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PSYX 360.01: Social Psychology

Susan E. Ocean

University of Montana, Susan.Ocean@UMontana.edu

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Syllabus – Psyx 360 – Autumn 2014

Social Psychology

Instructor Information

Instructor: Susan Ocean

Office: Skaggs Bldg. 364

Email: susan.ocean@umontana.edu

Office hours: generally after class, or email me to schedule an appointment

Required Text: ***Social Psychology*** (3rd edition) by Smith and Mackie

Course Description

Social psychology is the scientific study of the effects of social and cognitive processes on the way individuals perceive, influence, and relate to others. This course is designed to increase students' understanding of the influence of social psychology concepts on individual behavior. The course will consist of a lecture format and group discussions. Your comments, questions, and discussions are strongly encouraged. Visiting guest lecturers and/or films may be presented as well.

Topics about which individuals feel passionate may be discussed throughout the course. I ask that you remain respectful of others' opinions, even if they are controversial or do not match your own.

Course Grade

Your grade in this course will consist of four exams. Extra credit is also available.

| | |
|----|-----------|
| A | 90 – 100% |
| B+ | 86 – 89% |
| B | 83 – 85% |
| B- | 80 – 82% |
| C+ | 76 – 79% |
| C | 73 – 75% |
| C- | 70 – 72% |
| D+ | 66 – 69% |
| D | 63 – 65% |
| D- | 60 – 62% |
| F | < 60% |

Note: If you are a psychology major, you must get a C (not a C-) for the grade to count.

(1) Exams (400 possible points) – see Course Calendar for dates: There will be four exams and one cumulative final. Each exam, including the final, is worth 100 points and will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. You will be allowed to drop your lowest grade (either one of the four exams or the comprehensive final). The exams will cover information from the current assigned reading, lecture material, and class discussions/ activities. The final will cover material from the entire semester and will be in the same format as previous exams.

Bring a #2 pencil and an NCS Scantron Sheet 50/50 form No. 95142 to each exam (available at the UC Market or Bookstore for 15¢). No student will be allowed to start an exam once another student has completed the exam and left the room.

(2) Extra Credit (6 possible points) – deadline = Tuesday, Nov 25th: Extra credit opportunities are worth 2 points each. A total of 6 points may be earned. Each option may only be completed once.

- a. **Research Volunteer:** Participate in a research project being conducted in the psychology department during the semester. These typically take 30-60 minutes. Signing up for studies occurs via an online sign-up system. To sign up, you will need to create an account online. When doing so, (1) be sure you use your umontana e-mail address as your username (so if your umontana e-mail address is jane.doe@umontana.edu, you would enter jane.doe); if you don't do this properly, you will not get the account information. Also, (2) be sure you enter the right course section number, or else you may not be properly credited. Signing up and checking studies is easy on the Department of Psychology's [SONA Research Participation](#) page. Your credit will be tracked via the online system – you will be awarded credit for participation within 72 hours of participating by the researcher who was in charge of the study. If you check your credit and it has not been awarded in a timely fashion, **contact the experimenter** listed as the contact on the study to resolve this conflict.
- b. **Media Review:** Read a book or watch a movie that relates in some way to social psychology. Write a 2-page, APA-formatted review describing the role of social psychology in the story, any notable theories that are presented, and how your understanding of social psychology impacted your perspective on the media. Would you recommend to others? Why or why not?
- c. **Literature Review:** Conduct a PsycINFO literature search on a topic of your choice, related to social psychology. Write a 2-page, APA-formatted reflection (e.g., how do you feel about the conclusions the researcher made, what are your ideas for future studies, how does this apply to class). *See attached "Literature Review" information below for more information.

Disabilities and Special Learning Needs:

Students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Please inform me, at the outset of this course, of any disability and the ways that you and Disability Services for Students (DSS) have determined are necessary to accommodate your needs. Please speak with me privately. Please be prepared to provide a letter from DSS. If you have not yet contacted DSS, located in Lommasson Center 154, please do so in order to verify your disability and to coordinate your reasonable modifications. For more information, visit the [Disability Services for Students](#) website.

Make Up Policy:

The final exam is optional; grades are based on the best 4 exam scores. If you must miss a scheduled exam, the final will serve as the make-up for the missed exam – PLAN ACCORDINGLY. The final can also be used to substitute for a score on an earlier exam.

Attendance:

Attendance is HIGHLY recommended. I will intentionally ask questions from the book that I do not cover in class AND questions from class that are not in the book. If you are unable to attend lecture it is your responsibility to get lecture notes. *I do not give out power points.* Students are responsible for assignments given during class time, as well as any announcements made in class (e.g., changes in policy, exam schedules, due dates, or assignment requirements).

Classroom Behavior:

I expect you to be in the classroom on time, to be awake and attentive, to participate in discussions, and to be respectful toward the instructor and your fellow students. You may expect me to be in the classroom on time, prepared, organized, and ready for discussion/ questions pertaining to the day's subject material. Please, feel free to ask questions. I will seek and encourage class discussion. Also, please feel free to see me privately about classroom issues.

I understand there may be circumstances beyond your control that, on occasion, may require you to miss class, arrive late, or leave early. Please plan accordingly by choosing seating that will result in minimal disruption.

Electronic Devices:

The use of wireless communication devices during class is prohibited (e.g., placing or receiving phone calls, sending or receiving text messages, internet searching, game playing). This interrupts and distracts from others' learning experience and is therefore disrespectful of your fellow students.

If you are an emergency professional (e.g., physician, nurse, therapist, EMT) or you are expecting an EMERGENCY communication, please notify me and set your device to its SILENT alarm mode – and quietly exit the classroom to respond.

