

George Washington University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 012: Social Psychology
Section 13 (CRN #74627)

Course Syllabus Fall 2006

Times: Mondays and Wednesdays: 8:00 am - 9:15 am

Place: Rome Hall, room #204

	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Teaching Assistant</u>
Name:	Dr. Stephen Forssell	Brandi Rima
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	<i>Include the course name and section number in the subject line of all emails</i>	
Phone:	202-994-6323	202-994-7681
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm Wednesdays 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm Mondays & Thursdays by appointment Box in 2 nd floor lobby	Weds 10:00 am to 12:00 noon Box in Hunt Lounge, 2 nd floor

Course Content:

This is an introductory course on the foundations of human social behavior. The class will employ a critical thinking approach as we consider specific phenomena in human social interactions including: social perception, cognition, and motivation; attitudes, stereotyping and prejudice; communication; close relationships with family, friends and romantic and sexual partners; pro-social and anti-social behavior; behavior in groups versus individual behavior; individual gender identity issues related to the social world, and applied uses of social psychological science.

The objective of this course is to (a) provide the student with an understanding of current research findings and psychological models and theories of social psychological science; (b) to survey the range of real world applications of theories of social psychology; (c) to help students develop and sharpen scientific and critical thinking skills through examining current and historical methods of the exploration of psychological and behavioral processes of human social behavior, and (d) to inspire students to reach their highest potential as scholars and thinkers.

Course Objectives

- To provide the student with an understanding of current research findings and psychological models and theories of adolescent development
- To survey the range of real world applications of psychological theories of adolescence
- To help students develop and sharpen scientific and critical thinking skills through examining current and historical methods of the exploration of psychological and behavioral processes of adolescents
- To inspire students to reach their highest potential as scholars and thinkers

Required Text:

Social Psychology: Unraveling the Mystery, 3rd Ed. (2005), Authors: Douglas T. Kenrick, Steven L. Neuberg, Robert B. Cialdini, Publisher: Allyn & Bacon, ISBN #0205430007

Additional assigned readings will be distributed in class or posted to Blackboard

Course Content

The material for this course will come primarily from four sources: (1) reading materials (2) lecture materials, (3) class participation and interaction, (4) work on your final paper or project.

Academic Honesty:

Read and be aware of George Washington University's "Academic Integrity Code" concerning academic honesty, cheating, and plagiarism. All work in this class must be your own. My policy on cheating is simple: STUDENTS WHO CHEAT FAIL THE CLASS, not just the assignment. If you plan to (or feel that you might be tempted to) cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise misrepresent your work as original when it is not PLEASE WITHDRAW FROM MY CLASS IMMEDIATELY.

Scheduled reading assignments:

Listed under Course Schedule, readings are to be completed prior to that day's scheduled class. Additional readings will also be assigned and distributed during class sessions or made available on reserve in the library. Class lecture, discussions, and exercises will be based on these readings. You will be at a disadvantage if you are unprepared.

Class Communication and Progress Tracking

Class communications (information on experiments, announcements of general interest, etc.), lecture support material, and grade tracking (exams scores, results and answer keys, participation scores) will be facilitated via the Blackboard course management system. The Gradebook feature on Blackboard will chart your grades and course progress. Please note the significance of the following notations: A number for a given assignment indicates your score. A check mark "✓" or an exclamation point "!" indicates you have completed an assignment, but it has not yet been graded. For in-class assignments, a dash "-" means a grade has not yet been entered. For online assignments, a dash "-" means you have not completed the assignment. A lock icon means you have saved work for an online assignment but have not yet submitted it. In order to get credit for online work you **MUST** click "submit" (not save). The front page of Blackboard will carry current course announcements. Other links will connect you with grades, the syllabus, exam and experiment information, copies of handouts, and more. You are responsible for checking the Blackboard site regularly. I will send out emails to students from the official registration list when an announcement is urgent, as with a cancelled or rescheduled class. This will go to your official GW email address. You are responsible for checking this email account regularly. Other non-urgent announcements will be posted on the front of the Blackboard course page. You are encouraged to use the group chat rooms for discussing class material and for exam preparation. You may contact the instructor directly at the above email address. You MUST include the course name in the subject line of your email to receive a response.

