

Psychology 340
Social Psychology
Spring 2008
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: jtwenge@mail.sdsu.edu

TA: Jennifer Crowhurst (for all questions about grading)

TA's Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-4 and by appointment

TA's Office: Life Sciences 118A

TA's e-mail: Jennifer_crowhurst@hotmail.com

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

Final exam: Thursday, May 15, 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 15, 1:00pm-3:00pm). The tests will be multiple choice.

- **Class presentation:** You will have exactly 1 minute to 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.) The presentation will primarily be spoken; you can write a few words on the board or on a poster if you like. We won't have enough time for anyone to use the computer. This 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. The presentation is my way of making sure everyone's voice is heard in a large class.

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!

What we will do in class: This class will use multiple formats. Sometimes I will lecture, but I will also use illustrations, questionnaires, 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.

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. I really believe the maxim "There's no such thing as a dumb question." 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.

Conduct during class and other details: If you arrive late or leave early do not disturb those around you. If you miss a class, get the notes from a friend. Put pagers and cell phones off or on vibrate during class. If you have been tested and are registered at Disabled Student Services, please let the TA know, and give her a note from that office regarding the accommodations requested.

Scantrons: You will need the smaller red scantron #F-289-ERI-L.

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. I also don't believe I should be telling you exactly what will be on an exam in a college course. 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 TA 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.

Course Calendar

Tu 1/22	Introduction; Administrative Details
Th 1/24	Research and research methods; Chapter 1
Tu 1/29	The Self in a Social World; Chapter 2
Th 1/31	The Self in a Social World; Chapter 2
Tu 2/5	Social Beliefs and Judgments; Chapter 3
Th 2/7	NO CLASS
Tu 2/12	Social Beliefs and Judgments; Chapter 3
Th 2/14	Behavior and attitudes; Chapter 4
Tu 2/19	Behavior and attitudes; Chapter 4
Th 2/21	FIRST EXAM
Tu 2/26	Genes, Culture, and Gender; Chapter 5
Th 2/28	Genes, Culture, and Gender; Chapter 5
Tu 3/4	Conformity; Chapter 6
Th 3/6	Conformity; Chapter 6
Tu 3/11	Persuasion; Chapter 7
Th 3/13	Group Influence; Chapter 8
Tu 3/18	SECOND EXAM
Th 3/20	Prejudice: Disliking Others; Chapter 9
Tu 3/25	Prejudice: Disliking Others; Chapter 9
Th 3/27	Aggression: Hurting Others; Chapter 10
Tu 4/1	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
Th 4/3	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
Tu 4/8	Aggression: Hurting Others; Chapter 10
Th 4/10	Attraction and Intimacy: Liking and Loving Others; Chapter 11
Tu 4/15	Attraction and Intimacy: Liking and Loving Others; Chapter 11
Th 4/17	Helping; Chapter 12
Tu 4/22	Helping; Chapter 12
Th 4/24	Conflict and Peacemaking; Chapter 13
Tu 4/29	THIRD EXAM
Th 5/1	Social Psychology in the Clinic; Chapter 14
Tu 5/3	Social Psychology in Court; Chapter 15
Th 5/8	Generations: How when you were born shapes your personality and outlook on life (not in book)
Tu 5/10	Generations; exam review; wrap-up

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 15, 1:00pm-3:00pm