

# Introduction to Social Psychology

Psychology 367.01 Autumn 2007  
Section 40196-7 TR 3:15pm-5:20pm  
Mobile Classroom #2

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**Instructor: Phil Mazzocco**

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**Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30pm-3:00pm or by appointment**

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## Texts:

- Brehm, Kassin, & Fein (2005). *Social Psychology (6ed)*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
- Anson, Schwegler, & Muth (2003). *The Longman Pocket Writer's Companion*. New York: Longman Publishers.

## Course Description:

Although this is a second-level writing course, the course would be more accurately described as a social psychology course with a writing component. This course will give you an overview of both classic and current theory and research in social psychology. Special attention will be paid to cutting-edge research, topics that you can apply to your own life, and non-obvious findings. In class activities will include participation exercises, lectures, demonstrations, and multi-media displays (e.g., films, web-pages). The writing component of this course entails completion of five short papers, as well as an in-class oral presentation. You will sharpen your writing skills by engaging in the writing process, obtaining my feedback, and reading through the available writing primers at your own pace.

## Grades:

3 Original Short Papers	45	points (15 points each)
1 Revision Paper	15	points
1 Longer Paper	30	points
2 Midterms	50	points (25 points each)
Oral Presentation	15	points
Final Exam	<u>35</u>	<u>points</u>
	190	points

**Note: This is a VERY challenging class. Even exceptional students have done poorly in this class in the past. Writing papers is challenging for most students, and essay exams are impossible if you haven't put in the class and study time. Know this coming in. Come to class, work extra hard, make use of the feedback I provide on papers, and ask for help when you need it, and you'll be fine.**

## Participation

The success of this class depends partially upon your contributions. Hence, it is important to show up to class and to participate. I will try to foster an environment where everyone feels comfortable participating. I think you will find that when you participate in class, you will enjoy the class more, time will move faster, you will learn more, and you will leave class feeling better about yourself. Ways to participate include participating in discussions, asking questions, answering questions, participation in group-activities, etc.

## Basis of final grades:

You grade will be determined by your performance on all graded work. No extra credit will be offered. The standard OSU percentage grading scale will be used (93+=A, 90-93=A-, 87-90=B+, 83-87=B, 80-83=B-, 77-80=C+, 73-77=C, 70-73=C-, 67-70=D+, 63-67=D, lower than 63 = E), Percentages will be rounded (up or down) to the nearest whole number. If the class average after the final is less than 77%, the instructor has the option of curving the class average upwards.

## Completion of course work:

The university has determined that twelve pages of formal written work is the minimum amount of written work acceptable for a second level writing course. Therefore, in order to receive a non-failing grade in the course, a student must complete all five paper assignments. Failure to complete any one of the papers constitutes failure to meet university standards concerning this course. Therefore, a student who fails to complete any paper cannot receive credit for this course. In order to receive a non-failing grade, a student also must complete one midterm exam and the final exam.

## Exams

Exams will be essay (a mix of short and longer answer items). You will not be graded on writing quality on the exams. The first two midterm exams will cover information since the last exam (not cumulative). The final exam will be cumulative; however, a heavy emphasis will be placed on materials not covered on the previous two exams.

## Late Papers/Exams

Papers not turned in at the beginning of class on the due date will be considered late. Late papers will be accepted with the following penalties: Loss of 10% of the grade for turning it in after the beginning of class and an additional 10% loss for every additional day until the paper is turned in. Missed exams cannot be made-up. Exceptions may be granted to students who provide valid and verifiable excuses to the instructor. If you foresee being unable to turn in a paper or take an exam on the assigned date, contact the instructor immediately to request an extension.

## **Feedback on Papers**

The majority of feedback on your papers will be of the negative variety (what is wrong and what needs to be fixed). Generally, negative feedback is MUCH more useful than positive feedback. Furthermore, dealing with constructive criticism in a non-personal way is a very important life-skill. The point of my feedback is not to hurt feelings, but to help you to learn, and to save you from repeating mistakes in the future.

