

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

CLPS 0700, CRN 60039

Brown University

Professor Hartley

Summer 2013

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am—12:50pm; Location: Wilson 105

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Office Hour: Tuesdays, 2pm-3pm; or by appt.

Course website: This course will use Canvas as the primary means of communication outside of class. Check Canvas frequently for announcements and updates to the course schedule. You can log in to canvas here:

<https://canvas.brown.edu/courses/798346>

Course Description

Social psychology is the study of intrapersonal (thoughts and feelings) and interpersonal processes (social and group behavior), and the interaction between these processes. In this course, we will examine the theories, methods, findings, and applications of social psychology. Topics will include: emotion, self-perception, social cognition (person perception, attitudes, and persuasion), social influence (culture, conformity), and social relations (aggression and prosocial behavior, stereotypes and prejudice, romantic relationships). The course will provide foundation for further study in the field of social psychology by familiarizing you with a variety of theoretical perspectives and experimental methods used, providing the knowledge needed to form and test your own theories and hypotheses regarding social psychology, and by helping you to better evaluate social psychological theories, research, and phenomena.

You will do a considerable amount of reading, writing, and critical thinking in this course, but in return, you will gain knowledge about psychology as a science, the intricacies of human social behavior, and an increasing understanding of the mechanisms that guide your own thinking and behavior.

Goals

By the end of this course you will:

- (1) Have become a better informed consumer and critic of psychological research.
- (2) Have acquired a new framework for interpreting your own and other people's social behavior.
- (3) Be able to apply what you learned about social behavior in order to better understand historic and current events.

Class Time

Because this is a summer course, each class is 3 hours and 50 minutes, with a 20-25 minute break in the middle. This time will consist of a mix of lecture, class discussion, reading/writing, and group work. Each class will typically begin with a lecture on the day's topic, class discussion of that topic and the reading material, then a class activity that will vary depending on the class. Possible projects include reading a short article and writing up a brief reaction paper, watching a topic-relevant video, or group work or discussion.

Each class will conclude with a short lecture (15-minute) that will preview the topic or article for the next class. Some classes might take less than the full 3 hours and 50 minutes, but always expect to stay the entire time.

Requirements

Exams. Accounts for 50% total. There will be a midterm exam that will account for 20% of your final grade and a final exam (cumulative, but will focus heavily on material learned during the second half of the course) that will account for 30% of your final grade. The exams will include multiple choice and 2-4 free response questions, and cover a mix of lecture and discussion, text, and assigned articles.

Class participation and Attendance. Accounts for 10% of the final grade and includes attending class (on time), participating in class discussion, group work, asking questions, and visiting office hours when needed. I will talk fast because time is limited—but by all means, please stop me and ask questions if you are unclear on something, and feel free to visit office hours.

Short Assignments. Accounts for 10%. These will include posting about the readings on the discussion board, the paper proposal, and other possible in-class short assignments.

- **Discussion Board Postings:** You will read empirical articles in addition to the required text for every Tuesday. You must post a question, comment, critique, or answer to a student's previous question on the Canvas discussion board. Sometimes there will be two articles assigned; you may submit your post on either one (or both). These discussion board postings are intended to generate dialogue and debate and to enhance your understanding of the scholarly readings. Therefore, you should read all previous comments in the thread to ensure your comment does not repeat a classmate's previous comment, unless it adds a new idea, talking point, or answer to the conversation. Your discussion board postings should be well written and well thought out--therefore your post should be at least one paragraph in length (although longer posts are acceptable and welcome).
- Your comment must be posted every Monday, by 4pm. Because life happens, you are allowed to miss ONE posting. Other than that, points will be deducted for late or missing posts.
- Please see "Read Me: Discussion Board Guidelines" under Canvas>Discussions for more information and before submitting your first post.

Papers. Accounts for 30%. Students will complete two papers during the summer course. For each paper, students will choose two articles that we have read or will read and compare or contrast them. These papers are intended as a thinking exercise to help deepen your understanding of the readings, develop new ideas for future research and theorizing, and foster your critical writing skills. For example, you might choose two papers that share a common theme, develop that theme, and provide recommendations for future research or theorizing. You also might choose two articles that contradict each other in some way, explain how, and provide an example of a study that would reconcile this contradiction or give a new perspective on that topic.

- Each paper should be 5-10 pages in length, APA style (double-spaced; 12-point Times New Roman font), compare or contrast two articles that we have read or will read for class, and provide recommendations for future research or theorizing.
- For the first paper, you will write a one paragraph proposal of the two articles you plan to cover for first paper, which should be submitted in class, **7.16**. Students are also encouraged to visit office hours or make an appointment to meet with me to discuss the progress of their papers.
- The due dates for the papers are **7.25, in class**; and **8.9 by 3pm**. See the course schedule for more details. Late papers will be deducted 10 points for every 24 hour period after the due date. The articles you choose should not overlap between your 1st and 2nd paper.
 - **Writing quality.** You will need to write clearly and concisely. Every sentence must be grammatically well-formed and easily understandable, and sentences must be logically connected to each other. Begin each paragraph with a one-sentence précis of what you will say in more detail in the paragraph. Whenever you make a claim (e.g., that there is a certain

shortcoming), you must back up your claim with evidence in the paper or in other literature, with logic, or with a compelling example. Don't be vague; be precise and concise. Re-read and edit your paper multiple times; do not forget to spell-check. If you speak English as your second language, make sure you have a friend or Student Services edit your paper. If you are unsure about a certain section, please feel free to visit me or the TA during office hours.

