261-01 Social Psychology

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uym@xavier.edu

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Syllabus
PSYC/SOCW 261-01: Social Psychology
T/R 2:30-3:45pm in Elet 11
Fall 2016 (3 Credit Hours)

Instructor Information:
Melanie Uy, M.A.
Office: Elet 106
Email: uym@xavier.edu
Office Hours: R 4:00-5:00 pm or by appointment


School of Psychology’s Mission Statement:
In keeping with the Jesuit, Catholic, liberal arts tradition, the school 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.

Social Sciences Elective:
The Social Sciences study human behavior and action in a systematic, rigorous, evidence based, generalizing, objective, and cumulative way. They apply the scientific method, using qualitative and quantitative techniques, to study how people behave and act as individuals, in groups, and in society. In this course, you will analyze social issues using scientific research conducted with diverse populations. You will become better able to describe the role and functions of social institutions, explain human behavior and relationships within complex social systems, and critically analyze social science issues within a larger historical and global context.

Student Learning Objectives:
Students recognize and cogently discuss significant questions in the humanities, arts, and the natural and social sciences.
Students examine the diverse, complex and interdependent nature of people in the world.
Students describe and examine the multifaceted character of society and how the inclusion of different perspectives can influence one’s worldview.
Students discuss and evaluate what constitutes human wellness.
Students evaluate problems using quantitative methods and arguments.

Course Goals and Overview:
The primary purpose of this course is to introduce you to the concepts, theories, and research in the field of Social Psychology. Social psychology examines social influences on behavior and mental processes. Through text reading, media resources, assignments, classroom discussions and lecture, I hope to simulate thought and discussion to explore “everyday and real life” examples of Social Psychology concepts and applications. The manner in which we pursue these goals will be consistent with the School of Psychology’s mission.
In-Class Integrity:
Each student is expected to be respectful of their fellow students. If it is perceived that an
individual in the class is interfering with another student’s learning, (i.e., talking at inappropriate
times during lecture, disrupting class due to late arrival, cell phone, etc.) the student will be
warned. If the student is disruptive excessively, one’s grade will be lowered.

Electronic Devices Policy:
Cell phones are not to be used in class. Use of cell phones in class is viewed as both rude
and unprofessional and may result in a student being asked to leave class for the day. If
computers are brought to class, they are to be used for notes only. Using computers for
any other reason than note-taking may also result in a student being asked to leave class
for the day. In addition to being asked to leave for the day, inappropriate cell phone and
computer usage can result in a loss of points from a student’s participation grade.

Course Format:
Throughout the semester, class sessions will include lecture, discussions, videos, group activities
and individual exercises to clarify and supplement textbook material. Students are expected to
have read assigned materials before coming to class. During class students will be given the
opportunity to ask questions they may have concerning the assigned material.

Canvas as a Resource:
I will use the class’ Canvas site to post resources. I would visit the site on a regular basis.

Class Attendance and Participation:
Attendance is expected. It is highly recommended that you be present and participate in class. It
is important for you to read assigned chapters prior to class. Material presented in class will be
on the tests. Students who expect to be late or miss a class must notify the professor in advance,
and documentation may be required. I reserve the right to lower grades for excessive absences.

Learning Assistance and Accommodations: It is my goal that this class be an
accessible and welcoming experience for all students. If you are a student with a disability who
may have trouble participating or effectively demonstrating learning in this course, contact me to
arrange an appointment to share your Accommodation Letters from Disability Services and to
discuss your needs. Disability related information is confidential. If you have not contacted
Disability Services (located in the Learning Assistance Center) to arrange accommodations, I
encourage you to do so by contacting Cassandra Jones, by phone at 513-745-3280, in person on
the Fifth Floor of the Conaton Learning Commons, Room 514, or via e-mail at
jonesc20@xavier.edu as soon as possible as accommodations are not retroactive.

Tests and Final Examination:
There will be four, closed-book, tests throughout the course. The lowest test score will be
dropped. Final grades will be calculated based on the top three test scores and the final exam
score, with each contributing equally (50 pts). Each test will consist of multiple choice and short
answer/essay questions.
The final examination will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions with approximately 40% questions covering material presented from Chapters 12 and 14 and approximately 60% of the material from all other chapters covered over the course of the semester. The exam is scheduled for Tuesday, 12/13, at 1:00 pm.

