**Social Psychology**

**Spring, 2009**

**What:** Psychology 5

**When:** TTh 1:00-2:15

**Who:** John Terrell, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: MWF 2-3; T 5-6; Th 2:30-3:30

**Why:** Course description: This class will offer an introduction and survey of the science of Social Psychology. Successful completion of class requirements should enable students to recognize and understand the influence that the actual, implied or imagined presence of others has on our behavior and cognitive processes. Lectures, videos, classroom demonstrations, activities, and assignments are designed to help you explore and understand this complex field of study. You will be encouraged and expected to be a participant in the teaching process by being involved in class activities and exercises. The exams will contain some things that are discussed in lecture but not in the text, and some things that are discussed in the text but not in the lectures. So, **both** **class attendance and reading the textbook are very important for doing well in the class.**

Emphasis is placed upon objective observation and scientific investigation in the study of social interaction. Course objectives are:

A) to help students learn basic theoretical foundations, empirical findings, research methods, and applications of social psychology;

B) to increase insight into students' own behavior and that of others;

C) to develop an appreciation of the scientific method and a critical attitude toward social psychological research.

**Text:** Baumeister, R.F. & Bushman, B. J. (2005). *Social Psychology & Human Nature (*Loose-leaf). New York: Thomson/Wadsworth.

**The text book for the course is required**.  Copies of the text book can be purchased in the campus book store.  Please do not try to get through the course without the text book.

**What, again:**

Course Requirements: There will be three midterms and a final. All exams will be worth 100 points, and will be a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Additionally, 100 points will be available by participating in class activities, debates, and test review exercises. If you are absent from class, you will not be able to receive the participation points for the activity from that day, so continued absences might become a problem in the number of points that you have earned. There will also be a term paper worth 100 points on any topic that is interesting to the student and relevant to the course. Students will receive a handout describing the paper and its format after the first few weeks of class.

Exams:

Make-up exams will be allowed only in the rare case of extreme emergencies, and at the discretion of the instructor. Students are not generally given, and should not expect, a make-up exam to be allowed without written documentation of the emergency condition (illness, accident, family emergency, etc.), and then only if some notice is given in advance of the exam. **The lowest of your midterm exam scores will be dropped in the evaluation of your final grade.** This means that missing a midterm will not necessarily count against you, but missing two will certainly hurt your final grade. However, **all students must take the final exam in order to pass the course and no make-up exams will be allowed for the final exam.**

Attendance and Class Etiquette:

You should be on time for all classes, and especially for the exams, because very important information is often given at the very beginning (and at the very end) of the class period. If you are often late to class, you won’t receive the benefit of the participation points that are an important component of your grade. Also, tardiness and leaving early are both disruptive to the class, so a **½ Absence will be assigned to those students arriving late or leaving early.** **If you accumulate more than 4 absences in the first 9 weeks of class, you will be dropped from the course. You may be dropped from the class without warning for lack of participation due to absences at any time during the semester if you have more than 4 absences.**

***Turn off all cell phones and pagers before coming into class. Please refrain from talking to other students during lectures and class discussions, and be respectful of the opinions and experiences of all class members.***

Special assistance:

If, after the first exam, you are not testing well in this class, please seek assistance for studying and test preparation.   If you require special assistance during the test taking process or need to take your exam under special conditions, please see me so we can make arrangements for you to take your exam with Disabled Student Services.  Because paperwork needs to be filled out for this service, please see me as soon as possible to make arrangements. If you have difficulty with test taking and need some assistance on how to prepare for exams, how to study for exams, or how to reduce your anxiety before taking an exam, please see me several weeks before the exam and I will offer you assistance. Everyone has the potential to do well. **Let’s do whatever it takes to make sure you get the extra help you need.**

**Me, again:**

There are two ways to reach me if you want to during the course of the semester:     
               1. You can leave me a voice mail message. Since it is a voice mail system you may call it anytime 24 hours a day.  Please leave a detailed message with a phone number (not a pager) and the time you would like me to call you back.     
   2. The best way to reach me quickly is to email me.  I usually check email every day and reply soon.  My email address is john.terrell@reedleycollege.edu.  
If you do not have an email account you may open one in the Library Computer Lab.

**Grades**: Final grades will be decided by the following scale. There will be a total of 500 points possible from the three 100-point midterms, the 100-point final, the 100-point paper, and 100 points available from in-class and participation activities (remember, your lowest test score will be dropped):

500-465 A (93%) 384-365 C (73%)

464-450 A- (90%) 364-350 C- (70%)

449-435 B+ (87%) 349-335 D+ (67%)

434-415 B (83%) 334-315 D (63%)

414-400 B- (80%) 314-300 D- (60%)

399-385 C+ (77%) Below 300 Don’t go here!

**When, again:**

**Topic Readings**

Week 1 (1/13) Introduction Chapter 1

Week 2 (1/20) Culture and Nature Chapter 2

Week 3 (1/27) The Self Chapter 3

Week 4 (2/3) Behavior Control Chapter 4

**Exam 1- (2/5)**

(On exam day, please bring a Scantron 886-E and a #2 pencil. The Scantron form can be purchased in the book store.  You will need a total of 4 Scantrons for this course.)

Week 5-6 (2/10-2/17) Social Cognition Chapter 5

Week 7 (2/24) Emotion Chapter 6

Week 8 (3/3) Attitudes Chapter 7

**Exam 2- (3/5)**

Week 9 (3/10) Prosocial behavior Chapter 8

Week 10-11 (3/17-3/24) Aggression Chapter 9

Week 12 (3/31) Attraction/ Close Relationships Chapter 10-11

**Exam 3- (4/2)**

Week 13 (4/7) Have a great Spring Break!

Week 14-15 (4/14-4/21) Prejudice Chapter 12

Week 16 (4/28) Social Influence Chapter 13

Week 17-18 (5/5-5/12) Groups Chapter 14

Week 19 **Final Exam**

**Tues., 5/19**

**1-2:50**

***This syllabus is subject to change and/or revision during the academic term.***

**Have a GREAT SEMESTER-If you have any questions, just ask!**

**Research Reports-**

All students will present a critical examination of an important topic in the social psychological literature, both in debate form and as a written report. Debate presentations will last 10-15 minutes, and should exhibit no errors or argumentative fallacies. This debate is worth 20 points, which will be included in the 100 points available for participation exercises. A list of debate topics and articles will be distributed and students will sign-up for a particular topic and a date to present the debate to the class.

Students will also turn in a paper that is a summary and description of their debate position. The paper will be 3-4 pages long (normal margins, 12-point font, not including title and reference page) and will be due at the time of the presentation. Where appropriate, the paper should address such issues as the importance of the topic, validity and reliability of the measures, sampling and randomization techniques and problems, and any other subject that the student believes strengthens or weakens the article. Triple check your paper for grammatical and spelling errors because those elements will be considered, with content and originality, in the evaluation of the assignment. This paper will be worth a maximum of 100 points.