Course Goals

The goal of this course is to introduce undergraduate students to social psychology in a meaningful way that is relevant to issues and developments in the world. This course will emphasize a sociological social psychology that emphasizes the social nature of consciousness, cognition, motivation, perception, and action. In addition to the text and the lectures, I will use some in class experiments, videos, and assigned videos to demonstrate basic concepts and assumptions. This information should be a means of empowerment for students that will help them to make enlightened decisions regarding a variety of personal and public issues and problems.

Online Course Methods and Pedagogy

While this is an online class, I want it to resemble a typical class as much as possible. With that goal in mind, I will have weekly video taped lectures and lecture outlines posted on Blackboard. Students can download the appropriate lecture outlines and watch or listen to the lectures. These lectures will address the core material presented in the class and will complement the text and a few assigned videos that can be watched online on Blackboard. Lectures will usually be about 30 minutes, but this may vary, and a few longer lectures may be broken into two or more parts.

If students have any questions regarding the lectures, they can email me and I will be glad to respond in a timely fashion as often as is necessary. I will also be in my office during office hours and will answer any phone calls or emails directly at that time. Please email me through Blackboard. There is also an online chat room where students can post questions regarding the materials and compare their grasp and interpretation of the ideas put forth in the class with other students. I encourage students to take advantage of the chat room, and get to know other students in the class, and if you so desire also set up study groups. Also, as explained below, participation in online discussion groups can be used to obtain extra credit.
Class Requirements

Each student must write one paper. There are three options for the paper. The first option (A) calls upon the student to do a small preliminary study wherein the student will conduct an experiment, survey, participant observation study, or ethnography. This study, done on a very small scale, may replicate existing research or promote a new hypothesis. In doing it, the student will put forth their hypothesis, test it, and summarize the significance of their results. This paper should be no longer than six pages. The second option (B) entails reading one of the books on the suggested book list. The student will evaluate the book in terms of the theory, principles, and research covered in this class or write an overview of the book highlighting its contribution to social psychology and society. This paper should be no more than five pages. The third option (C) calls upon the student to summarize what the student sees as the important social psychological assumptions put forth in this class. This paper should be no more than five pages in length. All papers should be double-spaced. The grade a student receives on a paper will reflect the degree to which the student can effectively define, utilize, and apply relevant concepts, principles, theories, and research. Feel free to call the instructor regarding any questions or problems. Students are advised to stay a week ahead in the readings.

Assigned Text and Videos.

The text for this course is Social Psychology, 7th Edition, by Aronson, Wilson, and Ekert. In addition to the text, there are a two assigned videos that are listed in the course outline. They can be watched online during the week they are assigned. They are posted and can be viewed on Blackboard under Assigned Videos. I also use videos in some of my lectures. When I use them, in the lecture I will refer the student to the appropriate video in the “Assigned Videos” file on Blackboard. Be sure to watch these videos as they come up in the lectures. They are important, and they are on the exams.

Grading

There will be two online exams that cover lectures, texts, and videos. Each exam will be worth 50 points, and the paper is worth 50 points, making 150 total points possible. However, five extra credit bonus point questions built into each exam, and students can also obtain five additional bonus points by posting up five times on the discussion board with a question or a response to a question posted by someone else. To get credit, online postings must be done before the week of the last exam. Reviews are incorporated into the taped lectures, and students should refer to the weekly reviews when preparing for exams.

Disabled Students

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need academic accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information for this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
Course Outline

Weeks One (August 20): Introduction / Psychological and Sociological Social Psychology

Social Psychology: Chapter 1, Introduction
Social Psychology: Chapter 2, Methodology

Introduction
Lecture One

Week Two (August 27): Epistemology / Methods / Theory

Social Psychology: Chapter 3, Social Cognition

Lecture Two
Lecture Three

Week Three (September 3): Cognition / Perception / Emotion / Motivation

Social Psychology: Chapter 4, Social Perception

Lecture Four
Lecture Five


Social Psychology: Chapter Five 5, Self

Lecture Six
Lecture Seven

Week Five (September 17): Self / Self-Concept, Theories of Self, Self-Awareness / Self Esteem

Social Psychology: Chapter 6, The Need to Justify Our Actions

Lecture Eight
Lecture Nine

Week Six (September 24): Attitudes / Attitude Change, Attitude Inoculation Cognitive Dissonance.

Social Psychology: Chapter 7, Attitudes and Attitude Change

Lecture Ten
Week Seven (October 1): Midterm

Online Midterm: October 1st

First Six weeks, lectures 1-10
Social Psychology: Chapters 1 - 7
In class videos.

