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PSYC 350S.01: Introduction to Social Psychology

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Psychology 350:
Introduction to Social Psychology
Fall 2001
Tuesday & Thursday, 8:10 – 9:30 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Grayson; 239 Skaggs; 243-2391
e-mail: grayson@selway.umt.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1 – 2 pm and Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 pm. Sign-ups for appointments are posted by my office door. If you need an immediate answer to a question, I encourage you to contact me by email. When you write, please put Psych 350 into the subject line.

Course Description:

Social psychology is the scientific study of the way people think, feel, desire, and behave in social situations. It involves understanding how people influence others and how people are influenced by others around them. A primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the perspectives, research methods, and empirical findings in the field of social psychology. Equally important is the goal of cultivating your skills in analyzing the social situations and events that you encounter in your everyday lives. Finally, throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on developing critical and integrative ways of thinking about theory and research in social psychology.

Course Format and Requirements:

This class meets two times a week. Be prepared to attend class regularly. Although there will be some overlap between lecture and readings, success in this class depends on your mastery of the material presented in both places. If you simply cannot avoid missing a class, I suggest borrowing notes from 2 classmates.

Grade Breakdown

Group Project:	40 points
Open-book Quiz:	35 points
3 Exams:	225 points (75 pts each)
<u>Cumulative Final Exam:</u>	<u>25 points minimum (variable depending on retests or make-ups)</u>
Total Points:	325 points

Grading Scale:

293-325 points:	A	195-227 points:	D
260-292 points:	B	0-194 points:	F
228-259 points:	C		

Course Reading:

Social Psychology, (2002) 5th edition by Sharon S. Brehm, Saul M. Kassin & Steven Fein.

Readings in Social Psychology: The Art and Science of Research. (1996). Steven Fein & Steven Spencer.

PsychAbilities CD-ROM. This has 2 quizzes that you can do for each chapter. A great review. I strongly recommend taking the time to do the quizzes once you have read the book. (HINT!!!)

If you bought your text new, you received the text, the reader, and the CD-ROM as a package. You can purchase these supplies at the bookstore, and I suggest purchasing your own copy. If that is not possible, a copy is available on reserve at the library.

Optional: You might want to visit the textbook's web site, which has helpful review exercises. The address is: http://college.hmco.com/psychology/brehm/social_psychology/5e/students/index.html.

Exams

You will be tested on your mastery of course material 5 times during the semester. For each exam, you will need to bring a #2 pencil and NCS scantron #4521. This is not the standard Psychology Scantron; this sheet has spaces for 200 questions. Make sure you bring the correct one! The first test is an open book quiz worth 35 points. There will be 3 more exams during regularly scheduled classes. These exams will be closed book and each will cover 3 chapters plus an original article from the Fein & Spencer reader. These tests will be given during our regular class time. All exams will be 78 multiple choice questions; however I grade out of 75. So the maximum grade for any exam is 75 points.

All students are required to take the first part of the final, which covers one chapter, will be 26 questions, and is worth a possible 25 points. If you missed an exam during the semester, then you will also complete the section of the exam that corresponds to the missing test. If you decide to retest (see more on this below) on the material from an exam, you will complete the corresponding section of the final. Because I am interested in having you learn the material (either early or late in the semester it's up to you), there is a third option. You can take the entire final exam for a possible total of 250 points. If your score on the 3 review sections is higher than your grade based on the 3 in-class closed book exams, I'll replace that grade with the one based on the final. If your final exam grade is lower, we'll pretend you only took the section on Chapter 12.

Retests

If you did not do as well on a test as you think you could have, you may choose to do a "retest." How this works: Let's say you earn 40 out of a possible 75 on the first test (but earn A's and B's on the other 2 tests). You decide that that 40/75 score is not indicative of what you know. You may choose to "retest." The "retest" looks a lot like the make-up test procedure. When you come in to take the final, you must hand me a signed slip of paper stating that you are choosing to retest, in this example, test 1. You may choose to answer just the 25 questions that cover that test or you may choose to answer all 100 questions on the final. In either case, when you are finished with your final, I will look at those 25 questions for your "retest." If you answered 20 out of 25 correctly, your score for your first exam will be changed to 60 out of 75 (triple the points). If the retest score is higher than your original test score, your original score will be replaced. If the retest score is lower, we'll pretend you never took the retest.

There is one limitation: you may choose to "retest" only 1 exam. If you did poorly on more than one test, then you'll have to consider taking the whole final exam.

There are no make-up exams. If you miss an exam, you will take the appropriate section of the final. I will take the section of the final exam that covers those chapters (25 points) and triple the points that you earned on that section; that will be your grade for the exam you missed. For example, if you miss the first exam, I will look at questions 27-52 on your final (questions 1-26 are on Chapter 12). If you correctly answered 20 out of those 26, you will be credited with 60 out of 75 for the first exam.

