

PSYCH 344: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY Winter 2008

Instructor:	Dr. Bill Altermatt	Time & Place:	SCC 147
Email:	altermattw@hanover.edu		MWF 9-10am
Office:	155 Science Center		Lab Tuesdays 9-10:50am
Office hours:	MWF 3-4, R 11-12, or by appointment	Office phone:	812-866-7318
		Home phone:	812-866-3722
	Webpage: http://vault.hanover.edu/~altermattw/social/index.html		

Overview and Course Objectives

Social psychology is the scientific study of how people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by other people. I consider social psychology to be the dessert of the psychology buffet, offering the most interesting and most compelling findings. Some of the topics we will examine include persuasion, obedience, aggression, prejudice, and interpersonal attraction. This course has been designed to build on the skills you acquired in the Research Design course, giving you the opportunity to design, conduct, and interpret the results of your own research on social psychological topics.

Textbook & Articles

Aronson, E. (2008). *The Social Animal* (10th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

The articles we will be reading together are available through the course website. The password to access the articles is: koala

Office Hours

Office hours are the great underutilized resource of the college experience. Looking back over his many years advising students, Richard Light (a Harvard professor) said that the greatest advice that he ever gave to his students was this: Every semester, get to know one faculty member. Please stop by to chat about the course, your plans for the future, or the mysteries of the universe. Talking with students is one of my favorite parts of this job.

This Document

This course description and syllabus describe the theme of the course as well as your responsibilities for the semester and how you will be evaluated. You should consider this document a contract between us – you the student and me the instructor. As with all contracts, you should examine this document carefully to be sure that you find it fair and reasonable. Your registration in this class beyond the drop deadline is your implied agreement to be held to the requirements stated in this document.

Grading

	Points	Percentage of Total
Midterm Exam	70	15.4%
Final Exam	100	22.0%
Quizzes	90	19.8%
Participation	20	4.4%
PsycINFO articles	3	0.7%
Semester Project		
3 topics	3	0.7%
1 st hypothesis	2	0.4%
Final hypothesis	2	0.4%
Human subject application	3	0.7%
7 reference annotated bib	14	3.1%
Methods section	19	4.2%
Analysis plan	3	0.7%
Pilot study report	3	0.7%
PowerPoint draft	2	0.4%
Oral presentation	20	4.4%
Final draft	100	22%
<i>Total</i>	454	

Letter Grades

Your final grade will be determined solely by the total number of points you have earned by means of examinations, quizzes, and extra credit. Letter grade interpretations are given by the following:

Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	422+	C	331-348
A-	408-421	C-	317-330
B+	394-407	D+	304-316
B	376-393	D	286-303
B-	363-375	D-	272-285
C+	349-362	F	0-271

Participation

Class time will emphasize discussion, which means that you must come to class prepared to speak intelligently about the assigned readings. Don't just read – read for understanding. Jot down a few notes as you read so that you can use them during class. If a passage is unclear, re-read it. Take time to reflect on what you've read so that you will be able to contribute in class. Form an opinion; you don't have to agree with the author (or with me!). Summarize as you read: Stop and ask yourself "what did I just read?" A little over 4 percent of your final grade will be based on participation. There are two ways to receive participation credit: in class and on the blog (<http://psy344.blogspot.com/>). In class, you get 0 points for an absence, 0.5 points for an excused absence, 0.8 points for being late, 1 point for being present and on time, and 1.3-1.5 points for participating in class discussion. On the blog, you get 0.3-0.5 points for each contribution. Your participation grade will average blog entries and in-class participation together. Please come see me if you are having trouble participating.

Semester Research Project

You and one to three of your classmates will plan and conduct an empirical research project. You may select any topic you like (with instructor approval) so long as it can be classified under the broad umbrella of social psychology. See handout for more information.

3 topics. Your first assignment for the project will be to generate 3 topics for research. These will be graded based on originality, clarity, and thoroughness of description. Each research topic should be accompanied by a *paragraph* describing it in detail.

Late Penalties

All assignments are due in the first five minutes of class on the date specified on the course schedule. If you prefer, you can email your assignment to me, so long as I receive it before class begins. Assignments turned in late on the date they are assigned (before midnight) will be penalized 5%. An additional 10% will be deducted for each additional midnight that passes without receipt of your assignment (15% on the day after an assignment is due, 25% for two days late, etc.).

