

SYLLABUS

PSY 0105: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

FALL 2017

TUES & THURS 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

7TH FLOOR AUDITORIUM, ALUMNI HALL

INSTRUCTOR: **Dr. Edward Orehek**
Office: 3105 Sennott Square
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Office hours: Tuesdays 9:00-10:00am or by appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANT: **Betsy Edershile** (Graduate TA)
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Office Hours : Thursdays 11:30-12:30pm

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: 12th 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, trust and cooperative behavior, culture and ideology, 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 specific 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 notes, activities, video clips, demonstrations, and announcements. It is important that you:

- Arrive to class on time
- Do not use laptops or tablets
- Do not text or talk on the phone during class
- Participate actively and constructively in class activities and discussions

DISABILITY 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 [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

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). A total of 10 extra credit points are also possible.

1. Exams (each 100 points)

There will be three non-cumulative exams. Exams will include multiple choice questions drawn from course material covered in lectures, assigned readings, and assigned TED talks. 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:

- 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.
- 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.

2. Written Assignment (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 will be graded like the other assignment and the amount of bonus points you receive will be based on your grade for the assignment. You will only get credit for the assignment if you get at least a 6/10 on the assignment.

Course Component	Weighting
Exam # 1 (September 26)	100 points
Exam # 2 (October 31)	100 points
Exam # 3 (December 7)	100 points
Assignment #1 (due October 17)	50 points
Extra Credit Assignment (due November 28)	(10 points)
TOTAL	350 points

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

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. 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 paper.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY EXPECTATIONS

All students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty. Any student engaged in cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic dishonesty would be subject to disciplinary action. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity <http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html>. This may include, but is not limited to the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating the University Policy.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS TO BE COVERED	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS
1	Aug. 29	Course Introduction	Syllabus
	Aug. 31	Research Methods, Culture of Honor	Chapter 1
		Dan Gilbert: The psychology of your future self	www.ted.com/talks/dan_gilbert_you_are_always_changing
2	Sept. 5	The Self in a Social World	Chapter 2
	Sept. 7	Social Beliefs and Judgments	Chapter 3
3	Sept. 12	Social Beliefs and Judgments	Chapter 3
	Sept. 14	Attitudes and Behavior	Chapter 4
		Carol Dweck: The power of believing that you can improve	www.ted.com/talks/carol_dweck_the_power_of_believing_that_you_can_improve
4	Sept. 19	Conformity & Obedience	Chapter 6
	Sept. 21	Stanford Prison Experiment	http://www.prisonexp.org/
5	Sept. 26	Exam 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, Videos, Lectures
	Sept. 28	Persuasion	Chapter 7 <i>Assignment 1 Introduced in Class</i>
6	Oct. 3	Group Influence	Chapter 8
	Oct. 5	Group Influence	Chapter 8
		Dan Ariely: Our Buggy Moral Code	www.ted.com/talks/dan_ariely_on_our_buggy_moral_code
7	Oct. 10	NO CLASS	Scheduled as Monday on University Calendar
	Oct. 12	NO CLASS	Dr. Orehek at a Conference
8	Oct. 17	Prejudice	Chapter 9 Assignment 1 Due October 17 by midnight
	Oct. 19	Prejudice	Chapter 9
		Paul Piff: Does Money Make you mean?	www.ted.com/talks/paul_piff_does_money_make_you_mean
9	Oct. 24	Aggression	Chapter 10
	Oct. 26	O-train Activity	
10	Oct. 31	Exam 2	Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, Activity, Lectures
	Nov. 2	Interpersonal Attraction	Chapter 11
11	Nov. 7	Close Personal Relationships	Chapter 11 <i>Extra Credit Assignment Introduced in Class</i>
	Nov. 9	In Class Activity	
12	Nov. 14	Interpersonal Helping Behaviors	Chapter 12
	Nov. 16	Conflict and Peacemaking	Chapter 13
13	Nov. 21	Gender and Culture	Chapter 5
	Nov. 23	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING RECESS	
14	Nov. 28	Special Topics in Social Psychology	Chapter 13 Extra Credit Assignment Due Nov. 28 by midnight
	Nov. 30	Special Topics in Social Psychology	
15	Dec. 5	Special Topics in Social Psychology	
	Dec. 7	Exam 3	Chapters 5, 11, 12, 13, Special Topics readings, Activities, Lectures