All students are expected to take the exams, as scheduled. Under extreme circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor, make-up tests will be given; arrangements must be made prior to the test. Advance notice (at least 2 days) is required to discuss alternative arrangements, if it is necessary to miss an exam. Verification and documentation will be required and the make up exam will be taken during the scheduled exam week.

**Xavier’s Policy on Academic Dishonesty:**
Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of intellectual honesty. It is your responsibility to make certain there is no ambiguity in regards to the ownership of any work you turn in, including tests. Anyone involved in dishonesty (i.e., plagiarism, granting or receiving assistance on exams or graded assignments) will be penalized “in one or more of the following: a ‘zero’ for that assignment or test, an ‘F’ in the course, and expulsion from the University.”

**Assignments:**

*Application Papers:*
You will be required to write four “Application Papers.” These papers are to help you learn the material better by applying the psychological principles to your own personal experiences, popular culture, peer behavior, etc… These assignments will be discussed more in class, and are also described in more detail later in this syllabus.

*Current Research Papers:*
There are three “Current Research” papers. These assignments will be discussed more in class and are also described in more detail later in this syllabus.

*Altruism Paper:*
This assignment requires that you volunteer to help the less fortunate and analyze your experience from a social psychology perspective. This assignment will be discussed more in class and are also described in more detail later in this syllabus.

**General Writing Issues:**
These assignments are being evaluated and are not a personal journal. Thus I expect that you will take advantage of these opportunities to develop your writing skills. Specifically,

- When appropriate, I expect you to use paragraphs.
- I expect you to transition from one paragraph to the next.
- I expect that you will be specific in your word selection and will avoid pronouns.
- I expect that you will spell words correctly (i.e. use spell-check)
Grading Scale and Points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Total Possible Pts</th>
<th>Pts Earned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>_____</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>XXXX (Drop lowest test)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>_____</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology Applied to Life</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altruism Assignment</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>_____</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Research Papers</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>_____</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Pts</td>
<td>260 pts</td>
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Grading Scale:

- 86.5-89.5% = B+
- 76.5-79.5% = C+
- 66.5-69.5% = D+
- Below 59.5 = F
- 92.5-100% = A
- 82.0-86.5% = B
- 72.0-76.5% = C
- 62.0-66.5% = D
- 89.5-92% = A-
- 79.5-82.0% = B-
- 69.5-72.0% = C-
- 59.5-62.0% = D-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>Course Overview &amp; Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>Introducing Social Psychology (Chapter 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>Introducing Social Psychology (Chapter 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>The Self in a Social World (Chapter 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>The Self in a Social World (Chapter 2)/ Social Beliefs and Judgments (Chapter 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Social Beliefs and Judgments (Chapter 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/13</td>
<td><strong>Test 1: Chapters 1-3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Behavior and Attitudes (Chapter 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/20</td>
<td>Behavior and Attitudes (Chapter 4); <em>Current Research Paper #1 Due</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Genes, Culture, &amp; Gender (Chapter 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/27</td>
<td>Genes, Culture, &amp; Gender (Chapter 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/29</td>
<td><strong>Test 2: Chapters 4-5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>Conformity and Obedience (Chapter 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/6</td>
<td><strong>FALL HOLIDAY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>Conformity and Obedience (Chapter 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>Persuasion (Chapter 7); <em>Current Research Paper #2 Due</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>Persuasion (Chapter 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20</td>
<td>Group Influence (Chapter 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>Group Influence (Chapter 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/27</td>
<td><strong>Test 3: Chapters 6-8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>Prejudice (Chapter 9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Prejudice (Chapter 9); <em>Current Research Paper #3 Due</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/8</td>
<td>Aggression (Chapter 10)</td>
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<td>11/10</td>
<td>Aggression (Chapter 10)</td>
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<td>11/15</td>
<td>Attraction and Intimacy (Chapter 11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>Attraction and Intimacy (Chapter 11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>Test 4: Chapters 9-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/24</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Altruism (Chapter 12); <em>Altruism Assignment Due</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Altruism (Chapter 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>Social Psychology in the Clinic (Chapter 14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>Social Psychology in the Clinic (Chapter 14); Final Exam Review</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Tues, 12/13, 1-2:50 pm | **Final Exam:** 40% (Chapters 12 & 14)  
|        | 60% cumulative                                            |
Application Papers

