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Social Psychology

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CUNY City College

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Social Psychology

Psychology 24700

Fall 2019 Class: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00-9:15pm in NAC 7/236

Instructor: Prof. Griffin Thayer, MA **Email:** gthayer@ccny.cuny.edu

Office: NAC 7/236

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 7:30PM-8:00PM

Required Text:

<http://open.lib.umn.edu/socialpsychology/>

Other readings may be added throughout the semester.

If you wish to participate in an Extra Credit assignment, you may need to also obtain one of the books listed in that section.

This Course will also make use of Blackboard. You can find the link Here:

All assignments will be submitted through blackboard

If you experience any issues logging in, please contact
Service Desk

Location: NA 1/301 (main desk: inside the cITy TECH Center)

Phone: 212 650-7878

<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/it/help>

Purpose of the Course:

The main goal of this course is to provide you with a basic understanding of issues, theories, and research on the impact that the environment or situation has on our own and others' thoughts, behaviors, and feelings. It is my hope that this course will encourage you to develop insight into and think objectively about personal experiences in the social world. After taking this course you should be able to:

1. Understand basic theories in the area of social psychology, be able to define social psychology, and understand the history of the field.
2. Apply critical thinking skills to social psychological phenomena experienced through the media and personal experience
3. Understand the idea of the self-concept and how it relates to the ways in which we attend to, interpret, and remember the world around us.
4. Understand the ways by which we perceive the world and those around us. Evaluate the role of attitudes, biases, and beliefs in the perception and interpretation of the self and others.
5. Define and distinguish the concepts of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination.
6. Identify and understand ethical and moral principles and values that guide decision making and research in the field of social psychology.
7. Identify connections between research findings and their applications in the real world.
8. Understand the power of the situation.

Attendance and Class Participation:

There is an enforced attendance policy for this class and attendance is worth 10 points of your final grade. You are allowed two absences for any reason and this absence will not affect your grade. However, if

you miss any exams or mini-papers during one of these absences, they will still be counted as a 0. I reserve the right to count multiple late arrivals as an absence.

If you do not come to class you remain responsible for all material covered in class, including class demonstrations, films, and so forth. You also remain responsible for any announcements made in class, such as changes regarding the syllabus, exam dates, or assigned readings.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all of their classes. They must also be aware of course requirements. Whenever possible, students should notify their instructors prior to an absence from class and make up missed work within a reasonable length of time after their absence.

Please read the assigned material before coming to class; doing so will allow me to clarify any questions you may have. During class, I encourage you to share your questions, opinions, and comments to the extent that you feel comfortable.

Exams:

There will be 4 exams during the course of the semester. Exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer, and/or essay questions. Each exam is worth 100 points. You may drop your lowest score. Thus, your highest 3 (of the four) exam grades will be used to calculate your course grade. Lecture and class discussion cannot possibly cover everything contained in a textbook. Therefore, some of the material in the text will not be dealt with in class. This does not mean that the material is unimportant – only that there is not enough time to cover it in class. Also, there sometimes will be things covered in class that are not in the text. *So make sure to pay attention to both the text material and the class material in your studying.*

Please arrive on time. If you arrive after the first person has finished the exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam. Students may not retain copies of exam questions. I reserve the right to ask students to demonstrate that they are not using any outside resources when taking the exams.

Make-Up Exams:

Exams will only be given during the scheduled time unless you are participating in an approved college event and are required to be away from campus during the exam (Documentation may be required). If you must miss an exam due to an emergency, contact me as soon as is possible to discuss it. No make-up exams will be given for any other reason

Mini Papers:

Throughout the semester 5 mini papers (encouraging critical thinking of course topics) will be assigned for completion as homework. Each paper is worth a possible 5 points and is **not able to be made up** if you are not in attendance during the class that it is assigned. Unless you are participating in a college event and are required to be away from campus during that class (documentation will be required) or I decide otherwise, there will be no exceptions. These papers will be unannounced and I will not give heads up in advance.

