

Social Psychology
PSYC 306 - 3
Fall, 2009

Instructor: Dr. Mark Walter
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Class Time: MWF: 11:00 – 11:50

Class Location: 117 Holloway Hall

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00 – 2:50
Monday and Wednesday: 4:00 – 4:50
or by appointment

Required text: Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. (2007). *Social psychology* (6TH ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to acquaint students with some of the basic findings and people that characterize social psychology. We will review some of the classic studies in social psychology as well as examine more recent research. The goals of the class are threefold. First, it is hoped that students will gain a deeper appreciation of how situations influence our thoughts and behavior regardless of our personalities. The second goal is to acquaint students with the methodology that characterizes much of modern social psychology. The third goal is to help you become a more critical thinker. By understanding the strengths and weaknesses that characterize social psychological research we not only become more well-versed in the field but we are better able to think clearly and critically about our personal lives and the lives of those around us.

Evaluation:

Exams: There will be four exams given during the course of the semester. The exam format may contain any combination of multiple choice, matching, short answer, and longer essay. Each exam, including the final, will cover only the material presented in lecture and in text since the preceding exam. Each exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. You must take all four exams to pass the course.

Movie Analysis: We will watch the feature length movie *12 Angry Men* (the original, not the remake) as we near the end of the semester. We will watch the movie outside of class time. I will let you know when and where the movie will be shown. You will be required to watch the movie and write an analysis of several social psychological phenomena that are depicted in the film. Your write-up will be graded based on 100 possible points. The paper is due on **Monday, December 7**. Movie analysis papers that are turned in late will be penalized 10 points for every day they are late. The guidelines for writing the movie analysis and my criteria for grading it will be given to you soon. Feel free to watch the movie at your convenience earlier in the semester so you can get a head start on the paper. Even if you do watch the movie early in the semester, you may want to watch it with the rest of the class to

benefit from whatever discussion may take place after the movie. You must turn in the movie analysis to pass the course.

Demonstration Write-up: Throughout the course of the semester there will be demonstrations/classroom activities that are designed to illustrate important concepts that we will be discussing in class. You will be required to write a response describing what the exercise/demonstration has revealed about the concept under discussion. While there will be many demonstrations, you are only required to write-up three of these. They will be graded based on 50 possible points. Demonstration write-ups are due on the dates indicated below. Write-ups that are turned in late will be penalized 5 points for every day they are late. The guidelines for writing the demonstration write-ups and my criteria for grading them will be given to you soon. You must turn in all three demonstration write-ups to pass the course.

Example Friday: Throughout the course of the semester we will be learning about theories and research findings that have direct relevance to our daily lives. Part of the goal of this class is for you to become more aware of the social influences in your own life. I want you to be on the lookout for examples of the things that we talk about in class and to bring in these examples to share with the class. We will devote several minutes to sharing these examples every Friday at the end of class. In order to encourage you to do this, part of your grade will be related to Example Friday. You are to turn in seven brief (one or two paragraphs) write-ups in which you discuss how one of the social psychological phenomena that we discuss in class is related to something that you see outside of class. Each Example Friday write-up is worth 10 points. You must turn in all seven Example Friday write-ups to pass the course. There are no specific due dates for these assignments but you must turn in seven by the last day of class – **Friday, December 11.**

Ignorance Questions: We will be reading four original journal articles throughout the course of the semester. Part of lecture will be devoted to a somewhat in-depth look at each of these articles. To facilitate discussion of these articles you are to write two “ignorance questions” for each of the articles that are assigned. Each set of “ignorance questions” will be graded on a 20-point scale. Details on the articles we will be reading as well as my criteria for grading this assignment will be given to you soon. You must turn in ignorance questions for all four of these articles to pass the course.

Grading:

Exams (4):	400 points possible
Movie analysis (1):	100 points possible
Demonstration Write-ups (3):	150 points possible
Example Friday (7)	70 points possible
Ignorance Questions (4)	80 points possible

I will base your final grade on the following criteria:

Grade	Percentage of total points earned:
A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	0 – 59

Academic Dishonesty: The various forms of academic dishonesty are described in the student handbook. I would urge you to familiarize yourself with the university policy regarding academic dishonesty. **Pleading ignorance of the policy or of what constitutes academic dishonesty is not a legitimate excuse.** The penalty for any act of academic dishonesty is failure of the course and referral for disciplinary action. Please don't cheat.

Policy on Missed Exams: You must take the exams on the dates scheduled. Make-up exams will only be given when an exam was missed due to a college sanctioned event in which you participated or in cases of illness. If you miss an exam due to a college sanctioned event you must present the excuse **before** missing the exam. If you miss due to illness you must have a physician's-signed note stating you were unable to take the exam. If you do miss an exam due to illness you must contact me before the next class meeting and present your physician-signed excuse before the next class meeting. A make-up exam will be scheduled within one week of the missed exam. **Any unexcused exam or exam not made up within one week will be given a score of zero.**

Attendance: Attendance is critical to understanding the ideas and theories that will be presented in class. Attendance is also of critical importance if you are to be able to write up the demonstration/activity papers. You will not be allowed to turn in a demonstration write-up for a demonstration that you were not present to see first-hand. If you have an excessive number of unexcused absences (i.e., more than six) I reserve the right to lower your final course grade. The final determination of whether an absence is excused or not resides with the instructor. I will be taking attendance periodically throughout the semester.

