2016

261-03 Social Psychology

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Psychology 261-03: Social Psychology
Wednesday 6-8:30pm Elet 217
Fall 2016 (3 Credits)

School of Psychology Mission Statement: In keeping with the Jesuit, Catholic, liberal arts tradition, the department of psychology educates students in the science of behavior and mental processes with sensitivity toward the diversity of all people so students may use psychological knowledge and insight to address human concerns.

Instructor Information:
Robert W. Mumau, M.A.
mumaur@xavier.edu or bobmumau@gmail.com
Office Hours: Thursday 8:30-9:30pm immediately following class


Course Goals and Overview: Social Psychology is the scientific study of the way in which people’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the real or imagined presence of other people. The main goal of this course is to provide an introduction to the concepts, theories, research methods, and findings in the field of Social Psychology. We will achieve this goal by reading the textbook and other assigned readings, and through lecture and class discussion. We will also gain a greater understanding of the material by applying what we have learned to our own everyday lives.

LAC Statement: Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to me by sharing their Accommodation Letters with me at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. Disability related information is confidential. If you have not previously contacted Disability Services, I encourage you to do so by phone at 513-745-3280, in person on the Fifth Floor of the Conaton Learning Commons, Room 514, or via e-mail to Cassandra Jones at jonesc20@xavier.edu, to coordinate reasonable accommodations as soon as possible as accommodations are not retroactive.

Grading:

- Attendance & Participation (40 points): Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than three classes will result in failure of the course. If you miss a class for some reason, it is your responsibility to get materials, notes, etc. from a fellow student. Students are expected to come to class prepared and willing to participate. The instructor reserves the right to deduct points if the student’s behavior is disruptive, non-participative, or otherwise inappropriate.

- Exams (210 points): There will be three exams that will all be taken in class. As a general policy, there are no make-up exams. If a student has an EXCUSED absence, he
or she may make up the exam within one week, at the instructor’s discretion. Documentation explaining the reason for the absence may be required. If the student is unable to take the exam within one week of the original test date, the student will receive a zero for the missed exam.

- **Literature Review (70 points):** Students will complete a 5 page APA formatted literature review. **Not included in the 5 pages are the title page, abstract, and reference sections.** In other words, the paper must have 5 main body pages, a title page, and abstract, and a reference section. The paper can be on any topic related to Social Psychology. The paper must include **at least 5 peer-reviewed sources.** More information on APA formatting can be found at: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)

- **Presentation (45 points):** Students will present an overview of their research paper in a 5-7 minute presentation. The presentation must include a discussion of at least one of the peer-reviewed sources and highlight important methodological aspects of the source. These methodological aspects include: hypothesis, sample, independent and dependent variables, and findings.

- **Journal Articles (35 points):** Each student will be responsible for leading a short class discussion. It is your responsibility to find a peer-reviewed journal article and get it approved by the instructor no later than 1 week before your scheduled date. The rest of the class will read the article and come prepared to answer questions from the leader. The instructor will provide more information on this assignment and demonstrate in Week 2. Assignment dates for each student will also be provided in Week 2.

**Grading Scale and Points:**

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<tr>
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<th>Total Possible Points</th>
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<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Exam 3</td>
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<td>Literature Review</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
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<td>Journal Articles</td>
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<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
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86.5-89.5% = B+  
76.5-79.5% = C+  
66.5-69.5% = D+  
Below 59.5 = F  
92.0-100% = A  
82.0-86.5% = B  
72.0-76.5% = C  
62.0-66.5% = D  
89.5-92.0% = A-  
79.5-82.0% = B-  
69.5-72.0% = C-  
59.5-62.0% = D-
**Academic Honesty**

The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation.

All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student’s own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another’s efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one’s own.

Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an “F” in the course, and expulsion from the University. The dean of the college in which the student is enrolled is to be informed in writing of all such incidents, though the teacher has full authority to assign the grade for the assignment, test, or course. If disputes of interpretation arise, the student, faculty member, and chair should attempt to resolve the difficulty. If this is unsatisfactory, the dean will rule in the matter. As a final appeal, the academic vice president will call a committee of tenured faculty for the purpose of making a final determination.
| Week 1: 8/24 | Course Overview & Introduction  
Introducing Social Psychology (Chapter 1) |
| Week 2: 8/31 | The Self in a Social World (Chapter 2) |
| Week 3: 9/7 | Social Beliefs and Judgments (Chapter 3) |
| Week 4: 9/14 | Behavior and Attitudes (Chapter 4)  
Review for Exam 1 |
| Week 5: 9/21 | **Exam 1: Chapters 1-4** |
| Week 6: 9/28 | Genes, Culture & Gender (Chapter 5) |
| Week 7: 10/5 | Conformity and Obedience (Chapter 6) |
| Week 8: 10/12 | Persuasion (Chapter 7)  
Review for Exam 2 |
| Week 9: 10/19 | **Exam 2: Chapters 5-7** |
| Week 10: 10/26 | Group Influence (Chapter 8) |
| Week 11: 11/2 | Prejudice: Disliking Others (Chapter 9) |
| Week 12: 11/9 | Aggression: Hurting Others (Chapter 10) |
| Week 13: 11/16 | Attraction & Intimacy: Liking and Loving Others (Chapter 11) |
| Week 14: 11/23 | **Thanksgiving Holiday **NO CLASS** |
| Week 15: 11/30 | Conflict and Peacemaking (Chapter 13)  
Research Paper Due |
| Week 16: 12/7 | **Presentations**  
Review for Exam 3 |
| Week 17: 12/14 | **Exam 3** |

** The Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and course calendar as necessary**