Readings: Readings are chapters in Gilovich, Keltner, Chen, & Nisbett, *Social Psychology, 3rd Ed.* Each reading should be completed before the class for which it is assigned. The textbook has a different organization from our course, so you will need to follow the reading list/course schedule below rather than read the textbook from front to back.

You will also read additional peer-reviewed articles and will post about these articles on the Canvas discussion board every Monday by 4pm (see above). PDF files of the articles are available on Canvas. Most of the articles are taken from prime research journals and will challenge you with both theory and methodology. There are several strategies you can take to better understanding these articles.

- There will be technical terms in every article, but do not be scared away by jargon. Check our textbook's glossary, and Google the terms. Not all internet sites are accurate or helpful; so look for converging information (and credible sites are usually of the .edu variety). Obviously, you can ask me and the TAs as well; but doing your own research will help you better remember the terms.
- For empirical articles, first read the Abstract, the beginning of the Discussion, and the Conclusions (last paragraph of the discussion). Then read the Introduction and the Results. Finally, read the Methodology. The Method section is important, but it is much easier to understand as the *tool* that helped the authors answer their questions and back up their conclusions.
- Finally, check the discussion board. Discussing the assigned readings with your classmates will help you understand the material better together. We will have class discussion about the readings every Tuesday, and I will welcome questions about the articles during this time. Please see the detailed course schedule below for reading assignments.

Policies

Timeliness and Attendance. Students are expected to attend and participate in every session. Class will start promptly at 9AM; points are deducted for lateness. If you need to miss class for a specific reason (e.g., health issue, death in the family), you must let me know ahead of time so that you are not marked absent.

Late work. Discussion board postings, assignments, proposals, and papers are to be completed/handed in on time, unless special permission is given from the instructor. Please email me if you have any questions about an assignment deadline or if you think you will need an extension. If you are an athlete traveling to an official event or if you face a serious difficulty with your health or have a death in the family you must speak to me in advance of the due date to arrange for a new due date.

Email Etiquette. Practice email etiquette when emailing me or the TA. The email should include a proper greeting with my or the TA's name (e.g., "Hello Professor Hartley"), a body, and a closing; a relevant subject line should be included. Before emailing us about a course guideline or due date, kindly check the syllabus and Canvas thoroughly to make sure your question has not already been answered. I generally respond to emails fairly quickly, but please do not expect a response on a weekend.

Academic Dishonesty. Cheating in any form is not tolerated (e.g., copying another student's test/paper; plagiarism). Students who are caught cheating face the possibility of failing or being reported to the Dean.

Students with Disabilities: If a student has a disability that will require accommodation regarding this course, they should feel free to consult with me privately so they can be provided with the accommodations necessary that will enhance their learning experience.

CLPS0700 COURSE SCHEDULE

*subject to change; check Canvas frequently

MEETING	TOPIC	READING
6.25	Introduction; Methods	Chapter 1(pp. 3-18; 27-38) Chapter 2
6.27	Self Perception Part I: Self Concept & Schemas	Chapter 3
7.2	Self Perception Part II: Self-control & Self-Presentation <u>Patrick Guest Lecture</u>	Chapter 7: pp.245-270 Wood, Perunovic, & Lee (2009); Balcetis & Dunning (2007)
7.4	Independence Day: NO CLASS	
7.9	Personality Judgment	Chapter 5; Funder (2001); Vazire & Gosling (2004).
7.11	Social Cognition & Attribution Theory	Chapter 4 (p.107-134)
7.16	Moral Psychology: Punishment, Morality, & Religion -Paper proposal due, in class -Midterm Review Session	pp. 216-222; Greene et al. (2001), Shariff & Rhemtulla (2012)
7.18	MIDTERM (9-11am)	no readings
7.23	Prejudice & Stereotyping <i>IAT Exercise</i>	Chapter 11; Eberhart et al. (2006), Do online IAT
7.25	Aggression & Prosociality <i>Preview to Conformity: Stanford Prison Experiment Film</i> 1st Article Comparison Paper Due, 9AM, in class	Chapter 13 (pp.496-519); Chapter 14 (pp.528-552)
7.30	Social Influence: Obedience & Conformity	Chapter 9 Cialdini (1993); Milgram (1963)
8.1	Crowds & Persuasion	Chapters 8; 12
8.6	Attraction & Relationships -Final Exam Review Session	Chapter 10; Meston & Frolich (2003); Gangestad et al. (2005)
8.8	FINAL EXAM; 9AM-12PM; Wilson 105	
8.9	2nd Article Comparison Paper, Due by 3PM	