Quizzes

In the class after we finish covering a chapter, you will take a quiz on that chapter. There will be no make-up quizzes unless (1) you let me know of your absence in advance or (2) your absence is due to a college-sponsored event or documented illness.

Exams

What will the exams be like?

You will have two exams during the semester. The exams will be given in class on the dates indicated on the class syllabus. They will be a combination of matching, multiple-choice, and short essay questions (typically requiring a paragraph or two per question). The final exam is cumulative and will include 45 points devoted to the material from the first exam period.

What material will be on the exams, and how should I study?

Technically, every bit of information that is assigned in the readings and that is discussed in class is information that you may be asked to remember and apply on an exam. Exams will cover both lecture and reading material, but information emphasized in lecture will be more likely to appear on exams than material that was not covered in lecture. In preparing for the exam, I would encourage you to (1) know the definitions of terms, (2) imagine yourself giving a lecture to someone who does not know the material – come up with examples and imagine questions you might receive, and (3) *after* you have prepared alone, get together in groups to go over the material.

Exam reviews

On a class period before an exam, we will have an in-class review session. Bring a question to class written on a slip of paper with your name on it. At the beginning of class, I will collect the questions and use them for the review. You will receive 1 extra credit point for bringing in a question if you turn in your question *at the beginning of class*.

Special Arrangements for Examinations

Students with physical or learning disabilities, who may require special arrangements for exams or quizzes, should contact me as early in the semester as possible so that I can make arrangements in advance of the quizzes and exams.

Class Schedule

Date	Day	Chapter	Topic	Quiz ch.	Deadline
1/7/2008	M		Introduction to the course		
1/8/2008	T	1	Lab: Overview, Brainstorming		3 topics
1/9/2008	W	9	Methods		
1/11/2008	F	9	Methods		Partner prefs
1/14/2008	M	MM	Murder Mystery	9	
1/15/2008	T		Lab: PsycINFO, first hypothesis		
1/16/2008	W		Semester project		First hypothesis
1/18/2008	F		Semester project		PsycINFO assignment
1/21/2008	M	2	Conformity		Final hypothesis
1/22/2008	T		Lab: Semester project		Hum Subj App
1/23/2008	W	2	Conformity		
1/25/2008	F	2	Conformity		7 ref anno bib
1/28/2008	M	2	Conformity		Methods section
1/29/2008	T		Lab: Semester project: analysis plan, pilot study	2	
1/30/2008	W		Article 1		
2/1/2008	F	3	Mass communication		
2/4/2008	M	3	Mass communication		Analysis plan
2/5/2008	T		Lab: Semester project		
2/6/2008	W	3	Mass communication		Pilot study report
2/8/2008	F	3	Mass communication		
2/11/2008	M	4	Social cognition	3	(begin data collection)
2/12/2008	T		Lab: Semester project		
2/13/2008	W	4	Social cognition		
2/15/2008	F	4	Social cognition		
2/18/2008	M	4	Social cognition		
2/19/2008	T		Lab: Review		
2/20/2008	W	4	Social cognition		
2/22/2008	F		Midterm exam		(end data collection)
2/25/2008	M		Winter Break		

Date	Day	Chapter	Topic	Quiz ch.	Deadline
2/26/2008	T		Winter Break		
2/27/2008	W		Winter Break		
2/29/2008	F		Winter Break		
3/3/2008	M		Semester project: Data entry		
3/4/2008	T		Lab: Data entry & analysis		
3/5/2008	W	5	Self-justification		
3/7/2008	F	5	Self-justification		
3/10/2008	M	5	Self-justification		
3/11/2008	T		Lab: Work on presentations		
3/12/2008	W		Article 2		
3/14/2008	F	5	Self-justification		
3/17/2008	M	5	Self-justification		PPT draft
3/18/2008	T		Lab: Work on presentations	5	
3/19/2008	W	6	Aggression		
3/21/2008	F	6	Aggression		
3/24/2008	M	6	Aggression		
3/25/2008	T		Lab: Oral presentation practice		
3/26/2008	W	7	Prejudice	6	
3/28/2008	F		Article 3		
3/31/2008	M	7	Prejudice		
4/1/2008	T		Lab: Oral presentations		
4/2/2008	W	7	Prejudice		
4/4/2008	F	8	Liking & loving	7	
4/7/2008	M	8	Liking & loving		
4/8/2008	T		Lab: Work on final draft		
4/9/2008	W	8	Liking & loving		
4/11/2008	F		Review	8	
TBA			Final exam		Final draft