

**Psychology 340**  
**Social Psychology**  
**Spring 2009**  
**Syllabus and Class Requirements**

**Class meetings:** Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00pm-3:15pm, GMCS 333

**Professor:** Jean M. Twenge, Ph.D.

**Office:** Life Sciences 289

**Office Hours:** By appointment; usually available after class

**E-mail:** jtwege@mail.sdsu.edu

**TAs:** Alexandra Cowden-Hindash, cowdenhi@gmail.com

Amelia Weldon, aweldon@rohan.sdsu.edu

(for all questions about grading and Blackboard)

**Textbook:** *Social Psychology* (Ninth Edition) by David G. Myers

**Final exam:** Thursday, May 21, 1:00pm-3:00pm

**Course objectives:** In this class, you will learn about how people interact with each other and how individuals behave in social situations. I would like every person to come out of this class with two things: 1) a knowledge of social psychology (useful in the workplace, relationships, and life in general), and 2) perhaps more important, the ability to think critically and evaluate psychological theories and research.

**Course requirements and percentage of grade:**

- **Tests:** There will be four tests: three during class time and one final exam, which will be cumulative and held during the regularly scheduled final exam period (Thursday, May 21, 1:00pm-3:00pm). The tests will be multiple choice.
- **Class presentation:** Every student will give a presentation, either by video or in class. The preferred method for the presentation will be to make a video and post it on YouTube. You will e-mail TA Alexandra (cowdenhi@gmail.com) with the link to your video by 2pm the day before class. The best will be shown in class. If you choose to make a video, it should be no more than 3 minutes long. If you would rather present in class, your presentation should be 1 minute or less. For the presentation, you should name a term or concept from the previous class or book chapter and give an example (e.g., something you or a friend experienced, from TV, a movie, or a news story.) If you make a video, feel free to be creative and demonstrate something visually or use humor. However, you can still get full credit if you simply speak and give a good example. The presentation will be graded very simply: You will receive all 10 points if you do it well; 5 points if you give an example that doesn't fit the term or was discussed at length in the previous class; and 0 points if you fail to give a presentation at all. If you have a phobia of public speaking, you can make a video. If this does not solve the problem, this is not the class for you.

**The grade breakdown will be as follows:**

- 20% First exam
- 20% Second exam
- 20% Third exam
- 30% Final exam
- 10% Class presentation

## General information and some advice for doing well in this class

**Missing class:** If you miss class, please get the notes from a classmate. Please DO NOT contact me asking if there was anything you missed (we wouldn't have class unless there was something to miss!) Class cannot be conveyed in e-mail. Please get notes from another class member. Realize, though, that getting notes will not give you the whole picture. Coming to class is important because I often ask exam questions that are covered only in class and not in the book. The easiest way to do well in this course is to come to class!

**Grades:** The TA will post grades on Blackboard. Please contact her about any questions regarding grades.

**E-mail:** If you have questions about the content of the class or the exams, it is better to ask these before, during, or after class instead of in an e-mail. I will be able to give you a more complete and helpful answer that way. Also, please consult your syllabus before e-mailing me. If you e-mail me asking about something that is clear in the syllabus, I will either not reply or will reply with three words: "Read your syllabus." For example, see the policy below on missing exams.

**Feedback to me:** Although my policies on exams are strict, I am willing to be flexible in other ways. If there is something that would improve students' experience in class, please tell me (preferably before or after class, but e-mail is also fine for this.) If there is something you can't wait to complain about when you fill out the class evaluation at the end of the semester, don't wait – tell me when I can still change things for the better. One note: The microphone doesn't always work, so if you have trouble hearing please sit closer to the front.

**What we will do in class:** This class will use multiple formats. Sometimes I will lecture, but I will also use illustrations and videos at some points. You and your fellow students will give class presentations. We will also do some group activities and discussion. In addition, I often ask people to volunteer examples and give opinions during class. I encourage open discussion in this class. We will learn about many things that apply to real life, so it's ideal if we learn from each other. This is not an online class, so I do not post slides online or give them out. If you missed something on a slide, just ask me to show it again (after class if necessary).

**Some advice for discussion:** Usually when I ask a question to the class I am not necessarily looking for "the correct answer;" often I'm interested to know what you think about the question and why. Also, please feel free to ask questions on any aspect of research or theory which you feel you do not understand fully. If you're uncertain, that probably means the rest of the class is, too. I'm always willing to explain something again – if you don't ask questions, I'll never know if everyone understands. Please ask. Please give me the same courtesy – realize I won't know the answer to every question, partially because not every question has been answered with data!