Writing Assignment:

You will write a paper based on an in-class activity. This assignment is worth 25 points and is **due at Midnight on 11/26**. At some point in class, we will be participating in a game and then discussing the experience. You will then complete a paper that will ask you to reflect on the experience and how it might apply to real life. You will be expected to use your knowledge of Social Psychological concepts to help you articulate your thoughts (exact details will be given in class). Be sure to define social psychology concepts you discuss. Make sure you cite any words and ideas that are not your own.

Grading the writing assignment is based on the following factors:

- 1) Correct application of the social psychological concepts you have learned
- 2) [Depth of thought](#)
- 3) [Clarity of writing](#)
- 4) Originality—these ideas should be yours, not just a rehashing of the examples given in lecture or your readings. Plagiarism will result in a 0 on the assignment.

Your paper will be 3-5 pages and must have 1-inch margins and be in Times New Roman 12 font and 1.5 spaced. Late papers will be penalized 5 points per day (including weekends). Papers will be submitted electronically through Blackboard and must be a Word or Word Compatible document. I will open your file at the time it is due. If your file is unable to be opened for any reason, I will email you with a request for a clean copy. If you do not immediately send a clean copy, your paper will be marked as late.

For writing feedback and support, you are welcome to come talk with me during office hours, and there is a variety of writing services offered for students at CCNY including the Rudin Writing Center.

Academic Honesty and Dishonesty:

All students are held to a high standard of academic honesty. This means students are expected to do their own work, enter class and undertake assignments in good faith, and uphold a high standard of integrity. As such, Dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course in any guise. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, (1) plagiarism: using another's words, ideas, or paraphrases and implying that they are your own; (2) cheating: using hidden notes or examining another person's responses in order to answer questions on a checkup or test; (3) ringers: having another person fulfill your assignment (e.g., paper or test). In this course, it is very important that you avoid plagiarism when completing your paper assignment. To help you in understanding what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, please read the guide provided by CUNY's provost, dean, and student affairs offices.

http://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Policies/General/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf

One recurring issue of academic dishonesty concerns the exams and writing assignments. Each of the questions asked of you in the exam must be answered in your own words and all words in your writing assignment must be your own as well. You are permitted to quote other sources. The recommended approach is to read the textbook or other source before completing the assignment, close it, and then write the paper without opening it again. In this way, all of the words will be yours. Also, avoid using any sources on the web for completing your paper assignments.

If you are thinking of plagiarizing, you should be aware that the process of looking for plagiarism is an automatic one done through a program in Blackboard called SafeAssign, which checks all submitted materials against a very large source material database. Any cases of academic dishonesty that I uncover on any assignment in this course will be dealt with strictly: **A faculty report on the dishonest student will be filed with the Office of the Academic Integrity Official; the student will be failed in the assignment and possibly also in the course.** Please consult CUNY's policy on academic integrity for further information: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/info/policies/academic-integrity.pdf>

Grading:

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on three exams (your three highest scores of the four possible exams), and your writing assignment:

Total Possible Points

Best three exams	300
5 mini papers	25
Writing Assignment	25
Attendance	10
Total	360

(There are opportunities for extra credit, see below)

Grades will be based on the following distribution:

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
333-360	A	276-286	C+	215-224	D-
323-332	A-	261-275	C	0-214	F
312-322	B+	251-260	C-		
297-311	B	240-250	D+		
287-296	B-	225-239	D		

I will not change grades once they are entered into Blackboard. Once grades are posted they are final and cannot be changed except in case of clerical error. If you want to improve your grade, there are opportunities for extra credit.

Extra Credit:

There are a few small tasks and one large task that you can undertake to achieve extra credit. The small tasks include participating in a research study, and another is to make use of the Rudin Writing Center here at CCNY for any of your written assignments. You can find the writing center information here <https://www.cuny.cuny.edu/writing>. If you present me with evidence that you have undergone any of these tasks, you will be given 2 points of extra credit.

