

Social Psychology
Psych 315-200
Summer, 2008

Meetings: every week day, 10-11:35, HRBB 124
Instructor: Heather C. Lench
Office: Psychology Building 290
Phone: 845-0377
email: hlench@tamu.edu (usually the best way to reach me)
Office Hrs.: Tues & Thurs, 11:30-12:30
Website: the main website is www.heatherlench.com

Contacting Me: You can call or email with questions. Allow 72 hours for a response

Required Text: Gilovich, T., Keltner, D. & Nisbett, R.E. (2005). *Social Psychology*. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc: New York.

Goals of the Course: People are social animals - we are surrounded by others from the day we are born. In this course, we will focus on how people are influenced by their social surroundings. This class will have both a theoretical and applied focus. Through lectures, readings, videos, and class activities, you will learn the theoretical tenets of social psychology as well as how these theories relate to your daily life (and can be used by you). This course will cover attitude formation, conformity and obedience to authority, altruism, aggression and violence, and relationships.

Course Website: The website will be a useful supplement. There are recommendations on the site about how to take notes in this course. Over the semester, relevant links will be posted that can expand your knowledge on various topics.

Lecture and Reading Policy: Attendance and reading are both required to be successful in this course. Test questions will come from both lecture and reading. The reading will be most helpful to you if read twice – once before class and once after.

Exams (300 points): There will be three exams during the term. They will have multiple choice answers. Each exam is worth 100 points and will have about 50 questions. They are not cumulative. You are responsible for providing your own pencil(s) and Scantron form. Make-up exams will only be considered in rare and extraordinary circumstances, and only if you obtained permission **before** the scheduled test. There are no make ups for students who did not contact me beforehand unless they have documentation proving extreme circumstances. If you have a religious or other conflict with a class date or an exam date, it is your responsibility to tell me within the first week of class.

Grading: Grades will be based on the total number of points obtained on the tests. Grades will be curved at the end of the semester if warranted by the mean or distribution of scores.

Total Points: 300

Scores required for each letter designation in the grading system:

A: 270-300 points

B: 240-269 points

C: 210-239 points

D: 180-209 points

F: any score below 180 points

Extra Credit: You can earn 8 points extra credit in this course in two ways, each of which is completely voluntary and not required for successful completion of the course:

- 1) Taking part in experiments – see the attached form on registration techniques. Each half hour counts for one point of course credit.
- 2) Writing a one-page critique of a newspaper article based on psychological theories. The write up should include only a minimal amount of review about the event or article, and should consist primarily of how psychological theories apply to the event or article. Each article counts for two points of course credit.

ADA Policy Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for a reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Building, or call 845-1637.

Texas A&M University Philosophy of Academic Integrity: Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal nor do they tolerate those who do.

DATES**TOPIC****READING**

7/1	Introduction to Course	Ch. 1 to pg 36
7/2-7/3	What is Social Psychology?	
7/4	Holiday!	
7/7-7/8	Research Methods & Ethics	pgs 36-43
7/9-7/11	The Social Self	Ch. 5
7/14	Exam 1	
7/15-7/16	Social Judgments	Ch. 9 to pg 366 Ch. 10
7/17-7/18	Social Influence & Obedience	Ch. 6
7/21-7/23	Attitudes and Attitude Change	Ch. 7 & Ch. 8
7/24	Exam 2	
7/25,7/28	Aggression and Violence	Ch. 13 to pg. 534
7/29-7/30	Interpersonal Attraction and Relationships	Ch. 4
7/31-8/1	Prosocial Behavior	Ch. 13 from pg. 535
8/4	Exam 3	