

**SYLLABUS**  
**Social Psychology**  
**PSY 381 (Credit 3 hours)**  
Summer 2008

**DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY  
**COURSE NUMBER/TITLE:** PSY 381/SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (Course Credit 3 hours)  
**INSTRUCTOR:** A. JERRY BRUCE, PHD  
**REQUIRED TEXT:** Baumeister, R. B. & Bushman, B. J. (2008). *Social psychology and human nature*. Belmont, CA: Thomson/ Wadsworth.  
**COURSE/TIME/LOCATION:** SSII-381.02(8450) 8:00-9:50/AB4 313  
**OFFICE HOURS:** AB4-341, 2:00-4:00, Monday and Wednesday  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**PSY 381 Social Psychology.** This course examines individual human behavior as it is influenced by cultural and social stimuli. Topics studied include interpersonal attraction, aggression, prejudice and sexism, conformity, altruism, and group behavior. Credit 3.

**DESCRIPTION and FORMAT**

This course is intended to provide students with information related to the social nature of human development. Human beings are remarkable in that nature programs them to operate in a social/cultural fashion. This material is intrinsically interesting because every person is deeply involved in this process and each person spends much of his/her life seeking information related to this social enterprise. It is the instructors hope that the time together in the class all will become more aware of the principles in social relationship and that all will come to think more seriously about the many issues involved. The content of this course will be provided through a series of reading materials, classroom lectures/ discussions, Power Point sides, and audiovisual presentations. It is further expected that the student become acquainted with and use the University computer systems, especially the Blackboard program, to acquire materials and to communicate with the class and instructor.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Gain factual knowledge (terminology, classification, methods, and trends) related to social psychology.
- Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories from the past research in social psychology.
- Learn to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decision making) for life.
- Gain a broader understanding and appreciation of social/intellectual/cultural activity (science, literature, art, etc.) and the use of science to illuminate these social processes.

**NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

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 are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If the student has a disability that may affect adversely the work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. For more detailed information see: <http://www.shsu.edu/~scaf/www/aps/811006.htm>.

### 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 the 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 or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. **Students should be aware that when papers are required they may be submitted to turnitin.com to check for plagiarism!** For more detailed information: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>.

### RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For more details:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~scaf/www/aps/documents/861001.pdf>.

### Q-DROPS

A Q-drop is a drop made after the last date for tuition refunds (12th class day for fall/spring; 4th class day for summer) but before the last date to drop as published in the Academic Calendar. See Important Dates below.

Students will be allowed no more than five Q-drops during their academic career at Sam Houston State University. Classes that are dropped prior to the Q-drop date will not count toward the limit. Students who have used their limit of five Q-drops will need to petition their respective dean to drop a class. If the dean refuses to grant permission to drop a class, a student will be required to remain in the class.

This limit will take effect with the start of the fall 2004 semester.

Any drops accumulated prior to the fall 2004 semester will not be included in the five Q-drop limit, nor will Q-drops from other universities.

### GRADES

During the course of the semester, there will be four multiple choice tests. Grades will be determined primarily by performance on these tests. Written work and attendance will be used to enhance student grades. If a student is having problems with his/her grade please see the instructor early in the semester. The semester passes rather quickly. The instructor is here to help, but if the student waits until the semester is almost over, it is difficult to assist her/him then.

The SAM Center, located in AB4, room 210, is also a resource for students. If a student fails the first two tests his/her name will be submitted to the First Alert Program for assistance. They will contact the student and advise her/him of the programs available. Students need not wait for the instructor to submit their names; all who wish to avail themselves of these services should do so. The SAM Center, located in room 210 of AB4, exists to help students successfully complete their college experience.

### ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP EXAMS

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected and attendance records will be kept. It should be noted that while an occasional student will get high grades without attending class regularly, the typical student must attend habitually to do well in the course. The instructor has calculated correlation coefficients over the last several semesters between grades and attendance. The results at times have been as high as  $-.80$ , i.e., about 64% of the variance in the grade distribution being accounted for by attendance. Lectures frequently present material not covered in the text. The class session may also amplify or clarify materials from the text that may be difficult to understand. Hence class attendance (even if less than a favorite thing to do) ensures these benefits.

Make-up exams will be given only with the instructor's approval. In some cases the student may be required to write a paper on an approved topic. *If a make-up test is taken, the students will not have the benefit of the class curve if there is one. An additional point, in cases where extra credit work is allowed, persons with excessive absences will not be allowed to use this extra credit to enhance their grade.*

### OUTLINE

#### TEST PERIOD ONE

Mission, Method, and History  
Culture and Nature  
The Self

Test # 1 (chs 1 through 3)

July 15

#### TEST PERIOD TWO

Behavior Control: The Self in Action  
Social Cognition  
Emotion and Affect

Test # 2 (chs 4 through 7)

July 22

#### TEST PERIOD THREE

Prosocial Behavior  
Aggression  
Attraction and Exclusion  
Close Relationships

Test # 3 (chs 8 through 11)

**July 30**

**TEST PERIOD FOUR**

Prejudice and Intergroup Relations  
Social Influence and Persuasion)  
Groups

Test # 4 (chs 12 through 14)

**August 7**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Classes begin**—Tuesday July 8

**Final exams**—Thursday August 7

**ENRICHMENT READING LIST AND REFERENCES**

(This list gives references to many of the works discussed in class and/or that appear on the slides shown in class. They are not intended to be a list of required readings. However, if one becomes interested in a topic, these resources may help locate reading material related to the interest.)

Sources will be added to this list as the semester progress.

James, W. (1884). What is an emotion? *Mind*, 9, 188-205.