

Social Processes Lab – Psychology 3144-002
Fall 2009
Monday, 1:00 PM – 3:50 PM - LS 420

Instructor: Patricia Lyons (LS 413)

Office Hours:

Lyons: Monday, 11 a.m. to noon

Popan: Monday, 12-2 p.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 to 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.

Student Learning Outcomes: 1) Students will be able to identify and evaluate 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.

Text: Required readings will be posted on WebCT. It is your responsibility to check WebCT regularly. There is no required text; however, you are encouraged to obtain a copy of the *APA Publication Manual*, (5th or 6th 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 class, you are required to find out what you missed, and 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. No texting during class. If you have a valid reason for leaving your cell phone on, please let me know before class.

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 asking what was missed. 2) Do not depend on e-mail for prompt replies to time-sensitive matters. 3) Resist the urge to send emails with lol, rofl, wtf, etc.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE. SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH NOTICE

DATE	Topic	Assignment	DUE
8/24	Lab overview. What is social psychology? Methodology Overview	Read: Aronson et al. (1998); Devine (1995) - available on WebCT Develop two questions about the readings and bring to class on 8/31	8/31
8/31	Methodology Overview, cont'd. IV/DV Hypothesis generation	Review Questions	Quiz on 9/14 Create Project Groups
9/7 9/14	HOLIDAY Quiz: Aronson and Devine readings. Project Outline Article Reviews	Read: How to Read a Journal Article in Social Psychology (Jordan & Zanna, 1994) - available on WebCT Create project groups	 Discuss Project Ideas
9/21	How to Read a Journal Article Publication Search online	Choose Research Teams Discuss research interests In class: searching for articles relevant to your research Review and choose articles for presentations	Project Outline due
9/28	Film and discussion	In-class consultation on project ideas and articles	
10/5	Paper Write-up refresher Forming Hypotheses APA format	APA Exercises Hypotheses worksheet	Submit Articles for Presentation Hypothesis Worksheet Due
10/12	Scale Development and Analysis Ethics in Research	In-class assignment	Project Summary Outline (Group) Articles for presentation
10/19	Statistics and SPSS review	In-class exercise Collect data	

10/26	Article Presentations (7)	Data Collection	
11/2	Article Presentations (7)	Data Collection	Complete Lit Reviews with Hypotheses and Methods Sections
11/9	Article Presentations (7)	Data Collection	Data Analysis
11/16	Data Analysis	Data Analysis	Results Sections Due
11/23	Work on Class Presentations		
11/24-29	Thanksgiving Holiday		
11/30	Class Presentations		Final Papers Due

Other Important Dates

September 9 Census Date
 Oct 30 Last day to drop
 Dec 4 Last Day of Classes

Short Quiz: There will be 1 quiz valued at 50 points. The primary purpose of the quiz is to encourage reading the required material. Questions on the quiz will be a combination of short answer and multiple-choice. It will be between 20 to 30 questions in length. **Any approved make-up quizzes will be in essay format.**

Journal Article Assignment: You will give a 10-15 minute presentation of a journal article that reports social psychological research. More detailed information regarding this assignment will follow.

Group Research Project: A large part of your grade this lab section will consist of conducting social psychological research and reporting the research you conducted in APA format in a paper and a professional poster. In a group of 3-4 people, you will design, conduct, analyze, and provide a written report and a professional presentation 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. **Final Paper Due November 30, 2009.**

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

Grading and Distribution

A	89-100%	Attendance, Participation and Class Exercises	100
B	78-88%	Quiz (1)	50
C	68-77%	Project Outline	25
D	58-67%	Hypotheses Worksheet	25
F	< 57.4%	Lit Review, Hypotheses, Methods	25
		Results Section	25
		Final Paper	100
		Article Presentation	50
		Group Presentation	50
		TOTAL	450

Note: Graded assignments that are late will receive half credit within the first week, no credit after the first full week that it is late.

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. Provide clear evidence to support 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>.