

**Psychology/Sociology 350**  
**Introduction to Social Psychology**  
**Fall 2009, Section 003**  
**W 4:30 – 7:00 PM**  
**374 MARB**  
**3 Credit Hours**

**Professor:** Robert (Bob) Ridge, PhD (bob\_ridge@byu.edu)  
Office: 1034 SWKT  
Phone: 422-7867  
Office Hours: T 1-2 PM; W 2-3 PM (or by appointment)

**TAs:** TAs can be reached in 1150 SWKT or at 422-9195 during office hours  
Emily Johnston (emebarr@gmail.com)  
Phone: 422-9195 (during office hours); 801-473-8170 (Cell)  
Office Hours: M 1 – 2 PM; Th 3 – 4 PM (or by appointment)

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

**Study Center:** There is an online study center at the following web address:  
[http://higherred.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073531898/student\\_view0/](http://higherred.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,<sup>1</sup> use clean language, and respect others. Our dress and grooming will be modest, neat, and clean, consistent with the dignity of representing BYU and 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**

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<sup>1</sup>Scholastic 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.**

**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. Class attendance is an essential function of this course; attendance is required.**

Each class will consist of lectures and discussion. Students are strongly encouraged 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 will be given in class, and students with unexcused absences will not be allowed to complete these assignments for credit. Examinations will cover material from both the text and the lectures.

**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. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions, short answers, and essays. The items will be designed to test your understanding of basic terminology, your grasp of elementary 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).

**RESEARCH SUMMARIES.** Students will also be required to complete three (3) research summaries. You will identify and read empirical research from approved literature, and then summarize the research, turning it in on the dates indicated in the syllabus. 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.** Each program at BYU has developed a set of expected student learning outcomes. These will help you understand the objectives of the curriculum in the program, including this class. To learn the expected student outcomes for the programs in this department and college go to <http://learningoutcomes.byu.edu> and click on the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences and then Psychology or Sociology. We welcome feedback on the expected student learning outcomes. Any comments or suggestions you have can be sent to [FHSS@byu.edu](mailto:FHSS@byu.edu).

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## Course Outline

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Date	Topic	Chapter
<b>September 2</b>	Introducing Social Psychology	1
9	The Self in a Social World	2
16	Social Beliefs and Judgments	3
23	Behavior and Attitudes	4
23	<i>Research Summary Due (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4)</i>	
30	Genes, Culture, and Gender	5
10/2 – 6	<b>Exam I</b> in the Testing Center is available 10/2 – 10/6 ( <b>10/6 w/late fee after 5 PM</b> ). Note: The Testing Center is closed Tuesdays from 11AM to 12PM for University forums and devotionals. The Testing Center is also closed for all University holidays. <b>See <a href="http://testing.byu.edu/info/center_hours.php">http://testing.byu.edu/info/center_hours.php</a> for daily Testing Center hours.</b>	
<b>October 7</b>	Conformity	6
14	Persuasion	7
21	Group Influence	8
28	Social Psychology in Court	15
28	<i>Research Summary Due (Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8)</i>	
<b>November 4</b>	Film: 12 Angry Men	
11/5 – 9	<b>Exam II</b> in Testing Center 11/5 – 11/9 ( <b>11/9 w/Late Fee</b> ).	
11	Prejudice: Disliking Others	9
18	Aggression: Hurting Others	10
25	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS</b>	
<b>December 2</b>	Attraction and Intimacy: Liking and Loving Others	11
2	<i>Research Summary Due (Ch. 9, 10, 11, 15)</i>	
9	Helping	12
12/14 – 18	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> in Testing Center available 12/14 – 12/18.	

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### 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://honorcode.byu.edu> (click the link *Honor Code Statement*) 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 801-422-5895 or 801-422-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 801-422-2847.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center located in 2170 WSC (UAC; 801-422-2767). 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 801-422-5895, D-282 ASB.

### **Novel Influenza A H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) Policy**

As are all large communities, BYU is preparing for the potential of the H1N1 influenza virus to spread rapidly throughout the campus during the coming winter. Details of BYU's preparation, and advice on what you can do to prepare, can be found at [flu.byu.edu](http://flu.byu.edu). Please read it! In order to contain any possible infection, the administration has advised course instructors to ask any student who is feeling sick with flu-like symptoms (fever with either sore throat or cough) to remain home, away from class and away from all large gatherings. Sick students should remain at home until at least 24 hours after the fever has gone away. Students should also call their doctor or the student health center for advice as soon as possible.

The administration has asked course instructors to provide adequate make-up opportunities for all work missed during a flu-like illness. Accordingly, I will allow all time as needed to miss class during an illness and to make up work for a reasonable time afterward, provided the student provides a doctor's note to document the illness. ALL students who feel sick with fever and sore throat or cough should call the doctor and visit if so advised. If advised to visit the doctor, please obtain a note whether or not you are diagnosed with the flu. When you are ill please call or email your TA or the instructor as soon as possible, and *continue to communicate* with us until you are well. You should also be in contact as much as possible with one or two class members, in order to keep up on what you miss. We will try to facilitate class communication from the beginning of the semester.

For your protection, your instructors will follow the same rules. If your instructor is sick he or she will try to find a replacement to carry the class forward, or else will notify students as soon as possible about a class cancellation.