

Psychology/Sociology 350
Introduction to Social Psychology
Summer 2009, Section 001
TTH 8:30 – 10:50 AM
374 MARB
3 Credit Hours

Professor: Robert (Bob) Ridge, PhD (bob_ridge@byu.edu)
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Office Hours: T 2-3 PM, TH 11 AM – 12 PM (or by appointment)

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Office Hours: W 1 – 2 PM (or by appointment)

Required Textbook: Myers, D. G. (2008). *Social psychology* (9th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Study Center: There is an online study center at the following web address:
http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073531898/student_view0/
You can follow the links from each chapter to review the chapter objectives, the chapter outline, a multiple-choice quiz, a crossword puzzle, and an image gallery.

PLEASE KEEP THIS MATERIAL FOR REFERENCE
YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS CONTENTS

COURSE SYLLABUS AND INFORMATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Description and Objectives

Social psychology is a discipline that employs scientific methods to understand and explain how the thought, feeling, and behavior of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. The objective of this course is to teach you how people think about others, are influenced by them, and relate to them. This course will provide an overview of social psychological theory and research in a variety of areas, including, but not limited to: helping behavior and aggression, attitude formation and change, interpersonal relationships, conformity, prejudice and stereotyping, and group processes. In addition, we will examine the application of social psychological principles to important questions in fields such as law. Finally, we will discuss ethical issues related to behavioral science.

Student Conduct

We (students and instructor) will subscribe to the Honor Code and the Dress and Grooming Standards of Brigham Young University. In this class, we will be honest,¹ use clean language, and respect others. Our dress and grooming will be modest, neat, and clean, consistent with the dignity of representing BYU and

¹Scholastic dishonesty is defined as any act that violates the rights of other students with respect to academic work or that involves misrepresentations of a student's own work. Scholastic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) *cheating on examinations* or assignments, plagiarizing, and so forth. **Please see the last page of this syllabus for a lengthier statement regarding academic honesty, gender issues, and student disabilities.**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Violations of the Honor Code and/or Dress and Grooming Standards will be referred to the appropriate campus offices.

Cell phones must be turned off during class. Text messaging, tweeting, blogging, video recording, emailing and any other sending or receiving of personal electronic communications during class is prohibited. Persons violating this policy will be dismissed from the lecture. Repeated violations of this policy will result in a reduction in the course grade to be determined by the professor.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS

LECTURES. Each class will consist of lectures and discussion. You are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and to complete the assigned readings *prior* to class. Lectures will cover topics from the book in greater depth, as well as material not found in the text. In addition, some homework assignments and quizzes will be given in class, and students with unexcused absences will not be allowed to complete these assignments or quizzes for credit. Examinations will cover material from both the text and the lectures, so it will be to your advantage to attend.

EXAMS. There will be three exams in this course that will be roughly equally weighted. The exams will be given in the testing center on the dates indicated in the syllabus. The exams will not be cumulative, so you will be tested only over chapters assigned in each part of the course. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions, short answers, and essays. The items will be designed to test your understanding of terminology, your grasp of concepts, your knowledge in support of these concepts (research results), and your ability to integrate these concepts and apply them to novel situations.

Under no circumstances will exams be given to anyone later than the regularly scheduled administration of the exam.

There will be no make-up examinations. If a student misses an exam without a legitimate excuse (I am the judge and jury), he or she will receive a course grade based on the total points earned on the exams he or she did take (i.e., he or she will receive a zero on the missed exam and pray for divine intervention).

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRIES. To help you recognize in your own lives the phenomena we will be studying in class, you will be required to submit social psychology journal entries. Each entry will consist of a one-page typed summary of an experience you have had that is descriptive of some aspect of each chapter. Additional instructions regarding this assignment will be given in class.

GRADES

Grade cutoffs for exams and assignments will be as follows:

93% and above	A	72%	C
89.5%	A-	69.5%	C-
86%	B+	66%	D+
82%	B	62%	D
79.5%	B-	59.5%	D-
76%	C+	Below 59.5%	E

A note regarding incompletes. An incomplete grade is given on a contractual basis between the instructor and the student. An "I" can only be given when extenuating circumstances (serious illness, death in the immediate family, and so forth) occur after the twelfth week of a semester or sixth week of a term. **An incomplete is not given when a student is failing or has failed the class.** Class attendance in a subsequent semester or re-registration is not permitted to make up an incomplete. The instructor can indicate a specific length of time to complete the incomplete, not to exceed one year. An incomplete is computed in the GPA as a failing grade until the work has been completed and the official grade has been submitted by the instructor.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES. The objectives of the department's undergraduate curriculum are closely matched to those advocated by the American Psychological Association, the discipline's primary professional body. (Note: The reference to students in the following statement of goals is to students who graduate from the University with a major in psychology.) Graduates will:

(1) Be able to demonstrate that they understand and can apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation of results in light of previous findings.

(2) Be able to use computers and other research-related technology to competently collect, access, and manage information, communication, and other purposes.

(3) Be able to express realistic ideas about how to implement their psychological understanding, skills, and values in occupational and family-related pursuits in a variety of settings.

(4) Be able to critically reflect on the content of psychology as well as on disciplinary values in light of their knowledge of and commitment to the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and to sustain personal values that are true to the gospel while maintaining their serious study of psychology.

Course Outline

Date	Topic	Chapter
June 23 – T	Introducing Social Psychology	1
25 – TH	The Self in a Social World	2
30 – T	Social Beliefs and Judgments	3
July 2 – TH	Behavior and Attitudes	4
7 – T	Genes, Culture, and Gender	5
July 9 - 11 TH - S	Exam I in Testing Center available 7/9 (10AM – 8PM), 7/10 (8AM – 4PM) and 7/11 (with late fee, 10AM – 1 PM). Last exam handed out one hour before closing. For daily testing center hours, see: http://testing.byu.edu/info/center_hours.php	
9 – TH	Conformity	6
14 – T	Persuasion	7
16 – TH	Group Influence	8
21 – T	Social Psychology in Court	15
23 – TH	12 Angry Men	

July 27 - 29	Exam II in Testing Center available 7/27 (10 AM – 7 PM), 7/28 (12 – 9 PM), 7/29 (without late fee, 10 AM – 3 PM; with late fee 3 – 9 PM).
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28 – T	Prejudice: Disliking Others	9
30 – TH	Aggression: Hurting Others	10
Aug 4 – T	Attraction and Intimacy: Liking and Loving Others	11
6 – TH	Helping	12
12 – 13 W – TH	FINAL EXAM in Testing Center. Testing Center hours: See http://testing.byu.edu/info/center_hours.php	

Academic Honesty

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. See <http://www.byu.edu/honorcode> for specific examples of intentional, inadvertent plagiarism, and fabrication, falsification.

Gender Issues

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 422-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Students with Disabilities

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (UAC; 422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the UAC. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.