

# SYLLABUS

## PSY 0105: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

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FALL 2017

TUES & THURS 1 :00 – 2 :15 PM

G8 CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING

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**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Amanda Forest**

Office: 3429 Sennott Square

Email: forest@pitt.edu

Office hours: Thursdays 11:00am-12:00noon

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Betsy Edershile**

Office: 3213 Sennott Square

E-mail: eae39@pitt.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 8:50-9:50am

**\*\*\*Please include “PSY 0105” in the subject line of all course-related emails\*\*\***

**COURSE WEBSITE:** <https://courseweb.pitt.edu>

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Myers, D. G., & Twenge, J. (2017). Social psychology: Twelfth edition. McGraw-Hill: New York, NY.

### **COURSE OVERVIEW:**

This course provides a detailed overview of classic and contemporary topics in social psychology. Social psychology explores human behavior in its social context. It is the scientific study of how people’s thoughts, feelings, and behavior are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of other people (Allport, 1985). It involves understanding how people influence, and are influenced by, others around them.

Lectures and readings emphasize findings from research on such topics as conformity to social norms, attitudes and persuasion, stereotyping and prejudice, social judgment and person perception, emotional and motivational influences on social perception and behavior, goal pursuit and self-control, aggression and social conflict, prosocial behavior, interpersonal attraction, and close personal relationships.

### **COURSE FORMAT:**

#### **LECTURE**

The lectures will be conducted mainly by your instructor. Some topics may be taught by invited lecturers. The lectures will be designed to provide you with an understanding of the major theoretical ideas in social psychology and the research that supports them. Besides providing you with information about the major ideas in social psychology, this course aims to engage you in critical thinking about all these ideas and in activities that will put your knowledge into practice.

#### **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Lecture attendance will not be taken, but it is expected and strongly encouraged. You are responsible for all material covered in class, including lecture slides and lecture content, activities, video clips, demonstrations, and announcements. It is important that you:

- Arrive to class on time
- Use laptops/tablets for class-related activities only
- Do not text or talk on the phone during class
- Participate actively and constructively in class activities and discussions

## GRADING:

The final grade in this class will be based on a percentage of 350 points accumulated from 3 exams (each worth 100 points) and one written assignment (worth 50 points).

### 1. Exams (each worth 100 points)

There will be three non-cumulative exams. Exams will include 50 multiple choice questions drawn from course material covered in lectures, assigned readings, and assigned TED talks. Each question is worth 2 “points,” resulting in a total score out of 100 points for each 50-question exam.

Be on time for all exams. If you arrive late (without a documented excuse) and students have already completed the exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam. All exams must be taken during the regularly scheduled time period. Exceptions are permitted only under extreme circumstances and with appropriate documentation.

If you must miss an exam due to severe illness or emergency:

1. Contact the instructor immediately. Do not wait until after the exam is over; there is much more that we can do to accommodate you when we have prior notice.
2. Obtain documentation of your illness or reason for missing the exam. Appropriate documentation is required for a make-up exam to be scheduled. Students who miss an exam and do not provide acceptable documentation will receive a 0 on that exam.
3. Check your email regularly to ensure that you do not miss information about the make-up exam.

### 2. Written Assignment (worth 50 points)

There will be one assignment that students will complete outside of class time. This assignment is designed to give you chance to relate course material to the social world in which we live. There will also be an Extra Credit Assignment that is worth up to 10 bonus points\*. Each assignment will be discussed in class and made available at least one week prior to the due date. Assignments should be uploaded to **Courseweb by midnight** on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 10% per 24 hour period (or portion thereof).

\*The Extra Credit Assignment (ECA) will be graded like the other assignment and the amount of bonus points you receive will be based on your grade for the ECA. However, you will only get credit for the ECA if you get at least a 6/10 on the assignment. Scores below 6/10 will count as zero points.

Course Component	Weighting
Exam # 1 (Sept. 26)	100 points
Exam # 2 (Nov. 2)	100 points
Exam # 3 (Dec. 7)	100 points
Assignment #1 (due Oct. 19)	50 points
Extra Credit Assignment (due Nov. 28)	(10 points )
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350 points</b>

**Grading Scale:** 90-100% (min 315 points) = A-, A, A+  
80-89% (280 - 314 points) = B-, B, B+  
70-79% (245 - 279 points) = C-, C, C+  
60-69% (210 - 244 points) = D-, D, D+  
below 60% = F

## **EXAM REVIEW PROCEDURES**

We encourage students to come and review their exams if they would like to. This can be especially helpful if you did not do as well on the exam as you would have liked. Reviewing your exam can give you a sense of how to better prepare for subsequent exams. Students can review their exams in the following ways:

1. During the instructor or TA's office hours at any point in the term. Just stop by during office hours, no appointment needed!
2. If you are unable to attend office hours due to class conflict, you may email our TA, Betsy, eae39@pitt.edu, within one week after exam grades are posted to set up an appointment. After this one week period, exam review will only take place during office hours.

