

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (Psyc 340) SYLLABUS - SPRING 2009

Instructor: Dr. Jahna Ashlyn,

Office Hours: LS 118-D, Th 2-3:50 pm

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Phone: 594-5359 (psych dept office)

Required Text: *Social Psychology*, David G. Myers (9th Ed, this edition), Not on reserve

Class Website: <http://courses.csusm.edu/psyc340ja> (no 'www' No need for password or username, no matter what message you get); no Blackboard

Also Required: Four Blue-grey and white Grade Master 27820 or 25420 test forms; do not crease/curl (No Bluebooks)

Optional: *Study Guide to Accompany Myers Social Psychology*, Martin Bolt

Course Objectives: This course combines elements of learning, cognition, physiological and even developmental psychology in order to teach the understanding of social thinking and behavior. Common themes are the power of the situation, personal characteristics and previous experience. After completing this course you should have an understanding of the following social psychology topics: research methodology, the self, social perception, social cognition, attitudes, persuasion, prejudice, group influences, conformity and obedience, attraction, aggression, altruism, legal psychology, health psychology, and deviant behavior. You should also be able to identify social psychology phenomena in everyday living and settings.

Exams/Grading: There will be three non comprehensive midterms, plus a comprehensive final exam with all new questions (see schedule below for exam dates). Each exam, including the final, are closed-note, closed-book, consist of 40 multiple choice questions, and require **Blue-grey and white Grade Master form 27820 test forms**, plus answering 4 out of 6 short essay questions. **Each exam, including the final is worth 1/3 of your overall grade** (no, there is no "class participation" part of your grade). If you take all four exams your lowest test score, **including that of the final exam**, can be dropped. **Your third midterm is given the last class meeting before the final exam and scores will not be available before you take the final.** So, if you decide not to take the final and use that as the grade that is dropped, it is at your own risk. **If you miss an exam, you do not get to throw out an exam – no exceptions.**

Bring an extra scantron (for big mistakes!), two #2 pencils and a good clean eraser. **No kidding** – none of these will be provided, and if your eraser smears the test form it may be marked wrong and your instructor may not catch it when grading. Don't wait until there is no time left to fill out and bubble in your test form and then ask for extra time. You will be writing directly on the exams. Always include your full last name (the one you used when you enrolled) on everything you turn in, and on exams include your test version (either paper color or version number) next to your name. You do not need to write (or bubble in) your ID number on your test form or question sheet.

Note: It is strictly against university policy for a professor to change a grade for any reason other than a clerical error.

Please, do not try to bargain for your grade or ask your professor to change your grade. It is against university policy.

Midterm exams will be given during the second half of class meetings on days they are scheduled (approx. 1-1 hr. 15mins. after meeting time). Don't Be Late: If you arrive after the first student has finished and left you will not be able to take the exam, no matter what made you late (even emergencies, no exceptions).

No makeup exams (midterms or final) **will be given for any reason** (even emergencies); nor will exams be given earlier or later than the date/times scheduled for the rest of the class. You must take exams (including final) in the section that you are enrolled in (sorry, no exceptions), although you can attend other sections after the first week on non exam days.

Also, other than throwing out an exam there are no extra credit or "make-up papers/projects".

Also, you may contact Disabled Student Services for academic assistance 750-4905, if you qualify.

Grading is on a very "friendly" curve. If you get 90% of the "class unit" you will get an A. The class unit is the average of the top 10% of the scores in the class: If there are 40 students – the average of the top 4 scores. If you get between 80-89% you get a B, 70-79% a C, 60-69% a D, and <60 an F; '+' and '-' are given for x7-x9 and x0-x2 respectively. So, everyone can get an A, and no one has to get a poor grade. Your instructor will do all the calculations for you and post the scores on the course web according to your special ID if you sign a waiver on the first exam. The default special ID is the last five digits of your social security number, but you can make up a new five digit ID next to the waiver signature. If you do not sign the waiver you can find out your score at the end of the next class meeting.