There is also an optional extra credit assignment that gives you the opportunity to add up to 10 points to your final grade. For example, if you have a 275 out of 360 (C) for a final score, and you get a perfect score on this assignment, you will end up with a 300 out of 350 (B). You may submit this extra credit any time throughout the class, but **the last day I will accept it is 12/10 by Midnight.**

The extra credit consists of reading a seminal work of social psychology and writing a review of the work that summarizes the material and provides your reaction and thoughts to the reading,. You may choose one of the three texts below:

[*When Prophecy Fails* by Leon Festinger, Henry Riecken, and Stanley Schachter](#)

[*Obedience to Authority: An Experimental View* by Stanley Milgram](#)

[*The Three Christs of Ypsilanti* by Milton Rokeach](#)

The review should be 3-5 pages. Please use 1-inch margins, Times New Roman 12 inch font, and 1.5 inch spacing. In this review, you will be graded on:

- 1) How well you [summarize](#) the work
- 2) Your understanding and ability to communicate the core ideas and findings of the text.

3) Depth and clarity of your reaction and thoughts on the work and why you think (or perhaps do not think) this work is important.

The AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services:

The AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services ensures equal access and full participation to all of City College's programs, services, and activities by coordinating and implementing appropriate accommodations. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations and services, please visit the office in NAC 1/218, or contact AAC/SDS via email (disabilityservices@ccny.cuny.edu), or phone (212-650-5913 or TTY/TTD 212-650-8441).

Mental health:

It is important that students know they have access to support for their mental wellbeing. Mental health is just as important as physical health and just like for those with physical disabilities, I will make accommodations for those with mental disabilities as well. Students should be aware that CCNY offers free short term counseling and sliding scale long term counseling services to students through the counseling center as well as the clinical psych program's clinic. For more details, you can go here:

<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/counseling> , or here

<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/psychology/psychological-center>

Cell phone policy

Please turn your phone off and put it away during class. If you are expecting an emergency call/text, please let me know prior to class and put your phone on vibrate. In all other cases, if you use your phone during class you will be asked to put your phone away. If you use your phone a second time, you will be asked to leave the class. I also reserve the right to confiscate your phone for the remainder of the class period.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

This outline is an approximate guide. Because material may be added or deleted, dates for particular lecture topics may be subject to change. Dates of exams will be as listed, unless changes are absolutely necessary, in which case an announcement will be made in class and via email as soon as possible. If classes are canceled on an exam day, the exam will occur during the next class period.

Date	Topic	Text Chapters
8/27	Introducing Social Psychology	1
8/29	Introducing Social Psychology	1
9/3	Social Learning and Cognition	2
9/5	NO CLASS (Monday Schedule)	
9/10	Social Learning and Cognition/The Self	2 and 4
9/12	The Self	4
9/17	Exam 1	1,2, and 4
9/19	Attitudes, Behaviors, and Persuasion	5
9/24	Attitudes, Behaviors, and Persuasion	5
9/26	Perceiving others	6

10/1	No Class	
10/3	Perceiving others	6
10/8	No Class	
10/10	Perceiving Others	6
10/15	Perceiving Others	6
10/17	Influencing and Conforming	7
10/22	Influencing and Conforming	7
10/24	Exam 2	5,6,and 7
10/29	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	12
10/31	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	12
11/5	Liking and Loving	8
11/7	Liking and Loving	8
11/12	Altruism and Helping others	9
11/14	Altruism and Helping others	9
11/19	Exam 3	8, 9, and 12
11/21	Aggression	10
11/26	Aggression	10 (Writing Assignment due)
11/28	Thanksgiving Break! No Class	
12/3	Groups	11
12/5	Groups	11
12/10	Competition and Cooperation	13 (Extras Credit Due)
12/12	Competition and Cooperation	13
12/17	Exam 4	10, 11, 13