Class meetings: Tuesday, 9:30am-10:45am, AL-201
Thursday, online in the Wimba classroom through Blackboard

Professor: Jean M. Twenge, Ph.D.
TA: Cameron Pestinger, B.A.

Required textbook: Social Psychology (Tenth Edition) by David G. Myers
Available for purchase OR rent at the bookstore
Not on reserve at the library (sorry; publishers don’t provide extra copies)

1. 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 student 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) the ability to think critically and evaluate psychological theories and research.

2. The grade breakdown will be as follows:
   20%  First exam
   20%  Second exam
   20%  Third exam
   25%  Final exam
   15%  Writing or video assignment

3. Tests: There will be four tests: three during class time and one cumulative final exam held during the scheduled final exam period (Thursday, Dec. 16, 10:30am-12:30pm), held in our classroom. The tests will be multiple choice.

4A. Writing or video assignment: Every student will either make a brief video or write about 1 page (double-spaced, 12-pt font) on applying social psychology to real life. This is a way for the class to include your experiences, as I will share some of these in class. Choose ONE concept covered in the textbook chapter(s) listed under the first initial of your last name on the next page. Your best bet is one of those in the margin in bold orange type. In your paper or video, define the concept and note which chapter it comes from, and then give an example that illustrates it (e.g., something you or someone you know experienced, or an example from TV, a movie, a news story, a song, etc. – and don’t use an example already used in class or in the book). If you make a video, feel free to be creative and demonstrate something visually or use humor. E-mail your .doc file or .pdf file (for writing) or a YouTube link (for videos) to Cameron the TA, pestinge@rohan.sdsu.edu by the due date (see next page). If your last name is early in the alphabet, your due date is VERY EARLY! BE PREPARED!
4B. Due dates (by midnight at the end of that day) and topics for the writing or video assignment are organized by first letter of last name:

A-B: 9/14, Chapters 1-3  
C-D: 9/21, Chapter 4  
E-F: 9/30 Chapter 5  
G-H: 10/5 Chapter 7  
I-J: 10/12 Chapter 6  
K-L: 10/14 Chapter 8  
M: 10/19 Chapter 13  
N-O: 10/28 Chapter 9  
P-Q: 11/4 Chapter 10  
R: 11/16 Chapter 11  
S:11/30 Chapter 12  
TUV: 12/2 Chapter 14  
WXYZ: 12/7 Chapter 15

4C. Penalties for lateness: Because I use these assignments to share your experiences during lectures, the deadlines are very strict. If your assignment is between 1 minute and 9 hours late, the most you can receive is 70%. If it is between 9 hours and 24 hours late, the most you can receive is 50%. If it is more than 24 hours late, you will not receive any credit for the assignment. I will not make exceptions to this rule without a doctor’s note or some other proof of a catastrophic event. Because the topics you may choose from are covered in the textbook, you always have the option of doing the assignment early. You are also welcome to turn it in early.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS CLASS

5. Thursday classes will be online through the Wimba program, which you will access through Blackboard (more on next page about this). You will see the slides and hear me lecturing if you tune in live at 9:30am on Thursdays when class is scheduled (see the course calendar below). ALL of these sessions will be archived, so you can watch them at your convenience. The only thing you miss by with the archived version is the ability to ask questions. For a few sessions noted in the class calendar, Thursday online class will not be live, only archived. I will NOT post the slides or material from our in-person Tuesdays online. To get that material, you have to come to class. We will often use that time to do things that can’t be done online (e.g., watch a long video).

6. NO makeup or rescheduled exams: There will be no makeup exams, and everyone must take the exams at the same time. This is a hard and fast rule. If you anticipate this being a problem, do not take this class. In the rare event that you have surgery, get in a car accident, or have the funeral of a close family member on the day of an exam, you will provide proof of this event (doctor’s note, etc.) to me and the TA, and 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 an emergency or very serious problem and be able to document it to miss an exam. Going on a trip or having plane
tickets does not qualify. 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).

7. Lateness for 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.

8. Missing class: If you miss a Tuesday class, please get the notes from a classmate. Please DO NOT contact me or the TA 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!

9. Grades and seeing what you missed on exams: The TA will post grades on Blackboard. Please contact him about any questions regarding grades; I do not keep those records. If you want to see what you missed on an exam, come to the TA’s office hours, Wednesday 10am-noon in LS 118A, to see your scantron.

