

Psy 381.04—Social Psychology

Fall 2007

AB4 313

MWF 8-8:50

3 Credit Hours

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4, Thursday 2-4, Friday 1-3, or by appointment

Course Description

A 3-credit, lecture-based course that 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.

Course Objectives

This course was designed to give you an understanding of how social conditions affect us as human beings. The course will deal with many different topics regarding how humans think about themselves and each other, including attitudes, prejudices, and impression management.

Text

Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. (2007). *Social Psychology*. (6th Ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Attendance

It is helpful to attend every day to be able to participate in discussions, ask questions, and get the full extent of the material. Attendance will be taken every day—please keep in mind that if you miss more than 5 classes, you will be dropped a letter grade. If you miss 10 classes (almost a third of class!), you will receive a failing grade for the course.

Exams, Assignments, and Grading

There will be four exams over the course of the semester. Each will have equal weight. On the day of each exam, each student will be required to turn in a one-page personal response to one of the topics covered in the unit. For example, the student could describe a situation where he/she committed the fundamental attribution error.

The grade distribution is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Exams | 80% |
| One Page Papers | 20% |

Extra credit is generally discouraged; however, graduate students and professors are always looking for research participants, and extra credit is an often-used incentive. If you participate in three research/therapy projects (e.g., participate in three mock therapy sessions, one mock therapy session and two research projects, etc.), I will add five points to your total final grade. You must register with the Research Participation website to find out what is going on and sign

up for a slot. Go to http://www.shsu.edu/~psy_www/ResearchParticipation.htm for more information. I would recommend going through the Participant Tutorial before registering.

- Please note: do not sign up for research I may be helping with. I would like for my classes to help other students/professors in need of participants. I will let you know what I am working on this semester.

Academic Honesty

The University expects all students 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. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in a 0 on the assignment and will be reported to the department chair.

Religious Holidays

Section 51.925 of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education shall allow a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The student should inform the instructor as soon as possible in the form of a written statement if they will be absent for a religious holy day, and both the student and instructor must complete an absence request form.

Visitors to the Classroom

An unannounced guest who wishes to visit the classroom will need to present a current and official Sam Houston State University identification card. If the visitor is not a registered Sam Houston State University student, the instructor will act at his/her own discretion as to whether the visitor will remain.

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individuals shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Any students who needs special accommodations should inform the instructor and present documentation of the disability to the Services for Students with Disabilities division of the SHSU Counseling Center and register with this department.

Disturbances in the Classroom

Campus disruptive activities or disorderly conduct on component-owned or controlled property or at a component-sponsored or supervised function that inhibit or interfere with the educational responsibility of the component community or the component's social-educational activities shall include but not be limited to: using abusive, indecent, profane or vulgar language; making offensive gestures or displays that tend to incite a breach of the peace; perpetrating fights, assaults, acts of sexual violence, abuse, or threats; or evincing some obviously offensive manner or committing an act that causes a person to feel threatened. Such prohibition includes disorderly classroom conduct that obstructs, interferes with, inhibits and/or disrupts teaching and/or related classroom activities.

If a classroom disturbance should occur, the student(s) who cause the disturbance will be asked to leave the classroom. Should the disturbance occur during an exam, the student(s) test will be collected, he/she/they will be asked to leave the classroom, and the student(s) will receive a zero on the exam.