If something causes you to miss a test, my guess is that things in your life must be in general upheaval. The last thing you'll probably want to worry about is making up a test. How well could you do on the test if your life is in some sort of crisis? Consequently, you perform poorly on the make-up. What's worse is that when studying for the make-up, you get behind on your studying for the next test, and you do poorly on that one, too. Since I don't give make-ups and just take the points off the relevant section of the final, you have all semester to study for the test you missed. Given the entire semester, no doubt you can find the extra time to master the material after your life regains some balance.

Exam Philosophy

My goal for this course is that you leave it with information you can use for a long time to come. For this reason, it's important to me that you understand the concepts covered, not just be able to memorize definitions for the test. Your text will define concepts and give you examples. Since I find it impossible to cover the entire book (or even entire chapters), I will pick out those concepts (and add concepts) that I feel are most important or that I have found folks have the most difficulty with and give different examples than the text gives. On the exams, I'm interested in your understanding of the CONCEPT, not your understanding of the examples. The questions will give you DIFFERENT examples; do you understand how a particular concept applies?

Group Project

The fourth day of class students will participate in a group project. A group project sheet describing your research project is due in class on Sept. 20. Four points will be docked for each 24-hour period the Group Project Sheet is late, starting at the end of class. This assignment is worth 40 course points. Note: you will need to have read Chapter 2 to complete your group project sheet, so I highly recommend reading this chapter before Sept. 13. Do not miss this class! Students will conduct the group project during class time. It is not an experience easily accommodated with an alternative assignment.

Make-ups Exams and Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. If you will not be in class the day an assignment is due, you may hand it in early (either in class or drop it at the Psychology Department office in Skaggs 143 to be time and date stamped). To make up a missed assignment or exam you **must** meet the following criteria:

- Notify your instructor at least 2 days **prior to** the time of the exam or the assignment due date.
- You must notify the instructor before class on Sept. 13 with a documentable excuse to be eligible for an alternative assignment for the Group Project. No exceptions will be made.
- You must have legitimate documentation verifying the reason for your absence. Examples of documented circumstances that may merit approval include the following: severe illness or accident, death or family emergency, university-sanctioned activity, or religious holiday.

Notes:

ADD/DROP DATES: Please note that October 15, is the last day to drop a class or to change from a traditional letter grade to P/NP (or vice versa). After October 15, petitions to drop or to change grading option will be approved *ONLY* in the case of documentable emergency. This policy is strictly observed, so please plan accordingly.

INCOMPLETES: Incompletes are not given as a solution for poor grades or failure to complete assignments in a timely manner but as remedies for documentable emergencies. To receive an Incomplete, students must make specific, written arrangements with the instructor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Students are responsible for any announcements made in class. These may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignment requirements.

DISABILITIES & SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS: Students with disabilities are welcome to discuss accommodations with me. If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to inform me about it at the outset of this course so that your needs may be accommodated.

Class Schedule

Dates		
Tues., 9/4	Introduction What is social psychology?	Ch. 1 (all chapters are from text book)
Thur., 9/6	Conformity I	Ch. 7
Tues., 9/11	Conformity II	
Thur., 9/13	Group Project in Class Don't miss this class!	Ch. 2
Tues., 9/18	Groups I	Ch. 8
Thur., 9/20	Groups II	Group Project Sheet Due
Tues., 9/25	Attitudes I	Ch. 6 & Reading 12 (all readings are from Fein & Spencer)
Thur., 9/27	Open Book Quiz	Good Luck!! Chaps. 1 & 2 & a bit of 7
Tues., 10/2	Attitudes II	
Thur., 10/4	Exam #1	Good Luck!! Chaps. 6-8 (yes, 7 again!) & Reading 12
Tues., 10/9	The Self I	Ch. 3
Thur., 10/11	The Self II	
Tues., 10/16	Perceiving Persons I	Ch. 4
Thur., 10/18	Perceiving Persons II	Reading 5
Tues., 10/23	Perceiving Persons III	
Thur., 10/25	Perceiving Groups I	Ch. 5
Tues., 10/30	Perceiving Groups II	
	Boo! Happy Halloween!	
Thur., 11/1	Exam # 2	Good Luck!! Chaps. 3-5, Reading 5
Tues., 11/6	Attraction & Close Relationships I	Ch. 9
Thur., 11/8	Attraction & Close Relationships II	
Tues., 11/13	Prosocial Behavior I	Ch. 10
Thur., 11/15	Prosocial Behavior II	Reading 6
Tues., 11/20	Helping Others I	Ch. 10
Thur., 11/22		Thanksgiving Break: No Class
Tues., 11/27	Helping Others II	
Thur., 11/29	Aggression I	Ch. 11
Tues., 12/4	Aggression II	
Thur., 12/6	Exam #3	Good Luck!! Chaps. 9-11, Reading 6 Chap. 12
Tues., 12/11	Psych & Law I	
Thur., 12/13	Psych & Law II & Exam Review	
Mon., 12/17	Cumulative Final Exam: 10:10 a.m. -12:10 p.m.	

Note: Please be aware that there is only the weekend between the last class and the final exam. The Registrar's office, not the instructor, schedules final examinations.