Attendance

Attending class should be considered mandatory for any student with a serious interest in the course subject matter. It is strongly suggested that you attend all scheduled classes. You are, however, personally responsible for your performance as a student, therefore you may choose whether or not you attend class. Leaving class early or coming late is never recommended. However, if you must do so, sit near the classroom exit and leave or enter *quietly!* Missing class or any part of class has consequences: Students are responsible for material presented and/or discussed during class sessions whether or not this material is explicitly contained in assigned reading material. Because in-class participation is incorporated into the grade rationale, missing class will almost always affect your final grade. If you are concerned about your grade, you will not schedule travel, doctor's appointments, or family events during a

scheduled class session. These are not exceptions. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL COVERED DURING ALL TIMES OF ALL CLASS SESSIONS, WHETHER YOU ARE THERE OR NOT AND REGARDLESS OF WHY YOU ARE THERE OR NOT. If you miss a class or any part of it, DO get notes from another student and ask them to go over what you missed. DO NOT ask your instructor or your teaching assistant to "tell you what you missed". The class is taught during the designated course times. If you want to be taught the material, BE THERE! I am, however, quite willing to clarify misunderstandings or key points and to answer questions you may have about the lecture or reading material during office hours.

Grading

The grade you receive in this course will be determined by the number of points you have accumulated from course work and will come from 3 exams, class participation, and a paper/project. Points are allocated as follows:

<u>Points</u>	
Exam	100
Exam	100
Exam	100
Participation	100
Project/Paper	100
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>500</u>
<i>*this total will be reduced by 5 points for each unit of research not completed by due date (see below)</i>	

<u>Final course grade scale:</u>	
A	466-500
A-	450-465
B+	434-449
B	416-433
B-	400-415
C+	384-399
C	366-383
C-	350-365
D+	333-349
D	316-332
D-	300-315
F	299 & below

Papers: (100 points). Students are required to write a literature review paper of no less than 10 pages. The assignment requires the selection of a topic, the identification of 6 journal articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals on your selected topic, and the submission of a brief summary and critical thinking review of the articles selected. Literature reviews must be conducted individually, follow APA format (including a References section) and may be on any topic of your choosing, as long as it falls within the scope of social psychology. Students are required to submit a mid-course progress report on the paper (see course schedule) which will be graded and worth 20% of the final grade.

Final papers are due in my box by 5:00 pm Monday December 11th. "A" quality work receives a score of 90-100; "B" from 80-89; "C" from 70-79; "D" from 60-69, and "F" receives 59 points or fewer. Grades on late papers, including the mid-course progress report, will be reduced by 5 percentage points per day for each day the paper is late. Written lit reviews and projects must be submitted in hard copy format. EMAIL ATTACHMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Additional details about this assignment are provided on the paper guidelines handout to be distributed separately. If you wish to have your final papers returned to you after grading, please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope (2 oz. postage) for forwarding.

Examinations: (300 points)

Exams are worth 100 points each and include material from the readings, lectures, and class interaction. There will be four timed, mostly multiple choice format exams: three (3) during the semester and one (1) during final exam time. Your 3 highest scores on these 4 exams will count toward your point total. You may not use your notes and texts during the exam and you may not confer with other students. None of the examinations are cumulative, including the fourth exam given during final exam sessions. This means each exam will cover only readings and material presented and discussed in class since the previous exam. However, you will be expected to be able to integrate your knowledge from the entire course across examinations, especially as it regards critical thinking and theoretical perspectives. Exam question booklets will be returned to you. Scantrons will be retained by the professor.

