

Contact Information:

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Hours: 1-2pm Mondays, 1-4pm Weds, 9-10am Fridays; or, by appointment

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Course Textbook:

Breckler, S. J., Olson, J. M., and Wiggins, E. C. (2006). *Social Psychology Alive*.
Thomson Publishing: Belmont, CA.

Course Objectives:

- Explore through practical application major social psychological theories.
- Expose students to social psychological research.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION	READING
1	1/15	Introductions to course & each other	
	1/17	What is social psychology?	Chapter 1
	1/19	Brainstorm/share ideas for application opportunity	
2	1/22	Scientific method	Chapter 2
	1/24	Correlational research	
	1/26	Experimental research	
3	1/29	What we see in others: social perception	Chapter 4
	1/31	What we see in ourselves: self-perception	
	2/2	What others see in us: impression management	
4	2/5	EXAM #1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4)	
	2/7	Go over exam; project workday	
	2/9	Attraction	Chapter 13
5	2/12	Attachment	
	2/14	"Speed dating": rapid sharing of articles on relationships	
	2/16	Close relationships in adulthood	
6	2/19	What are attitudes? Why do we evaluate?	Chapter 6
	2/21	How do attitudes form?	
	2/23	How and when do attitudes affect behavior?	
7	2/26	Cognitive dissonance	Chapter 7
	2/28	Persuasion and attitude change	
	3/2	Propaganda	
8	3/5	EXAM #2 (Chapters 6, 7, 13)	
	3/7	Go over exam; project workday	

	3/9	Conformity: doing as others do	Chapter 8
9	3/12 3/14 3/16	Compliance: doing as others want Obedience: doing as others command <i>Observe an experiment in progress</i>	
10	3/19 3/21 3/23	Helping Behavior "I don't need your help!" Exam #3 (Chapters 8, 12)	Chapter 12
	3/26 3/28 3/30	Spring Break! Woo Hoo!!! Relax & Enjoy!!	
11	4/2 4/4 4/6	Film: <i>Crash</i> Finish watching film <i>Apply it: Film analysis</i>	
12	4/9 4/11 4/13	Stereotyping Prejudice Discrimination	Chapter 9
13	4/16 4/18 4/20	Theories of aggression Media effects on aggression Controlling aggression	Chapter 11
14	4/23 4/25 4/27	Group dynamics Decision making in groups Intergroup conflict	Chapter 10
15	???	Exam #4 (Chapters 9, 10, 11)	

ADA Guidelines:

This University abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap." If you have a documented disability that may impact your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see me as soon as possible to arrange accommodations.

Exams:

All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions; there will be 15 questions per chapter. There will be no make-up exams unless the professor is notified (either by phone or email) within 24 hours of the emergency (determined by professor). If you know in advance that you will be unable to take an exam, notify the professor and you will be allowed to take it before the exam date.

***Crash* Film Analysis:**

This movie is ripe for a social psychological analysis. There are numerous applications of social psychological concepts/theories. Detail five of them in a typed paper (3-5 pages in length). While all five examples could come from concepts provided in chapter 9, keep in mind concepts from other chapters as well.

Application Opportunities (Choose one):

- ★ **Director.** Create a short video depicting one or more social psychological concepts either through direct observation or re-enactment. Or, compile examples captured on youtube and explain how they are examples of various concepts.
- ★ **Research.** Assist the professor with an experiment involving the social psychological theories of attitude-change and conformity. Or, conduct a survey on a topic of your own interest (for this option, you must have already had a research methods course).
- ★ **Community service.** Provide a service to an organization in the community. For example, conduct a survey, workshop, or a literature review utilizing the most recent research regarding a topic (e.g., domestic violence, suicide, poverty, prejudice, safer sex) for an agency that addresses this issue.
- ★ **Other?** Pitch an idea of how to apply the course content in a creative and useful way. The more others benefit from your application the better.

Course Evaluation:

Exam #1	40 points
Exam #2	45 points
Exam #3	30 points
Exam #4	45 points
Article sharing	5 points
Film Analysis	10 points
Application	50 points (or more, depending on project)

Grading Scale:

90% -- 100%	A
80% -- 89%	B
70% -- 79%	C
60% -- 69%	D
Below 60%	F