## **GRADE DISPUTE POLICY**

Grade disputes for all assignments and exams must be in writing and initiated no later than one week after the grades are returned. This policy will be strictly enforced. Please note that the instructor and TA are always willing to discuss grades in order to help students improve in the future; however, grades are rarely changed unless there was a mistake in the scoring of the exam or assignment.

## **DISABILITY RESOURCE SERVICES**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890, as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed. (For the full Academic Integrity policy, go to [www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html](http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html).)

## **EMAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY**

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on **Edit Forwarding Addresses**, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to [www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html](http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html).)

## COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS TO BE COVERED	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS
1	Aug. 29	Course Introduction	Syllabus
	Aug. 31	Research Methods	Chapter 1
2	Sept. 5	The Self in a Social World	Chapter 2
	Sept. 7	Social Beliefs and Judgments 1	Chapter 3
		Dan Gilbert: The psychology of your future self	<a href="http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_gilbert_you_are_always_changing">www.ted.com/talks/dan_gilbert_you_are_always_changing</a>
3	Sept. 12	Social Beliefs and Judgments 2	Chapter 3
	Sept. 14	Attitudes and Behavior	Chapter 4
		Amy Cuddy: Your body language shapes who you are	<a href="http://www.ted.com/talks/amy_cuddy_your_body_language_shapes_who_you_are#">www.ted.com/talks/amy_cuddy_your_body_language_shapes_who_you_are#</a>
4	Sept. 19	Conformity & Obedience	Chapter 6
	Sept. 21	Stanford Prison Experiment	<a href="http://www.prisonexp.org/">http://www.prisonexp.org/</a>
		Carol Dweck: The power of believing that you can improve	<a href="http://www.ted.com/talks/carol_dweck_the_power_of_believing_that_you_can_improve">www.ted.com/talks/carol_dweck_the_power_of_believing_that_you_can_improve</a>
5	<b>Sept. 26</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, Video, TED Talks, Lectures Aug. 29 – Sept. 21</b>
	Sept. 28	Persuasion	Chapter 7 <i>Assignment 1 Introduced in Class</i>
6	Oct. 3	Group Influence 1	Chapter 8
	Oct. 5	Group Influence 2	Chapter 8
7	Oct. 10	NO CLASS (Fall Break; Monday classes)	
	Oct. 12	NO CLASS (Dr. Forest at SESP)	
8	Oct. 17	Prejudice	Chapter 9
	Oct. 19	Prejudice	Chapter 9 <b>Assignment 1 due Oct. 19 by midnight</b>
9	Oct. 24	Aggression	Chapter 10
	Oct. 26	O-Train Activity	
		Dan Ariely: Our Buggy Moral Code	<a href="http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_ariely_on_our_buggy_moral_code">www.ted.com/talks/dan_ariely_on_our_buggy_moral_code</a>
10	Oct. 31	Review of Course Section 2	
	<b>Nov. 2</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, Activity, TED Talk, Lectures Sept. 28-Oct. 31</b>
11	Nov. 7	Interpersonal Attraction	Chapter 11
	Nov. 9	Relational Mate Value Activity	<i>Extra Credit Assignment Introduced in Class</i>
12	Nov. 14	Close Relationships	Chapter 11
	Nov. 16	Interpersonal Helping Behaviors 1	Chapter 12
		Paul Piff: Does Money Make you mean?	<a href="http://www.ted.com/talks/paul_piff_does_money_make_you_mean">www.ted.com/talks/paul_piff_does_money_make_you_mean</a>
13	Nov. 21	Interpersonal Helping Behaviors 2	Chapter 12
	Nov. 23	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Recess)	
14	Nov. 28	Conflict and Peacemaking	<b>Extra Credit Assignment Due Nov. 28 by midnight;</b> Chapter 13
	Nov. 30	Gender and Culture	Chapter 5
15	Dec. 5	Special Topics in Social Psychology	
	<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Chapters 5, 11, 12, 13, Activity, TED Talk, Lectures Nov. 7- Dec. 5</b>