

## Social Psychology (PSYC 3381)

### Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Jessica Lee  
**E-mail:** JRL035@SHSU.EDU  
**Office Hours:** Wed & Thur 1-2 & by appointment

**Office Location:** CHSS 318  
**Class Time:** TR 9:30-10:50  
**Class Location:** CHSS 220

**Text:** Aronson, Wilson, Akert, & Sommers. *Social Psychology*, 9<sup>th</sup>ed. ISBN: 978-0-13-393654-4

**Course Overview:** This course examines individual human behavior as it is influenced by cultural and social stimuli. Topics studied include interpersonal attraction, aggression, prejudice and sexism, conformity, altruism, and group behavior.

#### Course Goals:

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
  - Be able to define key terms and concepts
  - Understand and be able to describe the impact of the situation on individual behavior
  - Understand the ways information processing (i.e., attention, perception, memory) affect their interpretation of the social world
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
  - Be able to describe major theories and research findings in the area of social psychology
  - Understand and be able to describe basic research methods utilized in social psychology
3. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
  - Be able to use information from social psychology to interpret and understand new situations and events
  - Understand and be able to describe the impact of the situation on individual behavior

**Grading:** Each of the four exams is worth 25% of your grade in this course. If you miss an exam, you will receive a 0 for that exam. However, you may take the *optional cumulative* exam at the end of the semester to replace that grade. All students are given the option of replacing their lowest exam grade by taking this optional cumulative exam (if you have missed an exam, that 0 is your lowest grade). Exams will be based off of the readings as well as the lecture. Anything that we go over in class or that is in the readings is fair game for a test. **Students are responsible for the material in the textbook even if it is not specifically covered in class.** The exams will consist of multiple choice questions. Please bring a scan-tron to each exam. Exams are only given on exam days. Only in the case of a documented emergency (such as hospitalization or death in the family) will a makeup exam be allowed and only then when documentation is provided and I am contacted prior to the start of the exam. Any makeup exam must be made up within 1 week of the scheduled exam day.

Finally, as course instructor, I maintain the right to manage class-wide behavior through the use of Mickey Mouse quizzes. These are very simple Quizzes that are given during class. Examples of times in the past when a Mickey Mouse quiz has been given include when a multitude of students exited the classroom prior to the end of class or when less than half of the class is in attendance on any given day. Mickey Mouse quizzes are rarely given. But, when given I will add the points from the quiz onto a test grade.

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A= 89.50 to 100	D= 59.5 to 69.49
B= 79.50 to 89.49	F = 59.49 and below
C= 69.50 to 79.49	

**Grade Policy:** As of the fall semester 2009, only grades of C or better (A, B, or C) will be counted toward the student's major in Psychology

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is expected since tests will include both the readings and lectures. Attendance will be kept for my records; however, this class does *not* carry a “failure due to absence” policy. Keep in mind that attendance in this class is highly correlated with your grade.

**Extra Credit:** There are no opportunities for extra credit at this time.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students may find the University’s Code of Student Conduct and Discipline at the following web link: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Section 5.2.22 describes classroom disturbances, and in general I prefer my students to observe the following classroom behavioral guidelines (i.e., “Easy Ways to Tick Me Off”)

1. Arriving late to class.
2. Talking to neighboring students during class.
3. Not visiting with me after you have failed an exam.
4. Leaving class early.
5. Allowing your cell phone to ring during class or playing on your cell phone or computer.
  - Any use of a telephone, pager, or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. *Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test.* Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty (see student code of conduct <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=29>).
  - If there is an emergency situation for a student, that student should inform the instructor, place the device on silent or vibrate mode, and place himself/herself in a seat near the door where an exit for a phone call would be only minimally disruptive. Other arrangements for handling potential emergency situations may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

For more information about the guidelines involving **VISITORS TO THE CLASSROOM, ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY**, and **THE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY**, please visit <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

SHSU proudly adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, you should contact our Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located in the Lee Drain North Annex building (next to the Farrington building), 936-294-3512, or TDD 936-294-3786, to apply for accommodations. Your disclosure of any disability will be kept strictly confidential, of course; however, no accommodation can be made until you register with SSD. All the information you need is here: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/>

**Instructor Evaluations:** Towards the end of the semester, students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form. I encourage you to be complete and honest in your evaluations. I particularly encourage you to provide constructive feedback in the open-ended section of the evaluation form. IDEA is the faculty evaluation system used at SHSU.

**Important dates for all courses at SHSU:**

8/23: First day of class

9/4: Labor Day- No classes

**11/10: Last day to drop full term courses and labs with a "Q"**

11/22-11/24: Thanksgiving Holiday- No classes

12/1: Last day of classes

12/4-12/7: Final Exams

**Class Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
8/24	Intro to course	
8/29	Introducing Social Psychology	1
8/31	Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research	2
9/5	Social Cognition: How We Think About the Social World	3
9/7	Social Cognition: How We Think About the Social World	3
9/12	Social Perception: How We Come to Understand Other People	4
9/14	Social Perception: How We Come to Understand Other People	4
<b>9/19</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	
9/21	The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context	5
9/26	The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context	5
9/28	The Need to Justify Our Actions: The Costs and Benefits of Dissonance Reduction	6
10/3	The Need to Justify Our Actions: The Costs and Benefits of Dissonance Reduction	6
10/5	Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings	7
10/10	Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings	7
10/12	Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings	7
<b>10/17</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	
10/19	Conformity: Influencing Behavior	8
10/24	Conformity: Influencing Behavior	8
10/26	Group Processes: Influence in Social Groups	9
10/31	Group Processes: Influence in Social Groups	9
<b>11/2</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>	
11/7	Aggression: Why Do We Hurt Other People? Can We Prevent It?	12
<i>11/9</i>	<i>No Class</i>	
11/14	Aggression: Why Do We Hurt Other People? Can We Prevent It?	12
	Prejudice: Causes, Consequences, and Cures	13
11/16	Prejudice: Causes, Consequences, and Cures	13
	Prosocial Behavior: Why Do People Help?	Lecture
11/21	Interpersonal Attraction: From First Impressions to Close Relationships	10
11/22-11/24	<b><i>Thanksgiving Break- No Classes</i></b>	
11/28	Interpersonal Attraction: From First Impressions to Close Relationships	10
<b>11/30</b>	<b>Exam 4</b>	
<b>12/8</b>	<b>9:30-11:30am: OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM- Cumulative</b>	

\*\*\*\*This schedule is subject to change as the needs of the class become apparent\*\*\*\*