

# **Social Psychology**

UMass Lowell

Spring 2011

Class 1: 47 209 - 201 F 11:00 – 1:40

Class 2: 47 209 - 202 F 2:00 – 4:40

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**Office hours:** by appointment only

**Building and room number:** Mahoney 108

**Required texts** - Aronson, E., Wilson, T.D., & Akert, R.M. (2010). *Social Psychology* (7<sup>th</sup> Edition). New Jersey.

## **Course description**

Presents an introduction to the study of social behavior in interpersonal relationships, groups, organizations, and the community: Diversity in regard to groups of peoples, cultures, and views is emphasized. Topics include non-verbal communication, social attraction, attitudes and attitude change, group dynamics, prejudice, labeling, stereotyping, interpersonal influence, and applications to social problems (UMass Lowell Catalog).

## **Course goals and objectives**

Social psychology is the scientific study of how people think about, feel, and behave in social situations. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to social psychological perspectives, research methods, and empirical findings. Another goal is to help students develop critical and integrative ways of thinking about social psychological theory and research.

## **Lecture handouts**

I will post my lecture notes at <http://faculty.uml.edu/psychadjunct/rtevet>. **You are responsible for printing the day's lectures notes prior to each class.**

## **Readings**

It is your responsibility to come to class having read and understood the material and prepared to participate in discussion.

## **Attendance policy and participation**

Please note that attendance is MANDATORY. Attendance will be taken, and will be included in your final grade. If you MUST miss a class, send me an email prior to class with your excuse for my approval. More than two unexcused absences there will be one increment grade reduction (i.e., A- to B+). **More than four unexcused absences will result in failing the course.**

## **Withdrawal policy**

Follow the UMass Lowell policy for withdrawal. See catalogue and university academic calendar for details.

### Policy for make-up exams and missed or late assignments

In fairness to all students taking the class, **no make-up exams will be given** unless the student has an extremely good reason for missing the exam and has notified me prior to the scheduled exam. If the student fails to notify me prior to the scheduled exam, (regardless of the validity of the excuse), or if the student misses the exam without a valid excuse, a make-up may not be allowed and the student will earn a score of zero (0) for the exam.

### Assignment

To further aid your mastery of the material presented in this course, there will be one group assignment to be carried out throughout the semester. The assignment consists of preparing a presentation. In addition, you will turn in a paper that your group members will write collectively, that more comprehensively explains these ideas. **The paper is due April 15<sup>th</sup>!** As a group you will choose a concept from chapter 6, 7, 12, or Social Psychology in Action 1, 2 or 3 (the last three section of your text book). Using at least three academic sources (one of these may be your textbook) explain the concept, and also explain how this concept is valuable for understanding our daily behavior in the society. Further information will be provided during the semester.

- Please note that the instructor **must** approve your topic selection.
- Length of the presentation **15** minutes. **All** group members must take part in the presentation.
- Paper length no less than 3 pages and no more than 5, double-spaced. The paper must be stapled, typed, page-numbered, double spaced.

### Exams

The course will include three midterm quizzes and one cumulative final exam – each worth 10% of the final grade.

### Grading formula

Participation	20%
Group Assignment and Presentation	20%
Quiz I +II+ III	Each 10% (for the total of 30%)
Final (cumulative)	30%

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A	93.0-100	C+	77.0-79.99
A-	90.0-92.99	C	73.0-76.99
B+	87.0-89.99	C-	70.0-72.99
B	83.0- 86.99	D+	67.0-69.99
B-	80.8-82.99	D	60.0-66.99
		F	00.0-59.99

**Special arrangements**

Any students needing accommodations for a physical, mental, or learning disability should notify student disability services (978-934-4574) as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made for you throughout the semester.

**Academic integrity and plagiarism policies**

Plagiarism is the appropriation of all or part of someone else's works (such as but not limited to writing, coding, programs, images, etc.) and offering it as one's own. Cheating is using false pretenses, tricks, devices, artifices or deception to obtain credit on an examination or in a college course. If a faculty member determines that a student has committed academic dishonesty by plagiarism, cheating or in any other manner, the faculty has the academic right to 1) fail the student for the paper, assignment, project and/or exam, and/or 2) fail the student for the course and/or 3) bring the student up on disciplinary charges, pursuant to Article VI, Academic Conduct Proceedings, of the Student Code of Conduct.

## Schedule

Date	Reading	Topic
Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 1	Introduction and Ch. 1
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 2	Methodology
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 3	Social Cognition
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 4	<b>Quiz I (chapters 1+2+3) + Social perception</b>
Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 5	The self
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 8	Conformity
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 9	<b>Quiz II (chapters 4+5+8) + Group processes</b>
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 10	Interpersonal attraction
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Chapter 11	Prosocial behavior + Group project
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 11	Prosocial behavior
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 12	Aggression – <b>Group paper is due</b>
April 22 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 13	Prejudice
<b>April 28<sup>th</sup> Friday schedule</b>	<b>Group Project</b>	<b>Quiz III (Chapters 9+10+ 11) +Group project</b>
May 6 <sup>th</sup>		Presentations

**Final exam will be given during final exam week**

April 15<sup>th</sup> – group paper is due, no exceptions!!

The lectures schedule, assignments and exams are subject to change. It is *your responsibility* to find out whether any changes were announced in class or distributed by email to your student.uml.edu account.