

Social Processes Lab – Psychology 3144-001
Fall 2008
Tuesday, 12:30 PM – 3:20 PM
LS 420

Instructor: Patricia Lyons

Office: 413 LS

Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. or by appointment

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Course Prerequisites: PSYC 2442 and PSYC 3315 or concurrent registration

Course Description: This course is designed to expose you to methods of social psychological research and to provide you with information and skills that will enable you critically evaluate social psychological methodologies. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, activities, reading assignments, and projects, information regarding social psychological research and procedures will be introduced and reviewed. In addition, this course will give you an opportunity to explore areas of social psychological inquiry that are of particular interest to you in a research project and presentations. Your participation during class will likely facilitate learning of the material and make the class more interesting for you and others.

Student Learning Outcomes: 1) Students will be able to identify different types of research methods used within social psychology; 2) students will also be able to address research questions by designing and implementing a research project; 3) Students will be able to report their research findings in a scientific research paper and presentation poster.

Text: Required readings will be posted on WebCT. It is your responsibility to check regularly. There is no required text; however you are encouraged to obtain a copy of the *APA Publication Manual*, (5th Edition), and access to a Social Psychology textbook may be helpful.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken at my discretion. Attendance in class is vital to your academic success. There is no substitute for attending class. If you miss, you are required to find out what you missed, acquire class notes and assignments before the next class period. If you miss a quiz for a valid and verifiable reason, a make-up quiz will be provided in essay format. Excessive absences will likely result in a poor grade and negative assessments from your project partners.

Drop Policy: UTA policies regarding dropped classes will be followed.

Cell Phones must be turned off before entering class. Students who engage in texting during class will have class participation points deducted.

E-mail communication protocol: E-mail communication regarding class-related issues is encouraged with the following exceptions: 1) If a class is missed, do not send a message inquiring about what was missed; 2) do not send messages describing absence excuses; 3) do not depend on e-mail for prompt replies to time-sensitive matters.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE. SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH NOTICE

DATE	Topic	Assignment	DUE
8/26	Lab overview. What is social psychology?	Read: Aronson et al. (1998) for next class – available on WebCT	
9/2	Methodology Overview IV/DV Hypothesis generation	Read: How to Read a Journal Article in Social Psychology (Jordan & Zanna, 1994) - available on WebCT	Paragraph on current event related to Social Psych
9/9	Continue Methodology, if needed Guest Panel and Discussion: Social Psychology Research at UTA Dissecting a Research Article	Create project groups Generate research ideas with group members.	
9/16	Ethics in research IRB protocol CITI Human Subject Training SONA	Gather background info for project	
9/23	Quiz 1 Publication Search online In class: searching for articles relevant to your research	Complete CITI training online Gather background info for project	Project Summary Outline (Group)
9/30	Paper Write-up refresher: Introduction and references APA format Scale Development and Analysis	Work on paper intro draft; generate hypotheses Reading assignment on WebCT	CITI training verification form
10/7	Social Psych Topic: Group Processes Social Facilitation Group Performance Task Motivation Social Influence & Conformity	Work on study methodology and materials Reading assignment on WebCT	
10/14	Social Psych Topic: Stereotype, Prejudice,	Complete IRB authorization forms	Research proposal draft with intro and

	Discrimination		hypotheses (individual) IRB paperwork
10/21	Quiz 2 Group Consultation during class Work in groups	Collect Data	IRB authorization, if necessary
10/28	Statistics and SPSS review	Collect data	Method Section (by the group)
11/4	Data analysis session	Analyze data Write up results and discussion	
11/11	Social Psyc Topic: TBA	Write up abstract and discussion	Results sections (by the group)
11/18	How to present a project Poster exercise	Finish papers Work on class presentations and posters	
11/25	Class Presentations	Work on Posters	Individual Papers
12/2	Class Presentations		
	Class Presentations (if needed) During scheduled final period		

Other Important Dates

Sep 10	Census Date
Oct 6	Registration for Spring '09
Oct 31	Last day to drop
Nov 27-30	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 5	Last Day of Classes

Short Quizzes: There will be 2 quizzes valued at 20 points each. The primary purpose of the quizzes is to encourage class attendance and reading the required material. Questions on quizzes will be a combination of short answer and multiple-choice. They will generally be between 10 and 20 questions in length. **Any approved make-up quizzes will be in essay format.**

Group Research Project: The majority of your grade this lab section will consist of conducting social psychological research and reporting the research you conducted in APA format and in a professional poster. In a group of 2-4 people, you will design, conduct, analyze, and provide a written report and a professional poster on a research project. Grades will be determined in part from other group members' assessment of your contribution to the project. A large amount of class time will be devoted to this project, and it is vital to your success in this class that you are present when details regarding this project are discussed. More detailed information and instruction regarding this assignment will follow. **Due 11/25.**

You may not use papers written for other classes for your final paper, presentations or posters. Doing so can result in a complete loss of points for the assignment.

Grading and Distribution

A	88-100%	Attendance	50
B	78-87%	Quizzes (2 x 20)	40
C	68-77%	Project Outline	10
D	58-67%	Project Proposal	20
F	< 57.4%	Methods Section	10
		Results	10
		Final Paper	100
		Group Presentation	50
		Poster	50
		TOTAL	340

Grade Grievance Policy: If you have sufficient reason to believe you have not been given proper credits for any quiz responses or other work, please submit a written statement to your instructor outlining your reasoning. Your instructor will make a decision regarding the legitimacy of your claim.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA): If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with me at the beginning of the semester. As a Faculty member, I am required by law to provide a reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Your responsibility is to inform me of documentation authorizing the specific accommodation. Student services at UT Arlington include the Office for Students with Disabilities (located in the lower level of the University Center) which is responsible for verifying and implementing accommodations to ensure equal opportunity in all programs and activities.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES: The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form at The University of Texas at Arlington. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts (see Regents=Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

BOMB THREATS: If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UT Arlington will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by the bomb threat. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

LIBRARY INFORMATION: Helen Hough is the Psychology Librarian. She can be reached at 817.272.7429, and by email at hough@uta.edu. You will find useful research information for psychology at <http://www.uta.edu/library/research/rt-psyc.html>.