**Conduct during class and other details:** If you arrive late or leave early do not disturb those around you. Put pagers and cell phones off or on vibrate during class. If you are registered at Disabled Student Services, please let the TAs know, and give them a note from that office regarding the accommodations requested.

**Exam content:** Exams will be multiple choice. A good portion of the material on the exams will come from class lectures and discussions, so coming to class will be rewarded. When taking notes in class, don't just write down what's on the overhead; make sure you understand what I'm saying as well as I explain the concepts. I also write some important things on the board from time to time. The final exam will be cumulative. Thus it will cover everything in the class, including material tested on the three in-class exams.

**Tips for exams:** I do not give review sheets for exams. I think it is much more beneficial if you make your own review sheet of concepts to study. Map out the important information in your own summary sheet and you will be studying just through the act of making the summary sheet. As for taking the exams themselves: Read the exam questions carefully. A difference of one word may separate right and wrong answers. I will often ask you to apply your knowledge, not just to show that you have memorized definitions. Many of my exam questions, for example, describe a behavior or situation and ask you to identify it, as this is much more like real life. (You'll rarely need to define a psychological term, but it's very useful to know what to call something when you see it). We do NOT grade on a curve – if everyone earns an A, everyone will get an A. I will be pleased if everyone does well.

**Lateness and missing exams:** The exam will begin promptly at the beginning of class (or at the beginning of the final exam period). If you arrive after the first person has left, you cannot take the exam. You will be allowed only the class period to finish the exam, as we only have the room for the allotted period of time. This is rarely a problem, however; most people finish exams in this class in less than an hour. If you miss an exam, even for a prearranged reason, we will calculate your grade without that exam. (Thus the presentation and other exams will count as a higher percentage of your grade, and the missed exam will not count for you or against you). The exams are not optional; you must have a good reason for missing an exam. You need to tell the TAs ahead of time that you will not take the exam (for a reason such as travel for a sport, surgery, etc.); if you miss an exam without telling the TA ahead of time, you will need to show her a doctor's note. In addition, this policy can apply to only one exam; you cannot miss more than one exam (if you do you will receive a zero for the second exam missed). There will be no makeup exams, and everyone must take the exam at the same time. This is my one hard and fast rule. If you anticipate this being a problem, do not take this class.

**Grade breakdown:**

93+	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C +
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 and under	F

## Course Calendar

Th 1/22	Introduction; Administrative Details
Tu 1/27	Research and research methods; Chapter 1
Th 1/29	The Self in a Social World; Chapter 2
Tu 2/3	NO CLASS
Th 2/5	The Self in a Social World; Chapter 2
Tu 2/10	Social Beliefs and Judgments; Chapter 3
Th 2/12	Social Beliefs and Judgments; Chapter 3
Tu 2/17	FIRST EXAM
Th 2/19	Behavior and attitudes; Chapter 4
Tu 2/24	Behavior and attitudes; Chapter 4
Th 2/26	Genes, Culture, and Gender; Chapter 5
Tu 3/3	Genes, Culture, and Gender; Chapter 5
Th 3/5	Persuasion; Chapter 7
Tu 3/10	SECOND EXAM
Th 3/12	Conformity; Chapter 6
Tu 3/17	Conformity; Chapter 6
Th 3/19	Group Influence; Chapter 8
Tu 3/24	Prejudice: Disliking Others; Chapter 9
Th 3/26	Prejudice: Disliking Others; Chapter 9
Tu 3/31	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
Th 4/2	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
Tu 4/7	Aggression: Hurting Others; Chapter 10
Th 4/9	Aggression: Hurting Others; Chapter 10
Tu 4/14	Attraction and Intimacy: Liking and Loving Others; Chapter 11
Th 4/16	Attraction and Intimacy: Liking and Loving Others; Chapter 11
Tu 4/21	Helping; Chapter 12
Th 4/23	Helping; Chapter 12
Tu 4/28	Conflict and Peacemaking; Chapter 13
Th 4/30	THIRD EXAM
Tu 5/5	Social Psychology in the Clinic; Chapter 14
Th 5/7	Social Psychology in Court; Chapter 15
Tu 5/12	Generations: How when you were born shapes your personality and outlook on life (not in book)

**FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 21, 1:00pm-3:00pm**