The material in PSYC 261 will be better learned if one can apply psychological principles to one’s personal experiences, popular culture, peer behavior, etc. In order to facilitate the development of this application skill, one will be assigned 4 brief application papers.

Purpose:
The goal of these papers is to demonstrate the ability to apply material presented in the text to other situations. Therefore, you can apply psychological principles to understanding tv shows, movies, online videos, song lyrics, news, comic strips, and of course personal experiences.

Requirement:
Over the course of the semester, you must write a total of 4 application papers. Papers will be graded on a 1 to 5 scale and will be based on the clarity of the paper, the thoroughness, use of appropriate terminology (I strongly recommend that you practice use of terminology), and the application of material presented in class/text to the chosen example(s). Each application paper will be worth 5 pts of your final grade.

Format of the Paper:
Your application paper should include the following information: What chapter you have selected, brief description of a situation, television scene, etc. and an application of the material presented in the text/class. One might also considering discussing the strengths and weaknesses of their example.

The length of the paper should be at a minimum 1 page, double spaced.

Due Dates:
Application papers will be accepted earlier but no later than the day that we are scheduled to start the chapter that addresses the application content. For example, if you decide to write a paper on Behaviors and Attitudes (Chapter 4), the latest a paper will be accepted is Thurs., 9/15 (the day we start Chapter 4-refer to calendar)

Hard copies are expected and email copies of the paper will only be accepted for special circumstances. Late papers will NOT be accepted. Additionally, if you are late to or do not attend class on the day you submit an application to life assignment, your assignment will be considered late and will not be accepted.

Restrictions:
- You can only write 1 application paper per chapter.
- You can only submit 2 papers per test section.
  - Section 1 = Chapters 1-3
  - Section 2 = Chapters 4-5
  - Section 3 = Chapters 6-8
  - Section 4 = Chapters 9-11
  - Section 5 = Chapters 12 & 14
**Current Research Paper Guidelines**

It is important to be familiar with contemporary as well as "classic" social psychological research. Therefore, over the course of the semester you will be required to spend time outside the classroom familiarizing yourself with a sample of current social psychological research. Your options for fulfilling this requirement include the following:

**Article Review**

You may choose to read an *empirical* article on a topic of interest from any of the following APA approved journals:

- Aggressive behavior*
- Personality and social psychology review*
- European journal of social psychology*
- Journal of community & applied social psychology
- Journal of experimental social psychology*
- Journal of personality and social psychology*
- Journal of social behavior and personality*
- Personality & social psychology bulletin*
- Basic and applied social psychology*
- British journal of social psychology*
- Group dynamics*
- Social behavior and personality*
- Journal of social psychology*
- Social cognition*
- Journal of Applied Social Psychology

- All articles must be from 2012-2016 issues.
- An article review can be turned in at any time, but no later than September 20th, October 13th, and November 3rd.
- *Available online (can be accessed through the Library Database)

**Assignment:**

You will be required to write a three-page *minimum*, double-spaced, paper. The first portion of the paper (roughly 1.5 pages) should be a summary of the main points of the research, presentation, journal article, etc. The second portion of the paper (roughly 1.5 pages) should be a reaction to the presentation, journal article, etc. This portion of your paper should not only include personal reactions, it should also tie in the “current” research to material presented in your text and class, critique the research, discuss it’s applicability to the “real world”, and/or suggest how the research may be improved in the future.

Papers will be graded on the ability to demonstrate critical thinking, expression of thought, clarity and thoroughness, use of appropriate terminology, and on the ability to integrate the readings (THINK ABOUT THIS WHEN SELECTING THE ARTICLE).