## **Oral Presentations**

During the second to last week of class, you will be asked to give a short (2-3 minute) oral presentation. The topic of the presentation will correspond to your chosen topic on the final paper. The oral presentation serves several purposes: (a) to help you prepare and obtain feedback on your final paper before turning it in (b) to help you to understand the relationship between the written and spoken word and (c) to give you some experience with public speaking (in a very low pressure environment).

## **Academic Misconduct Warning**

All work (on papers and exams) must be your own. Cheating or plagiarism will be reported through official university channels, and the consequences will be severe. I can spot writing that is not your own from about a mile away—it's surprising easy. I routinely check papers against the textbook to check for copying of definitions. Borrowing definitions from the textbook for your own papers will be treated the same as copying someone else's answers on a test.

## **Attendance/Missed Classes**

Aside from the first two days, attendance will not be recorded, and your personal attendance will not influence your grade in any formal way. This is an extremely fast paced course, however, and missing even one class can make it very difficult to achieve a high grade. You have been notified. When you do miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from another student, and for asking me what important announcements or handouts you might have missed.

## **Disability Accommodations:**

Students with certified disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking available assistance in a timely manner. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Michelle McLane at the at (419) 755-4304 or visit her at C100E Conard Learning Center in order to coordinate reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities.  
(<http://www.mansfield.ohio-state.edu/Conard/disability/disability.htm>)

**This information is available in alternative format upon request.**

## Tentative Schedule of Course Topics and Assignments (\*\*subject to change\*\*)

Week/Day	Topic	Book Pages	Assignments
1 Sept 20	Introduction	Chapter	
2 Sept 25	Methodology	Chapter *	
Sept 27	Social Cognition 1		
3 Oct 2	Social Cognition 2	116-129	<b>Paper 1 Due</b>
Oct 4	Self	Chapter	
4 Oct 9	Attribution/Review	94-116	
<b>Oct 11</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>		
5 Oct 16	Conformity/Obedience	227-241; 248-259	
Oct 18	Compliance	240-248	<b>Paper 2 Due</b>
6 Oct 23	Attitudes and Persuasion	185-213	
Oct 25	Stereotypes and Prejudice I	Chapter	
7 Oct 30	Stereotypes and Prejudice II	Chapter	<b>Paper 2R Due</b>
Nov 1	Cognitive Dissonance/Review	213-223	
8 <b>Nov. 6</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>		
Nov 8	Groups and Group Behavior	Chapter	
9 Nov 13	Attraction and Relationships	Chapter	
Nov 15	Aggression	Chapter	<b>Paper 3 Due</b>
10 Nov 20	<b>Oral Presentations</b>		
Nov 22	THANKSGIVING (No Class)		
11 Nov 27	Altruism/Helping Behavior	Chapter	
Nov 29	Wrap Up/Final Review		<b>Paper 4 Due</b>
<b>12 Dec 4 (Tuesday) Final Exam (**3:00pm – 4:48pm** same room)</b>			

### NOTES:

- **Assigned readings can be done before or after the relevant class. Generally, the readings cover the entire chapter associated with the topic. Sometimes, however, the lectures come from sections of a particular chapter. At the end of each chapter, there are succinct reviews of the chapters. These will be very useful in terms of test preparation. All exams will have book questions (things not covered directly in the lectures) on them.**
- **I typically draw lectures from many different sources, so reading the book alone will not be sufficient for performing well on the tests, or for getting the full flavor of the class. You really need to attend all the lectures.**
- **Topics/dates/readings are subject to change.**
- **Lecture outlines and other course materials will be available on CARMEN. Printing out the lecture outlines to bring to class as notetaking guides would be a VERY good idea. You can access Carmen by going on the web to <https://carmen.osu.edu/>**

**\*The readings from the Longman writing book are: pp. 2-13; 80-102;121-146; 147-208. These should be read sometime before you write your first paper, and referred back to throughout the quarter.**