I DO NOT GIVE MAKE UP EXAMS. Instead I automatically drop the lowest of your four exam grades. This is actually better than offering make ups, because if you are sick or if there is a family emergency, you do not have to make it up. Additionally, you do not have to notify me that you will not take the exam. Your grade will show as a "0" and will be dropped automatically. If you are fortunate enough not to have gotten sick or had an emergency during the semester, if you have taken the first three exams, and if you are happy with your grade as is, then you do not have to take the final. Alternately, if you take all four scheduled exams, the lowest grade of the four will be dropped and the top 3 exam grades counted in your point total. PLEASE BE CAUTIONED: It may be tempting to use your "free" exam at the beginning of the semester merely because you haven't studied or are otherwise unprepared. I strongly urge you NOT to do so. If you do and are faced with an actual crisis later in the semester that forces you to miss an exam, then you could be in danger of failing the course. IT IS ALWAYS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO TAKE THE SCHEDULED EXAMS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. If you do poorly, the grade can be dropped. But if you don't take the exam at all, you lose the opportunity to use the "free" drop exam in the future.

Under no circumstances will I provide an alternate exam date for the purpose of family functions, holidays, weddings, personal special events of any sort, or travel to or from these events. If you miss an exam for any of these reasons, it will count as your dropped exam. Exams are scheduled according to the official University academic calendar. IF THE UNIVERSITY SCHEDULE IS UNACCEPTABLE TO YOU, PLEASE WITHDRAW FROM THIS CLASS IMMEDIATELY. Alternate exams may be scheduled for official university business, but ONLY with proper documentation. The professor reserves the right to determine the format and timing of any and all alternate exams. Students are expected to observe all rules for the taking of exams as stipulated on the exam cover sheet. Key rules include that there will be no bathroom breaks during the exam and electronic devices of any kind (cell phones, laptops, etc.) are not permitted in the exam room. Mere possession of such a device during an exam, even if not specifically observed to be used for cheating, results in immediate failure of the exam. Be sure to arrive on time on exam days. If you arrive after the first student has turned in his or her exam, you will NOT be able to take the exam and will receive a score of "0". Students may challenge exam items by submitting a written argument for the alternative (incorrect) option. The professor may, at his discretion, offer full or partial credit for that item. Your right to challenge an exam item expires 15 days after the correct exam items have been posted to Blackboard or otherwise made available for review.

Class Participation (100 points): A great deal of learning will arise from interacting with classmates, asking questions, and relating your own knowledge and experiences of the subject matter. Your regular, active participation in class discussions, critical thinking, and asking of questions will be necessary for you to benefit from the course and complete it successfully. Throughout the semester there will be class exercises or discussions in which you will have the opportunity to earn points for writing brief (one page) reaction papers or summaries. Each exercise will be worth up to 10 points, depending on the quality of your written reaction. There will be no less than 12 participation opportunities to earn up to 100 points toward your final grade point total. Points accumulated above the 100 allocated for participation will NOT be considered "extra credit". Credit will be assessed as follows.

10 points: very good, thoughtful, thorough, displays understanding and critical thought

8 points: acceptable but not particularly thoughtful or insightful

6 points: completed but with minimal effort, shows little or no understanding or thought

0 points: no reaction paper submitted

You must be present in class to engage in participation exercises. Likewise, if you miss a participation because you are late to class or leave early, then you have missed it. There will be no "make up" participations - no exceptions! ! I do not reveal advance information about when participations will or will not be conducted. Some participations will be conducted on Blackboard with equally firm deadlines for completion. These will be announced only in class. Scores for participation will be posted to the Blackboard gradebook shortly after they have been completed. You are responsible for checking Blackboard to ensure proper credit for participations you have completed. You have 7 days from the date of posting to notify the professor or TA of an uncredited participation. Note: TURNING IN PARTICIPATIONS FOR OTHER STUDENTS OR KNOWINGLY ALLOWING ANOTHER STUDENT TO DO SO FOR YOU CONSTITUTES CHEATING AND RESULTS IN FAILURE OF THE COURSE.

