

Social Psychology (Psyc. 381W, Sec. 01)
3 credit hours
Fall 2007

Classroom location: The University Center Room # 119
Class meeting times: Tuesday, 6:00 PM-8:50 PM
Instructor: Gaylynn Ratliff
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Department office phone #: 936-294-1174
TUC Office Hours: Tuesday 4:00 PM-5:45 PM or by appointment,
Main campus office location: Kirkley #333
Hours: Monday 3:30 PM-5:30 PM, Tuesday 11: AM-12:30 PM, Thursday 8:15 AM-9:15 AM, or by appointment

Course Description:

This course examines individual human behavior as it is influenced by cultural and social stimuli.

Course Goals:

Gain factual knowledge in the area of social behavior
Learn fundamental principles & theories related to social behavior
Learn to apply the knowledge of social psychology

Learning Outcomes:

Ability to define & recognize key terms and concepts related to Social Psychology
Describe the impact of the social environment on individual behavior
Understand basic research methods utilized in social psychology
Describe major theories and research findings in the area of social psychology

Required Textbook: Aronson, Wilson, Akert (2007). *Social Psychology*: 6th Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Required reading assignments are listed on the attached class calendar.

Attendance policy: Attendance is mandatory. In accordance with SHSU policy, attendance will be recorded each class period. However, grades will be based on student performance on the exams and other graded assignments. The university's full attendance policy can be found at the following website:
<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#attend>

Assignments: The required **reading assignments** are listed in the attached tentative calendar. Reading of the assigned chapters is critical to academic success in this class.

The **writing assignment** is a required component of this course & will be worth a maximum of 100 points. A separate handout will be distributed containing the exact requirements for the paper.

Exams: There will be three **regular** exams worth 100 points each. The exams will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false and essay/short answer questions. The **final exam** will be the same format as the regular exams. It will be worth 100 points. The final exam must be taken at the time designated by the University or **prior** arrangements must be made with the instructor. **Make up exams will be exclusively in essay format. Arrangements to take make-up exams must be made with the instructor within one week of the original testing date.**

Grading Plan: The grading scale is comprised of a total of 500 points. This includes three regular exams during the semester, a final exam and the writing assignment. Grades will be primarily based on the writing assignment and exam performance. Please be advised that exam performance is usually greatly affected by attendance. If an opportunity is given for extra credit, the student **must** be in class that day to participate.

Study tips: Reading the assigned chapters and class attendance are crucial to academic success in this class. The instructor is available to assist students that may need additional guidance. The SAM center is located on the main campus in AB 4 on the 2nd floor and it is an excellent resource for students wishing to receive tutoring.

Tentative Class Calendar

Date	Chapter	Topic
August		
21	Chapter 1	Introduction
28	Chapter 2	Methodology
September		
4	Chapter 3	Social Cognition
11	Chapter 4	Social Perception
18	Exam I, Ch. 5	Self-Knowledge
25	Chapter 6	The Need to Justify Our Actions
October		
2	Chapter 7	Attitudes & Attitude Change
9	Chapter 8	Conformity
16	Chapter 9	Group Processes
23	Exam II, Ch. 10	Interpersonal Attraction
30	Chapter 11	Prosocial Behavior
November		
6	Chapter 12	Aggression
13	Chapter 13	Prejudice
20	Exam III, Ch. 14	Making a Difference with Social Psychology
27	Chapter 15	Social Psychology & Health
December		
4	Chapter 16	Social Psychology & the Law
11	Final Exam 8:00 PM-10:00 PM	

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Students should be advised that when papers are required that they maybe submitted to turnitin.com to check for plagiarism. For more detailed information see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities that is located in the Counseling Center. Please note that no accommodations can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. For more detailed information see:

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html.

Religious holidays: A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to the instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy days. The instructor will work with the student to assure that the missed assignments and/or exams are completed.

Visitors in the classroom: Generally visitors are not allowed in the classroom. Exceptions may be made by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

Classroom rules of conduct: Please do not talk, send, or receive messages on cell phones or other electronic devices while in the classroom. Respect your classmates by muting your cell phone. It is inappropriate to speak while others are speaking.