exams.
3. Theft of or unauthorized access to an exam.
4. Use of an alternate, stand-in or proxy during an examination.
5. Use of unauthorized material including textbooks, notes or computer programs in the preparation of an assignment or during an examination.
6. Supplying or communicating in any way unauthorized information to another student for the preparation of an assignment or during an examination.
7. Collaboration in the preparation of an assignment when the ultimate outcome is written in a similar fashion.

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism can be considered any of the following: turning in someone else’s work as if it were you own, copying from a source without giving the source credit, copying someone else’s ideas and changing them to make them your own.

**The use of laptops and cell phones is prohibited during exam time. Laptops may be used during class for the purposes of note taking. The use of any of these devices during an exam is cause for failure of that particular exam.**

**Grading Errors/Issues-** Students will have two weeks from the time a graded assignment is given back in class to request grade changes. This includes all calculations errors as well as requests for re-grades. Grades will not be changed on an assignment or exam once the two week time period has expired. Assignments should be given to the grad TA for grading corrections.

**Research Requirement**- There is a research requirement that student taking this course must fulfill on behalf of the Psychology department. Failure to complete the requirement will result in a letter grade deduction from your final grade in the course. Please understand that the instructor is not involved with this process and cannot provide information regarding available experiments or signing up for the paper option. These procedures will be explained to you by the appropriate individuals on the date listed on the class schedule. If you need further information regarding the research requirement, you should contact Erin Donahoe ([donahoe@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:donahoe@andrew.cmu.edu)) the research requirement administrator.

**Policy on Video/Audio recording**- Video or audio taping of lectures and discussions **is prohibited** unless special written permission is given by the instructor.

**Schedule**

**Date Topic Reading**

August 26 I. INTRODUCTION Chapter 1

August 28 A. Theories Chapter 2

B. Scientific Method

C. Ethics

September 2 Methodology (Cont.)

II. SOCIAL COGNITION Chapter 3

1. How We Think

**Homework #1 Due**

**Research Requirement**

September 4 1. Automatic thinking

2. Schemas

3. Controlled thinking

September 9 B. Perceiving Persons Chapter 4

1. Nonverbal Behavior

2. Integrating information

**Homework #2 Due**

September 11 3. Attribution theories

4. Biases in attribution

5. Accuracy of Judgments

**September 16 Test 1**

September 18 Prejudice and Discrimination Chapter 13

Film

September 23 C. Prejudice and Discrimination (cont.)

1. Stereotypes

2. Prejudice

September 25 3. Reducing Prejudice

September 30 II. UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES

A. Perceiving the Self Chapter 5

1. Nature of the Self

2. Self through introspection

3. Self through Others

October 2 B. Self-Justification Chapter 6

1. Cognitive Dissonance

October 7 2. Insufficient Justification

3. Self-justification

October 9 Health and Well-Being Chapter 15

Stress and Disease

**Paper #1 Due**

**October 14 Test 2**

October 16 III. ATTITUDES AND PERSUASION

A. Intro to Attitudes Chapter 7

1. Definition

2. How attitudes are measured

B. Theories of Attitudes

October 21 C. Attitudes and Behavior

D. Attitude Change

1. Process

2. Theories

**Homework # 3 Due**

October 23 IV. INTERPERSONAL PROCESSES

A. Interpersonal Attraction Chapter 10

1. Affiliation

2. Theories of attraction

3. Factors affecting attraction

4. Love

October 28 B. Intimate Relationships

1. Relationship course

2. Conflict resolution

**Homework #4 Due**

October 30 C. Helping Chapter 11

1. Altruism vs. Prosocial

2. Theories of helping

3. Factors affecting helping

**November 4 Test 3**

November 6 D. Aggression Chapter 12

1. Definition

2. Sources

3. Theories

November 11 Aggression (cont.)

4. Media Violence

November 13 V. GROUP PROCESSES

A. Social Influence Chapter 8

1. Conformity

2. Compliance

3. Obedience

November 18 B. Groups Chapter 9

1. Presence of others

2. Group interactions

**Paper #2 Due**

November 20 3. Decision-making

1. Leadership

November 25 C. Social Psy and the Law Psy In Action Module 3

Film

**November 27 No Class-Holiday**

December 2 The Courtroom (cont.)

**December 4 Test #4**