Each assignment/paper will be turned in VIA EMAIL at the start of class on the appropriate date (September 20th, October 13th, and November 3rd). For each day an assignment/section of the paper is late you will lose 20% of your grade. No paper will be accepted 3 days past the due date. **If you are late to or do not attend class on the day you submit a current research paper, your assignment will be considered late.**

Throughout the semester you will be required to complete 3 of these papers (each will be worth 10 pts).

**Sample APA Citation:**

An alternative opportunity to become familiar with psychological research and tests is by participating in an experiment or an assessment conducted by a faculty member or a student from the Psychology Department. You have the option of participating in 2 hours of experiments or assessments instead of writing a paper. (So if you chose this option for papers 2 AND 3, then you will need to complete 4 total hours.) *The 2 hrs of research/assessment should be completed by the due date of the paper the hours will be substituted for (October 13th, & November 3rd).*

**How to sign up for experiments or assessments:**

Sign-up sheets for experiments and assessments will be posted online as well as the bulletin board outside of room 213 in Elet Hall. If you find an experiment or assessment you would like to participate in, simply print your name, professor’s name, and course name. Location of the experiment or assessment, along with the date and time, will be printed at the top of the sign-up sheet. Also, contact and confirmation receipts will be provided at the bottom of the sign-up sheet for you to take as a reminder.

You should carefully follow two rules in signing up for experiments:

1) **Do not sign up for the same experiment more than once.**
2) **Do not sign up for an experiment or assessment unless you are sure you can meet the appointment.**

Upon completing a study, you will be given a receipt from the researcher. Please hold on to the copies of your research credit receipts for your own records and proof of completion.

***If you sign up for a research study and you cannot attend, you must notify the researcher that you need to cancel at least 24 hours prior to the study in order to avoid a penalty. Make sure you keep a copy of any sent emails to verify your cancellation. If you do not cancel in time or simply do not show up, you will be responsible for making up the time that you missed in addition to the required one hours. For example, if you sign up for a study that lasts a half hour and you miss it, you are then responsible for a total of one and a half hours of research.***

You are encouraged not to wait until the end of the semester to fulfill your research requirement. The number of experiments and assessments may decrease as the semester progresses, thus making fulfillment of this requirement increasingly difficult.

**RESEARCH PARTICIPATION RECORD**

(A central participation list will be maintained; use this form for your own records).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name of Researcher</th>
<th>Experiment/Assessment Credit</th>
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Altruism Paper

As stated earlier in the syllabus, this assignment requires that you volunteer to help the less fortunate and analyze your experience from a social psychology perspective.

Purpose:
The goal of this paper is to demonstrate the ability to apply material presented in the text to “helping” situations. Volunteering should aid us in our understanding of the topic of altruism because new material is learned better if one can apply psychological principles to one’s personal experiences.

Additionally, this assignment should highlight the goals of a Jesuit education. Specifically,

“the Jesuit education seeks to develop: 1. Intellectual skills for both a full life in the human community and service in the Kingdom of God; 3. A world view that is oriented to responsible action and recognizes the intrinsic value of the natural and human values; 4. An understanding and communication of the moral and religious values through personal concern and lived witness, as well as by precept of instruction; and 5. A sense of the whole person- body, mind, and spirit.” – The Xavier University mission statement

Requirement:
You must volunteer at least one hour of your time helping the less fortunate. Upon completion of this altruism activity, you will complete an application paper that analyzes your experience from a social psychology perspective. Papers will be graded on a 1 to 10 scale and will be based on the clarity of the paper, the thoroughness, use of appropriate terminology, and the application of material presented in class/text to the chosen example(s) (I strongly recommend that you practice using the terminology). Another issue that one should address is how the Jesuit perspective of altruism compares/contrasts to the social psychology perspective.

Format of the Paper:
In addition to the requirements presented above, your altruism paper should include the following information: Brief description of the volunteer experience (including time, date, and location) and an application of the material presented in the text/class. One might also considering discussing the strengths/weaknesses of their example. Pictures from your altruism experiences are not necessary but would be greatly appreciated.

The length of the paper should be at a minimum 2 pages, double spaced.

Due Date:
Altruism papers will be accepted earlier, but no later than 11/29.