Statement from the University Writing Center:

At the University Writing Center (directly above the Fireside Lounge in the Guerrieri University Center), trained consultants are ready to help you at any stage of the writing process. It is often helpful for writers to share their work with an attentive reader, and consultations allow writers to test and refine their ideas before having to hand papers in or to release documents to the public. In addition to the important writing instruction that occurs in the classroom and during teachers' office hours, the center offers another site for learning about writing. **All students are encouraged to make use of this important service.** For more information about the writing center's hours and policies, visit the writing center or its website at www.salisbury.edu/uwc.

University statement regarding the possibility of pandemic flu:

There is an international concern that a flu pandemic may occur in the near future (see <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/> for current information). Salisbury University has submitted an outline of its plan for responding to such an event to the University System. This plan calls for possible closure of the University. The University intends to award full credit for all classes

offered. Credit and grades could be awarded based on work completed up to the time of closure, if the University closed late enough in a semester, or the University may need to resume classes, and extend classes beyond the scheduled time in order to award such credit. Should a pandemic occur, it is likely that some of the University's plans would be superseded by orders from the Health Department, the University System, or the Governor's Office. In the event of a flu epidemic or other emergency that results in suspension of this class, I will be communicating with you about this course and its requirements via GroupWise e-mail. *Students must verify that they can gain access to their e-mail through the web.* To verify that you can do this, go to www.salsibury.edu and click "campus e-mail" at the top of the page. If you cannot access your e-mail see the Help Desk located in TETC 113 or go to their website www.salsibury.edu/helpdesk/.

All revisions to assignments, quiz and exam dates, and class and grading policies that would occur during such an emergency will be communicated via e-mail. You will be responsible for completing all these assignments in accordance with class policies.

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Assignment due</u>
8/31	Introduction to class		
9/2	What is social psychology	1	
9/4	Methods	2	
9/7	Labor Day – No Class		
9/9	Methods	2	
9/11	Social Cognition	3	IQ – Fried article
9/14	Social Cognition	3	
9/16	Social Cognition	3	
9/18	Social Perception	4	
9/21	Social Perception	4	Demo write-up #1
9/23	Social Perception		
9/25	Exam #1	1-4	Exam #1
9/28	No Class		
9/30	Self-Knowledge	5	
10/2	Self-Knowledge	5	
10/5	Self-Justification	6	
10/7	Self-Justification	6	
10/9	Self-Justification	6	
10/12	Attitudes and Attitude Change	7	IQ – Glick et al. (2005)
10/14	Attitudes and Attitude Change	7	
10/16	Attitudes and Attitude Change	7	

10/19	Exam #2	5-7	Exam #2
10/21	Conformity	8	
10/23	Conformity	8	
10/26	Conformity	8	
10/28	Group Processes	9	
10/30	Group Processes	9	Demo Write-up #2
11/2	Group Processes	9	
11/4	Interpersonal Attraction	10	IQ – Walster et al.
11/6	Interpersonal Attraction	10	
11/9	Interpersonal Attraction	10	
11/11	Exam #3	8 – 10	Exam #3
11/13	Prosocial Behavior	11	
11/16	Prosocial Behavior	11	
11/18	Prosocial Behavior	11	
11/20	Aggression	12	IQ - Bushman
11/23	Aggression	12	
11/25	Thanksgiving Break – No Class		
11/27	Thanksgiving Break – No Class		
11/30	Aggression	12	
12/2	Prejudice	13	Demo write-up #3
12/4	Prejudice	13	
12/7	Prejudice	13	Movie Analysis paper
12/9	Social Psych and the Law	16	
12/11	Social Psych and the Law	16	

Exam #4 will be given during our final exam time which is on **Wednesday, December 16 from 1:30 – 4:00**. The final exam is not cumulative and will only cover the material in the last quarter of the class: chapters 11, 12, 13, and 16. The final exam will be in our regular classroom – HH 117.

References for Assigned Articles:

Bushman, B. (2002). Does venting anger feed or extinguish the flame? Catharsis, rumination, distraction, anger and aggressive responding. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 28, 724-731.¹

Fried (1999). Who's afraid of rap: Differential reactions to music lyrics. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 29, 705-721.¹

Glick, P. Larsen, S., Johnson, C., & Branstiter, H. (2005). Evaluations of sexy women in low-and high-status jobs. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 29, 389-395.²

Walster, E., Aronson, V., Abrahams, D., & Rottman, L. (1966). Importance of physical attractiveness in dating behavior. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 4, 508-516.²

¹ Available on reserve at the library

² Available in full text format through the PsycINFO database