Subject Pool Research Requirement (*points deducted if not completed*):

It is a Psychology Department requirement that all students in PSYC 012 fulfill a 3-unit research component. You have two options for fulfilling this requirement. Either you may participate in psychology experiments or you may complete research reports on journal articles (one article report equaling one unit of research participation). It is also possible to combine these approaches. For example, you may complete 2 units of subject pool research and one journal article review. Research participation is NOT EXTRA CREDIT. *Five (5) points will be deducted from your final grade point total for each unit not completed.* Please note also that *if you miss a scheduled appointment, you will be penalized with additional required units.* Details about the research system including the deadline for participating in research and for turning in your article reviews are listed in the official Experiment Guides available on Blackboard under the "Subject Pool" link. You should print and keep these guides to refer to for the full semester. CAUTION! Get started on doing experiments right away! Toward the end of the semester, participation slots fill up quickly. I cannot waive the research requirement under any circumstances. *Please note: Your professor has absolutely nothing to do with the experiment scheduling system, credits, make-ups, missed appointments, policies or other goings-on. DO NOT ask your professor questions about the psychology department research subject pool because he probably won't know the correct answer. Check the Subject Pool guidelines on Blackboard for information FIRST, then you may direct any questions to psychres@gwu.edu.*

Lecture Format and support materials

Lectures are presented in MS Powerpoint format. As a convenience to students, I place lecture slides on Blackboard prior to the lecture date. This will allow you to print out the presentations to take notes with, focusing more on content than on writing down information. *BEWARE!!!* Some students may get the idea that they can get by in the class merely by reviewing the slides on Blackboard without coming to class. This is most definitely NOT the case. The slides most often need additional explanation. Much of the material, including exam material, will be presented orally by the instructor - NOT on Powerpoint slides. Please also be aware that your instructor often makes additions and changes up until the lecture begins. Therefore the version of the presentation you have downloaded or printed may differ slightly from the final presented version. The availability of Powerpoint presentations is provided as a convenience ONLY. It is not a guaranteed feature of class instruction NOR is any unavailability of the presentations for any reason a valid excuse for not being prepared for exams or assignments.

Special Accommodations

Disability Support Services (DSS) students and student athletes must identify themselves to me *prior to an exam or an event-related absence*. Both must follow their respective policies and must submit the required paperwork in order to take advantage of special accommodations regarding exams and participations.

Getting the most out of class

I try very hard to make this class fun and enjoyable. After all, psychology *is* fun! However, just because it's fun doesn't mean it's easy. The course will involve work on your part. Your grade will reflect the amount of effort you put into the course. Be sure to keep up with the material, come to class, ask questions, participate, and become as invested in the material as you possibly can. If you do, you will do well AND have fun.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Section 15	Topic	Readings
Wed Sept 6	Course Intro	
Mon Sept 11 Wed Sept 13	Introduction to Social Psychology	Chapter 1
Mon Sept 18 Wed Sept 20	The Person and the Situation	Chapter 2
Mon Sept 25	Social Cognition	Chapter 3
Wed Sept 27	Exam #1	
Mon Oct 2 Wed Oct 4	Presenting the Self	Chapter 4
Mon Oct 9 Wed Oct 11	Attitudes and Persuasion	Chapter 5
Mon Oct 16 Wed Oct 18	Social Influence	Chapter 6
Mon Oct 23	Affiliation and Friendship <i>Literature review: Title page, 1st paragraph, References due</i>	Chapter 7
Wed Oct 25	Exam #2	
Mon Oct 30 Wed Nov 1	Love and Romantic Relationships	Chapter 8
Mon Nov 6 Wed Nov 8	Prosocial Behavior	Chapter 9
Mon Nov 13 Wed Nov 15 Mon Nov 20	Aggression <i>Note: a 90 minute film will be shown across these 3 classes which will comprise a large portion of Exam #3 material</i>	Chapter 10
Weds Nov 22	Exam #3	
Mon Nov 27	Prejudice, Stereotyping & Discrimination	Chapter 11
Tues Nov 28 7:30 pm	Movie Screening - Room TBA <i>Film will last about 2 hours, with brief discussion of about 20 minutes afterwards</i>	
Wed Nov 29	Prejudice, Stereotyping & Discrimination	Chapter 11
Mon Dec 4 Wed Dec 6	Groups	Chapter 12
Mon Dec 11	Social Dilemmas <i>Final Literature Review Papers due</i>	Chapter 13
Mon Dec 18	Final Exam; 8:00 am to 10:00 am, same classroom	

