

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC 3315-002
FALL 2008
TUESDAYS, 5:30 – 8:20 P.M.

Instructor: Colette Jacquot, M.S., ABD
Office: LS 404
Office Hrs: Tuesdays, 4:30 – 5:20 p.m. or by appointment
Email: colettej@uta.edu
Text: *Social Psychology & Human Nature* (2008). Baumeister and Bushman, Brief Version
Pre-requisite Introduction to Psychology

Course Description & Goals

The catalog description for this course is as follows: “The theories and research dealing with individual behavior in the social environment. Social influence processes, interpersonal attraction, group behavior, aggression, conformity, and attitude formation and change.” This class is designed for anyone interested in understanding the effects of the social environment on the human organism. The course will help in understanding people and their behaviors as they interact with others in the social environment.

By the end of this semester, students should be able to discuss the definition, focus, and goals of social psychology; analyze the use of common research methodology employed by social psychology; identify and relate how social psychologists apply what they know about social concepts and group structure to benefit humankind; propose how social psychological knowledge can lead to a better understanding of self and others, and be able to relate social psychology to problems and issues in everyday life.

Attendance & Participation

Class attendance is vital to grasping course content. As a result, attendance is required. Students who have emergencies arise and have to miss class are required to provide university-approved documentation to excuse their absence(s). Students will earn a total of 20 points for attendance by being present in class on the five unannounced days I take attendance. If students are absent from class, they are required to find out what they missed from another student before the next class period. I encourage students to exchange emails and phone numbers with at least two other students the first day of class.

Regarding punctuality, students need to be on time to class as they will miss important announcements and discussions and will be held responsible for any material and announcements covered in class. Be courteous, be on time, and do not socialize during class. Socializing in class is disruptive to other students and to me. Also, research has clearly demonstrated that those students who are involved in the learning process are more likely to retain information and have greater success in class than those who do not. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and respect other students’ opinions and contributions, regardless of whether these beliefs are contrary to their own beliefs.

Important Dates for Fall 2008

9-10	Census Date
10-31	Last day to drop classes
12-2	Last day of class
12-9	Final Exam – 8:15 p.m.

Application Papers(s) – 100 points each

Students will turn in two application papers related to issues studied in class. These papers are designed to be an application of insights gained from this course. They should interpret and broaden students' understanding of everyday experiences using social psychological concepts. Application papers should be at least two pages but no more than four pages (not including the title page or reference page). Papers should be double spaced and provide at least two respected, peer-reviewed references. All papers should use APA style and are worth 100 points each. No late papers will be accepted.

Application paper assessment consists of two components:

- 1) Observation – Students objectively describe some social behavior from her or his experience or from reading in the current news media
- 2) Principle – Students appropriately apply a social psychological concept or principle of the observation. Be sure to analyze how and why the observation relates to research and theory in the field of social psychology.

Dramatization/Skit – 100 points

Students have the option of acting out a social psychological concept in front of the class in lieu of the second application paper. Students may work in groups or alone for this assignment. I will select the psychological concepts that may be acted out.

Dramatization assessment consists of two components:

- 1) Appropriate, clear, and thorough dramatization of the social concept
- 2) Other group members' assessments of their participation in the dramatization.

Mock Jury Trial – 100 points

Students also have the option of participating in a mock jury trial in lieu of an application paper. I will provide controversial social psychological issues from which students will prepare oral presentations. Two groups will take opposing sides on an issue and should counter the other group's position(s). Students will select their own groups (at least two people in each group) and will choose an issue as well as which position on the issue that their group will take. They will utilize respected and peer-reviewed social psychological references to support their position.

Mock Jury Trial assessment consists of three components:

- 1) Validity and thoroughness of the issue presented
- 2) Ability to successfully refute the opponents' arguments
- 3) Other group members' assessments of their participation in the mock jury trial.

Social Psychology Portfolio – 100 points

All students will compile a social psychological portfolio consisting of at least 20 articles from current, respected periodicals and other sources addressing concepts discussed in class. ("Current" is operationally defined as an article published during the semester.) The portfolio will consist of two parts: Issues addressing cultural diversity and issues addressing gender diversity. Following each article, students will type a paragraph or two explaining how the article addresses cultural and/or gender diversity as well as students' position on each issue. Students' positions should be supported by scientific evidence from respected, peer-reviewed sources. No late portfolios will be accepted.

Portfolios will be assessed on the following four components:

- 1) Critical thinking in presenting positions
- 2) Scientific support of students' positions
- 3) Creativity of portfolio format
- 4) Number of articles
- 5) Neatness

Final Examination – 80 points

Students will take one open-book comprehensive final examination. The final exam will cover text material as well as material presented via class lectures, mock jury trials, dramatizations, audio/visual media, exercises, guest speakers' presentations, class discussions, assignments, and/or handouts. The final exam is worth 80 points. *On examination days, students will NOT be permitted to wear ball caps or any other head covering that prevents my seeing their eyes.*

Tardy or Absent on Final Exam Day

If students are tardy on the day of the final examination, they will not be permitted to take the exam if any class member has already turned in a completed exam. If students miss the final examination due to a **university-approved** absence, they must provide **written** approval to me and will be required to make the exam up at a time approved by the instructor. If students miss the final examination due to an unapproved reason per UTA's absence policy, **they will not be able to make up the final examination and will receive a zero.**

Extra Credit

Students may receive half a point added to their final grades by researching a question raised in class per the instructor's approval. Students will present the research results to the class orally the next class and will turn in a one-page summary of the research to the instructor that day as well. A total of two points added to the final grade may be earned in extra credit per semester. I may also provide exercises that students may turn in for extra credit.

Grade Distribution

Application paper(s)	100 points each (optional)
Dramatization	100 points (optional)
Mock Jury Trial	100 points (optional)
Social Portfolio	100 points
Final examination	80 points
Attendance	20 points
TOTAL	400 points

All six grades listed above will be summed and averaged using the following distribution: A = 360-400 points, B = 320-359 points, C = 280-319 points, D = 240-279 points, and F = 239 points or below.

Communication

For anyone having a difficult time comprehending reading material or any other course content, please meet with me. I also welcome student feedback and suggestions as to ways to improve this course.

Beepers & Cell Phones

Please turn off all pagers, beepers, and cell phones during class as these devices are disruptive to other students and to me.

Email Protocol

When sending an email to me, please put the class name in the subject line of the email. Inside the email include your full name. I will do my best to respond to messages via email in a prompt manner; however, please realize that I do not always have access to a computer.

Americans With Disabilities Act

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112 -- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act - (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that

disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Academic Dishonesty

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. 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. "Scholastic 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" (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

Student Support Services Available

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs 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.

Course Schedule & Required Readings

Ch. 1 – The Mission & the Method
Ch. 2 – Culture & Nature
Ch. 3 – The Self
Ch. 4 – Behavior Control: The Self in Action
Application paper or Dramatization due
Ch. 5 – Social Cognition
Ch. 6 – Emotion & Affect
Ch. 7 – Attitudes, Beliefs, & Consistency
Ch. 8 – Prosocial Behavior

Application paper or Mock Jury Trial due
Ch. 9 – Aggression & Antisocial Behavior
Ch. 10 – Attraction & Exclusion
Ch. 11 – Close Relationships
Portfolio due
Ch. 12 – Prejudice & Intergroup Relations
Ch. 13 – Social Influence & Persuasion
Ch. 14 - Groups
F Comprehensive Final Exam – 12/9, 8:15 p.m.