

Syllabus for Psychology and Neuroscience 116: Social Psychology Spring, 2007

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:15 - 2:30

Professors: Dr. Mark Leary (leary@duke.edu) TA: Marie-Joelle Estrada (m.estrada@duke.edu)
Dr. Wendy Wood (wendy.wood@duke.edu) TA: Susan Perlman (susan.perlman@duke.edu)

This course explores in depth a number of classic and contemporary theories, findings, and methods of social psychology. The central question in social psychology is how people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the real, implied, or imagined presence of others. We will address this question in four parts. The first part of the course focuses in detail on the self and how people connect with others. The second examines how people are influenced by others and the media. The third evaluates social judgments, stereotyping, and prejudice. The fourth focuses on the emotions that arise in social interactions and relationships, as well as aggression, altruism, and morality. Students will gain understanding of the specifics of social psychological research and the broader implications of social psychological findings for understanding human behavior and societal events.

Required textbook

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., & Nisbett, R. E. (2006). *Social psychology*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co.

Grading

Four exams will be given across the semester, with each exam covering the material since the prior exam. The exams each will make up 20% of your course grade. Four projects will comprise the remaining 20%. For one of the projects, you will conduct a small research study. Another project will involve applying psychological theory to analyzing your personal behavior. A third involves an analysis of current social events, and the fourth an evaluation of popular media.

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Exam 4	20%
Projects 1-4	20%

Research Participation

This class has a research participation requirement. We believe that students learn about the field through class materials as well as through direct experience in psychological research. There are two ways to fulfill the research requirement: the Experiment Option and the Paper Option. Both are designed to be learning experiences closely integrated with the classroom-based and textbook-based coursework. Sign onto Blackboard to find out what you need to do to participate.

Failure to fulfill the research requirement for this course will result in an incomplete in the course. If you have any questions about the requirement or your status during the semester, please submit them via email (along with your name, email address and phone number) to the Subject Pool Administrator, Ms. Lori Kwapil, at lokwapil@duke.edu. If you choose the Experiment Option, you will participate in 7 hours of research approved by the Subject Pool Committee and the Duke University Human Subjects Committee. If possible, one hour should be for Group Testing, which occurs at the beginning of the semester, because some experimenters select people based on this session. There are many opportunities throughout the

semester to participate in approved research projects. Note that the 7-hour criterion is mandatory; completing fewer than 7 hours will result in your receiving an incomplete grade for the course.

Duke Honor Code

The Duke Honor Community Standard states:

I will not lie, cheat, or steal in my academic endeavors, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.

I will conduct myself responsibly and honorably in all my activities as a Duke student.

Class Date	Topic	Reading assignments
Jan 11 WW/ML	Introduction, research methods	Chapter 1
Jan 16 ML	Fundamental social motives	Chapter 2
Jan 18 ML	Interpersonal relationships	Chapter 3
Jan 23 ML	Self-awareness: <i>Project 1 assigned</i>	Chapter 4
Jan 25 M-J E	The self and relationships	
Jan 30 ML	Self-esteem	Chapter 5
Feb 1 ML	Self-presentation: <i>Project 1 due</i>	
Feb 6	Test 1	
Feb 8 WW	Power of numbers	Chapter 6
Feb 13 WW	Compliance	
Feb 15 WW	Measuring attitudes	Chapter 7
Feb 20 WW	Attitude change: <i>Project 2 assigned</i>	
Feb 22 WW	Attitudes predict behavior	Chapter 8
Feb 27 WW	Behavior influences attitudes	
Mar 1	Test 2	
Mar 6 WW	Attribution theory	Chapter 9
Mar 8 WW	Social judgment: <i>Project 2 due</i>	Chapter 10
Spring break		
Mar 20 WW	Social identity and intergroup contact: <i>Project 3 assigned</i>	Chapter 11
Mar 22 WW	Why do we stereotype?	
Mar 27 WW	Are stereotypes controllable?	
Mar 29	Test 3	
Apr 3 ML	Social emotions: <i>Project 3 due</i>	Chapter 12
Apr 5 ML	The self-conscious emotions	
Apr 10 ML	Hurt feelings: <i>Project 4 assigned</i>	
Apr 12 ML	Anger and aggression	Chapter 13
Apr 17 ML	Positive emotions and pro-social behavior	Chapter 14
Apr 19 WW/ML	Controversies in social psychology	
Apr 24 WW/ML	What have we learned? <i>Project 4 due</i>	
May 1, 7 – 10pm	Test 4: Final exam	