

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY
PSYC 3381 – Social Psychology
Spring, 2018
The Woodlands Center
Thursday 6:00-8:50 p.m.**

INSTRUCTOR: Denise R. Boyd, Ed.D.

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

PHONE: 713-614-6687 (urgent)

EMAIL: drb012@shsu.edu (non-urgent)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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.

READINGS

Baron, R., & Branscombe, N. (2017). *Social psychology*, 14th edition.

Additional readings posted on Blackboard.

Register for Revel

Revel is NOT required in this course. However, if you purchased a new textbook, you received a code for Revel. To activate it, you need your instructor's course invitation link:

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/z16xle>

You may also use the link to activate two weeks' free access to the e-book.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Orientation to PSYC 3381 Activities (100 points)

Crash Course Psychology

Watch these two episodes of *Crash Course Psychology* **before** posting to the Meet Your Classmates discussion.

1. *Social Thinking*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6HLDV0T5Q8&index=37&list=PLNo419yvwUDDuGEekLWgdIJPUA3WOV>
[eig](#)

2. *Social Influence*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGxGDdQnC1Y>

Meet Your Classmates

Click on "Meet Your Classmates" and post a brief introduction telling your classmates why you are taking this class and what you hope to learn from it. Include at least one concept or researcher from the two Crash

Course videos when discussing what you want to learn more about. You must attach a photo. The due date for this activity is in the course calendar.

In-Class and Online Video Reflection Journals (300 points)

Students will view videos both in class and online. After viewing each one, students will write a summary of the video and their reactions to it. Journal entries must be at least 250 words long. Video Reflection Journals will count 30 points each.

Film Critique Essay (300 points)

Two recent films dealt with the best-known studies in the history of social psychology: *Experimenter* (2015) and *The Stanford Prison Experiment* (2015). Watch one of the films before doing any research on it beyond what is in the textbook. Be sure to note your emotional responses to the film before beginning the research phase of the assignment. Your research should focus on the historical accuracy of the portrayal of the research in the film you watch. To that end, read several published reviews of the film, giving greater weight to those from psychological sources. Formulate a conclusion about the importance of the criticisms that you find. Write a 4- to 6-page, five-paragraph essay that presents your findings in the following way:

1. Paragraph 1: Briefly summarize the film.
2. Thesis statement: The final sentence in the first paragraph should state whether you have concluded (a) that the impact of the film is more important than any deviations from historical accuracy, or (b) the impact of the film is undermined by deviations from historical accuracy.
3. Paragraphs 2, 3, 4: Present evidence in support of your thesis statement. Each paragraph should focus on one historical deviation and explain how the information you cite supports the thesis statement.
4. Paragraph 5: Conclusion. Briefly recap your essay.
5. Works Cited: All citations should be in APA format.
6. Submit only via Blackboard.
7. Four points will be deducted for each language mechanics error (i.e., spelling, capitalization, grammar, syntax, run-on sentences, etc.)

Unit Exams (200 points)

Comprehensive exams covering two textbook-based units of instruction (Chapter 1-8 and 9-12) are posted on Blackboard. They will be available during the periods shown in the course calendar. Each exam includes 100 multiple-choice questions and will count 100 points. Two attempts are allowed. Reviews for both exams are posted on Blackboard. The exam settings are:

- Limited availability as shown in course calendar
- 3-hour time limit
- Must be completed in one sitting
- One question at a time
- No back-tracking
- Two attempts
- Reviews posted on Blackboard

Final Exam (100 points)

The Final Exam will consist of 5 essay questions selected from the study questions posted with each Blackboard reading. The exam will be available on the dates shown in the Course Calendar. It has no time limits. Only one attempt is allowed.

Course Grades

Grades will be based on total points (Maximum points = 1000):

Points	Grade
900+	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
<600	F

COURSE CALENDAR

Date	Topics/Activities	Readings	Due
1/18	Blackboard Online Orientation to PSYC 3381	Syllabus	
1/25	What is Social Psychology Social Cognition	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	
2/1	Social Perception The Self	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Orientation to PSYC 3381 Activities
2/8	In-Class Video 1	None	
2/15	Attitudes Stereotyping	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	
2/22	Relationships Social Influence	Chapter 7 Chapter 8	
3/1	In-Class Video 2 Unit I Exam opens at 12:00 a.m.	None	
3/8	Unit I Exam Blackboard Only No Class Meeting Unit I Exam closes at 11:59 p.m.	None	Unit I Exam
3/15	Spring Break		
3/22	In-Class Video 3		
3/29	Prosocial Behavior Aggression	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	
4/5	Groups and Individuals Guide to a Happy Life Unit II Exam opens at 12:00 a.m.	Chapter 11 Chapter 12	

4/12	Unit II Exam Blackboard Only No Class Meeting Unit II Exam closes at 11:59 p.m.	None	Unit II Exam
4/19	In-Class Video 4	None	Film Critique Essay
4/26	Social Psychology and Current Events 1 Final Exam opens at 12:00 a.m.	Blackboard Reading #1: Understanding Terrorism Blackboard Reading #2: <i>The Psychology of Terrorism</i>	In-Class Video Journals Online Video Journals
5/3	Social Psychology and Current Events 2	Blackboard Reading #3: Inside the Mind of a Terrorist	
5/10	Final Exam Final Exam closes at 11:59 p.m.		Final Exam

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. **Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices (including text messaging) to be used or seen during times of examination.** Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:

Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for the absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with

disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS:

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

*****NOTE: INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS*****

<https://www.socialpsychology.org/>