10. Review sessions: The TA will hold review sessions before each exam; the times of these will be announced in class and/or through messages on Blackboard.

11. If you have a question, READ THE SYLLABUS before you e-mail. Most questions students have are answered by this syllabus. 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.” If you have questions about the content of the class, which I welcome, it is usually 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. If you still have a question by e-mail, you’ll want to contact the right person so you don’t have to wait a long time to get a response. Here’s whom to contact for different concerns:

   Grades: Cameron the TA, pestinge@rohan.sdsu.edu
   Sending in your writing or video assignment: Cameron the TA, pestinge@rohan.sdsu.edu
   Technical issues with Wimba: Help on the Wimba page or 866-350-4978
   Notes from an in-person class you missed: One of your classmates.
   Suggestions for improving the class: Your professor, Dr. T, jtwenge@mail.sdsu.edu
   Further information about a class topic: Your professor, Dr. T, jtwenge@mail.sdsu.edu
   Doctor’s notes, etc. for missed exams: Cameron the TA, pestinge@rohan.sdsu.edu AND your professor, Dr. T, jtwenge@mail.sdsu.edu

12. 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.

13. 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 – some contributed by class members. 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.

14. **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. Of course, I won’t know the answer to every question, partially because not every question has been answered with data!

15. **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 TA know, and give them a note from that office regarding the accommodations requested.

16. **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 and attending the online sessions will be rewarded. When taking notes in class, don’t just write down what’s on the slide; 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. I will also ask some questions on the exam that cover material from the textbook that we did not cover in class.

17. **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.
18. Grade breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93+</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 and under</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19. Online session instructions. Here’s what you need to do to “attend” our online class sessions on Thursdays. Sometime before our first online session on Thursday, Sept. 2, you should:

1. Log in to SDSU Blackboard via this link: http://blackboard.sdsu.edu/webapps/login
2. click on Fall 2010 – Social Psychology
3. click on the Communication button on the left
4. click on the Wimba Classroom link
5. click on the Social Psychology - Fall 2010 Wimba Classroom link
6. before proceeding, run the Setup Wizard by clicking on the setup wizard link on the right side of the screen
7. after completing the Setup Wizard successfully, click on the Enter Room link on the left side of the screen.

To see a demo of how to log in to the live online sessions, click on this link: http://www.screentoaster.com/watch/stVUXrTRk1IR1xeQV9VV1hRX1NR/online_session_log_in_for_the_wimba_classroom
20. Course Calendar

Tu 8/31  Introduction; Administrative Details
Th 9/2   Research and research methods; Chapter 1
Tu 9/7   The Self in a Social World; Chapter 2
Th 9/9   The Self in a Social World; Chapter 2 [Archived only]
Tu 9/14  Social Beliefs and Judgments; Chapter 3
Th 9/16  Social Beliefs and Judgments; Chapter 3
Tu 9/21  Behavior and attitudes; Chapter 4: Stanford Prison Experiment video
Th 9/23  Behavior and attitudes; Chapter 4
Tu 9/28  FIRST EXAM
Th 9/30  Genes, Culture, and Gender; Chapter 5
Tu 10/5  Genes, Culture, and Gender; Chapter 5
Th 10/7  Persuasion; Chapter 7
Tu 10/12 Conformity; Chapter 6: Milgram video
Th 10/14 Conformity; Chapter 6 [Archived only]
Tu 10/19 Group Influence; Chapter 8
Th 10/21 Conflict and Peacemaking; Chapter 13
Tu 10/26 SECOND EXAM
Th 10/28 Prejudice: Disliking Others; Chapter 9
Tu 11/2  Prejudice: Disliking Others; Chapter 9
Th 11/4  Aggression: Hurting Others; Chapter 10 [Archived only]
Tu 11/9  Aggression: Hurting Others; Chapter 10: Power Rangers video
Th 11/11 NO CLASS: VETERANS’ DAY
Tu 11/16 Attraction and Intimacy; Chapter 11: When Harry Met Sally video
Th 11/18 Attraction and Intimacy; Chapter 11
Tu 11/23 THIRD EXAM
Th 11/25 NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING
Tu 11/30 Helping; Chapter 12
Th 12/2  Helping; Chapter 12
Tu 12/7  Social Psychology in the Clinic; Chapter 14
Th 12/9  Social Psychology in Court; Chapter 15
Generations: How when you were born shapes your personality and outlook on life (not in book)

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 16, 10:30am-12:30pm, in classroom