Exam scores for midterms 1 & 2 are posted on the course web page by the next class meeting following the exam. **Exam scores/grades will not be emailed, faxed, phoned, etc. to students**, no exceptions. **Scores for midterm 3 and the final as well as course grades are delivered by grade cards only.**

Material Covered on the Exams. Most but not all of the material on the exams is in the text. It is approx equally divided between lecture and text, with a lot of overlap. You are responsible for all material covered in lecture including videotapes and examples via class discussion. Study guides and practice midterms w/ answer keys are available for download from the course webpage (practice questions will not be on the actual exams). There is no practice final exam, but there is a final exam study guide. The final is all new questions and emphasizes all topics/chapters equally. Your instructor cannot email or print out and give these supplements to you. Lecture outlines/notes/PowerPoint slides are not available, so if you will be missing lecture you should arrange to borrow a classmates' notes.

Returning Exams: The test forms and test questions will not be returned to you. You can look at a copy of the test after the class meeting only in office hours, but you will not be allowed to keep or copy (by Xerox or by hand) an exam.

Attendance: Your instructor does not take attendance (so no, attendance is not part of your course grade).

In-class decorum (not to be insulting, but some people have no clue): Please, be diligent about turning off noisemakers (cell phones, pagers, etc.). Once class time begins, your instructor needs to get lecture started reserve individualized questions for office hours. Also, please don't be aware of potentially disruptive behavior such as having private conversations, showing up late to class or walking out before it's over, the noise of "preparation for departure" behavior near the end of scheduled class meetings, it's distracting to everyone.

Office Hours/Email/Messages, if you have questions that you don't want to ask during class, you may ask the instructor during office hours (top of previous page). "By appt." just means I'm not normally in office at that time, but if you let me know ahead of time I'll be there. Regarding email, because so many class resources are provided (e.g., outlines, study guides) some students get the idea that they don't need to go to class and just show up for exams. Those students tend to do a lot of emailing right before exams asking to be "caught up on things" via email. Sorry, it's not an online class. If you are not going to go to class, you should find a classmate you can contact for updates, etc.

Each exam will focus on the material covered in lecture, including all overheads and videotape segments presented since the last exam (from the beginning of the course for the first exam) up to and including the lecture prior to the first midterm; and all of the chapters/readings related to the topics covered in lecture during that time frame. When a chapter appears in the schedule below without specific page numbers, it means read the entire chapter. If a new topic is started in lecture prior to an exam, you are responsible for all the material in the corresponding chapter of the text.

APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE

Note: DON'T BE LATE for exams! If you arrive after the first student leaves, you cannot take the exam, no exceptions. There are study guides for every exam. There are no review sessions.

Date

Jan. 22-Feb. 12	Orientation: Intro to social psych., and methodology, Myers Ch. 1
	Methodology (cont.)
	Attribution, Judgements, Social Beliefs, Myers Ch. 2, 3
	Behavior, Attitudes, and Social Cognition; Myers Ch. 4; Persuasion, Ch. 7 (just the highlights)
Feb. 19, (~8 pm Exam)	1 st half: Begin Prejudice, Ch. 9; 2 nd half: MIDTERM 1; covers Intro – Persuasion, Ch's 1-4, 7 (less emphasis on Ch. 7 but, read all of it)
Feb. 26-Mar. 26	Continue Prejudice, Myers Ch. 9;
Mar. 5	No Class!! (This class only)
	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience, Myers Ch. 6 (Ch. 4 section 2: "foot-in-door, low-balling")
	Social Facilitation & Group Influence, Myers Ch. 8
	Interpersonal Attraction & Relationships, Myers Ch. 11
Apr. 2	Spring Break, NO CLASS!!
Apr. 9, (~8 pm Exam)	1 st half: Begin Aggression, Ch. 10; 2 nd half: MIDTERM 2 covers Prejudice – Attraction, Ch's 6, 8, 9, 11, part of 4 (see above)
Apr. 16-May 7	Continue Aggression, Myers Ch. 10; Altruism, Myers Ch. 12
	Legal Psychology, Myers Ch. 15
	Deviant Behavior (outlines only, no additional readings)
May 14	Finish up Deviant Behavior if necessary; MIDTERM 3; covers Altruism – Deviant Behavior, Ch. 10, 12, 15.
May 21, Thurs, 7 pm	Exam is Comprehensive: covers all topics/chapters; equal emphasis on all sections; same length, format, level of detail as midterms; all new questions. Don't be Late!!

~ = approximately, if it starts earlier, you are responsible for being there.

* In case of campus closure, cover material (reading) as scheduled. A missed exam will be given the next time class meets. If the first meeting back after closure is a scheduled exam date, the exam will be given as scheduled.