

Social Psychology
SOCI-C210-Z51
Fall 2003

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Course Description: A survey of major social psychological theories and topics with special emphasis on socialization processes of social perception and cognition, patterns of social interaction including affiliation, altruism, love, aggression and cooperation.

Course Objectives: One of the immediate objectives of the course is to gain an understanding of how the thought, feelings and behavior of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. Another immediate objective is to understand how social psychologists go about the work of developing scientific observations about human behavior. A “near transfer” objective is to see implications of social psychological observations for your everyday experience. The “far transfer” objective is to apply these understandings in such a manner so as to gain a broader insight into the human condition.

Text: Charles G. Lord, Social Psychology. (1997) New York: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

Course Requirements:

1. Examinations. There will be weekly examinations beginning **Nov. 4th** and continuing until the end of the course. These tests will include approximately 10 definitional or short answer items worth 1 point each.

2. The Term Assignments. With the October 28th class you will begin doing a weekly library research project (a total of six). This project called “Continuing the Research” requires that you go to the library (or use your own computer) and search for research studies either cited in your text or newer research on the same topics covered in your text. You are required to (1) find a citation on one of the databases (c.f. Psylit., Sociofile) print the citation, (2) find the journal article (often full-text can be found on the Internet) (3) read the article and write a report following the instructions provided in this document.

Term Assignment Instructions: The topic selection is up to you, but the topic must come from the subject content of the course. Some of the following topics would be appropriate subject matter areas: aggression, altruism, when people help, prejudice, liking, group dynamics, interpersonal conflict, etc.

Your assignment is to abstract the article you have collected. To receive maximum credit for your research projects your abstract of the article should follow the following outline:

a. Citation: (this appears at the top of the page) author, title of article, title of publication, volume, number, pages, date of publication.

b. Thesis, theme or problem addressed in the article. In no more than three sentences, “what is the article about?”

c. How has the thesis, theme or problem been addressed in the past? In three sentences, “How has the problem, etc., been studied before?” In some instances, where appropriate, this section may deal with the nature and extent of the problem.

d. How does the present author propose to study the problem? In three sentences discuss the methodology and research techniques employed by the author. Where appropriate, this section may deal with proposals for solving the problem.

e. What are the results of the author’s study? In three sentences summarize the findings (results) of the article. Where appropriate, this might include recommendations for a course of action based on the results.

f. Summarize the conclusions drawn by the author. What implications does the author see from the results of the research reported in the article. In no more than three sentences sum up the article.

g. (Optional) What were the strengths (weaknesses) of the article from the point of view conceptualizing the problem, designing the approach, analyzing the results, drawing conclusions and discussing the implications.

Grading Scale: 93-100=A; 88-92=B+; 82-87=B; 75-81=C+;
70-74=C; 65-69=D+; 60-64=D; 59 or less =F

Other Course Policies: Attendance is expected for all classes. If you must be absent, it is your responsibility to keep up with the progress of the course. A late assignment (by one day or one year) will result in a 10% reduction in the grade for that

assignment. **No make-up examinations are given.** You are allowed to exempt yourself or remove your lowest score on a weekly test in computing your final grade.

COURSE OUTLINE

October, 21st - Introduction to Social Psychology.

Assignment: Text: Chapter 1.

October 28th- Social Cognition, Perception and Attribution.

Assignment: Text, Chapter, 2, 3, 4.

Video: Twelve Angry Men, United Artists, 1959.

Begin 1st Research Project: Continue the Research

November 4th - The Self and Attitudes

Assignment: Text, Chapter 5 and 6

First Test: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4.

Video: Discovering Psychology #15 “The Self”

Begin 2nd Research Project

November 11^h - Attitude Change, Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination

Assignment: Text, Chapter 7, 8.

Second Test: Chapters 5, 6.

Begin 3rd Research Project

November 18th - Love and Other Close Relationships

Assignment: Text, Chapter 9, 10.

Third Test: Chapter 7, 8.

Begin 4th Research Project

November 25th- Social Influence, Interaction and Helping

Assignment: Text, Chapter 11, 12.

Fourth Test: Chapter 9, 10.

Begin 5th Research Project

December 2nd- Aggression, Power and Groups

Assignment: Text, Chapter 13, 14, 15

Fifth Test: Chapter 11, 12.

Begin 6th Research Project

December 9th

Summing UP

Sixth Test: Chapter 13, 14, 15.