Academic Misconduct:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Incompletes:

Be aware that if you earn an "Incomplete" in any course at UM, an "I" remains on your record permanently, even if you eventually complete the work.

Pass/No Pass:

For students taking this course as Cr/NCr: a 'Cr' is a grade of A, B, or C; an 'NCr' is a grade of D or F.

COURSE CALENDAR

| DATE | READINGS / LECTURE | EXAMS |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Tues. Aug 26 | Syllabus & Introductions | |
| Thurs. Aug 28 | Ch 1 & 2: Intro, History, & Methods | |
| Tues. Sep 2 | Ch 3: Perceiving Individuals | |
| Thurs. Sep 4 | Ch 3: Perceiving Individuals | |
| Tues. Sep 9 | Ch 4: The Self | |
| Thurs. Sep 11 | Ch 4: The Self | |
| Tues. Sep 16 | Ch 5: Perceiving Groups | |
| Thurs. Sep 18 | Ch 5: Perceiving Groups | |
| Tues. Sep 23 | | <i>EXAM 1: Ch's 1-5</i> |
| Thurs. Sep 25 | Ch 6: Social Identity | |
| Tues. Sep 30 | Ch 6: Social Identity | |
| Thurs. Oct 2 | Ch 7: Attitudes & Attitude Change | |
| Tues. Oct 7 | Ch 7: Attitudes & Attitude Change | |
| Thurs. Oct 9 | Ch 8: Attitudes & Behavior | |
| Tues. Oct 14 | | <i>EXAM 2: Ch's 6-8</i> |
| Thurs. Oct 16 | Ch 9: Groups, Norms, & Conformity | |
| Tues. Oct 21 | Ch 9: Groups, Norms, & Conformity | |
| Thurs. Oct 23 | Ch 10: Norms & Behavior | |
| Tues. Oct 28 | Ch 10: Norms & Behavior | |
| Thurs. Oct 30 | Ch 11: Liking & Loving | |
| Tues. Nov 4 | NO CLASS – VOTING DAY | |
| Thurs. Nov 6 | | <i>EXAM 3: Ch's 9-11</i> |
| Tues. Nov 11 | NO CLASS – VETERANS DAY | |
| Thurs. Nov 13 | Ch 12: Interaction in Groups | |
| Tues. Nov 18 | Ch 12: Interaction in Groups | |
| Thurs. Nov 20 | Ch 13: Aggressions & Conflict | |
| Tues. Nov 25 | Ch 13: Aggressions & Conflict | |
| Thurs. Nov 27 | NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING | |
| Tues. Dec 2 | Ch 14: Helping & Cooperation | |
| Thurs. Dec 4 | | <i>EXAM 4: Ch's 12-14</i> |
| Tues. Dec 9 | 10:10am – 12:10pm | <i>COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM</i> |

***LITERATURE REVIEW**

Extra Credit – PsycINFO Information

For one extra credit opportunity (worth 2 points), you may conduct a search on a topic of your choice (related to social psychology) in PsycINFO, read a research article and turn in the following:

1. A list of the search terms you used, and how many articles were retrieved for your search.
2. A copy of the full article to indicate that you were able to access and read it.
3. A 2-page, APA-formatted summary and reflection of the article you chose. DO NOT copy any part of the abstract – this, of course, would constitute plagiarism. (your summary should be brief, your reflection should be the majority of the paper)
 - Preferably select an article that is peer-reviewed (which is indicated by the “publication type” field and is typically labeled “peer-reviewed journals”).
 - Because I am only asking for two pages, please do not include direct quotes.

What I am looking for here, is that you can:

1. Conduct a search for published, psychological research.
2. Read a journal article and accurately summarize it in your own words.
3. Think critically about the objective, methodology, results, and conclusions the article poses.
4. Demonstrate the ability to discuss the relevance of this article as part of the “bigger picture” (i.e., why should we care?).

How do I access PsycINFO?

You must either be able to sign on remotely or be on a library computer.

From the [UM Library](#) page:

1. Select (click on) “Databases” (located in small type, below the current picture).
2. Select “Psychology.”
3. Scroll down until you see “PsycINFO” – select this database (log in).
4. From this page, you may enter your search criteria and find your articles.
5. From the articles provided, scroll through to find one that is fairly recent and that interests you.

What if my search turns up too many articles?

Part of this assignment is figuring out how to do a “good” search in PsycINFO. You may narrow your search by adding other constraints, such as the publication type or year, or by adding another keyword to your search. For example, “substance use” would yield thousands of articles, but adding the keywords “bipolar disorder” and/or “adolescent” would narrow this down considerably.

What if I can’t access the article I want to read online?

Although many articles are available online, some require going to print a copy of the article (e.g., actually finding a journal in the library, opening it, and then photocopying the article so that you can read it). We don’t have every journal in our library, so if there is one you want but can’t get it here, ask the library to locate the article for you or select another article.

Please note that the research librarian at the Mansfield Library is an excellent resource for working with PsycINFO.

Please Remove this Page from Your Syllabus

*This is a written acknowledgement that you
have read and understand the policies and guidelines of this course.*

SIGNATURE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____ (PRINT YOUR NAME) hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Psyx 360: Social Psychology syllabus for Fall, 2014. I have read the syllabus and understand **all of the course policies and requirements**. It is my responsibility to seek clarification regarding any aspect of the syllabus, the course requirements, or the grading policies that are unclear to me.

Signature

Date

CODE NAME INFORMATION

I post grades with code names in order to protect privacy of grades. Please provide me with a "code name" if you would like your grades posted. Please choose a code name that is familiar to you, so that you remember it when it comes time to look up your scores.

Word of caution: I will not accept code names that are racist, sexist, or generally in bad taste.

Codename: _____

Return this sheet to your instructor on or before the second day of class.