Week Eight (October 8): Fall Break. No Class

Video: Twelve Angry Men
Video: Thirteen Days

Week Nine (October 15): Conformity / Ideology / Conformity / Double Speak

Social Psychology: Chapter 8, Conformity: Influencing Behavior

Lecture Eleven
Lecture Twelve

Week Ten (October 23): Authority, Stanley Milgram’s Agentic State / Social Control

Lecture Thirteen
Lecture Fourteen

Week Eleven (October 29): Authority on the Street / Inside Organizations

Social Psychology: Chapter 9, Group Processes: Influence in Social Groups

Lecture Fifteen
Lecture Sixteen

Week Twelve (November 5): Group Processes / Process Loss / Group Think / Leadership / Social Control / Conflict Negotiation

Social Psychology: Chapter 10, Interpersonal Attraction: From First Impressions to Close Relationships

Lecture Seventeen
Lecture Eighteen
Week Thirteen (November 12): Human Attachment / Human Dependence, and Growth / Interpersonal Attraction / Interpersonal Gain and Loss / Theories of Love

Social Psychology: Chapter 11, Prosocial Behavior: Why People Help

Lecture Eighteen
Lecture Nineteen

Week Fourteen (November 19): Prosocial Behavior / Altruism / Exchange Theory / Sociobiology

Social Psychology: Chapter 12, Aggression: Why We Hurt Other People

Lecture Twenty
Lecture Twenty-one


Social Psychology: Chapter 13, Prejudice: Causes and Cures

Lecture Twenty-two
Lecture Twenty-three

Week Sixteen (December 3): Prejudice / Possible Remedies / Summary / Review

Lecture Twenty-four
Lecture Twenty-five

Papers due: December 7th.

Week Seventeen (December 10): Final Exam Online.

Online Exam: December 10th
Lectures, Text, In-class Lectures and Videos, Weeks 8-16.
Social Psychology Chapters 8 - 13
Video: Thirteen Days, Kevin Costner
Video: Twelve Angry Men
Suggested Readings

Obedience, Stanley Milgram (authority)
Gang Leader for a Day, Sudhir Venkatesh
A Long Way Gone, Ishmael Beah
The Anatomy of Peace, The Arbinger Institute
Amusing Ourselves to Death, Neil Postman
Self and Society: A Symbolic Interactionist Social Psychology, John P. Hewitt
Symbolic Interactionism: Genesis, varieties and criticism. Meltzer, Petras, and Reynolds
The Faces of Terrorism: Social and Psychological Dimensions, Neil J. Smelser
In the Wake of 9/11: The Psychology of Terror, Pyszczynski, Solomon, and Greenberg
Character and Social Structure, (social psychology) Hans Gerth and C. Wright Mills
Dark Ages Ahead, Jane Jacobs (coming decline of western civilization)
The Sane Society, Eric Fromm (critical analysis of modern times)
Escape From Freedom, Erich Fromm (alienation, capitalism)
Of Wolves and Men, Barry Lopez (speciesism, wolf society)
Culture Against Man, Jules Henry (culture as vehicle and obstacle)
One Dimensional Man, Herbert Marcuse (alienation, technology)
The Culture of Narcissism, Christopher Lasch (anomie, alienation in America)
The Minimal Self, Christopher Lasch (alienation and anomie in America)
On Being Human, Ashley Montagu (social interdependence and meaning)
The Hidden Injuries of Class, Sennet & Cobb (real people talk on stratification)
Body Politics, Nancy M. Henley (Gender, social control under the skin)
Asylums, Erving Goffman (total institutions)
The Abyss, Jack London (powerful ethnography of poverty in England, 1900.)
Civilization and Its Discontents, Sigmund Freud (Society, control, human nature)
The McDonalization of Society, George F. Ritzer
The Pursuit of Attention, Charles Derber
Race Matters, Cornel West (racism)
Man’s Search For Meaning, Viktor E. Frankl (holocaust, racism)
The Other Side, Howard S. Becker (deviance, labeling theory)
The Lonely Crowd, David Reisman (modern alienation)
The Revolution Within, Gloria Steinem (sexism)
The Second Sex, Simone de Beauvoir (feminism, sexism)
The Axemaker’s Gift, (evolution of consciousness) James Burke and Robert Orstein
The Social Order, Charles Cooley, (Timeless classic on human nature)
Human Nature and the Social Order, Charles Cooley.
Theory of the Leisure Class, Thorstein Veblen (conspicuous consumption and status)
The Sociological Imagination, C. Wright Mills (sociology, meaning, and morality)
The Power Elite, C. Wright Mills, (Elites)
White Collar, C. Wright Mills. (stratification, power, morality)
Power, Politics, and People, C. Wright Mills (collected essays)
The Causes of World War Three, C. Wright Mills, (social criticism)
The Marxists, C. Wright Mills, (critical survey of Marxist thought)
On Psychology, William James (foundations of western psychology, classic)
The Sacred Canopy, Peter Burger, (social construction of religion)
Varieties of Religious Experience, William James (psychology of religion, classic)
The Human Zoo, Desmond Morris (human nature, naturalistic)
On the Division of Labor, Emile Durkheim (classic on the social order)
Presentation of Self in Everyday Life, Erving Goffman (classic on social interaction)
Flow, The Psychology of Optimal Experience, Michaly Csikzentmihalyi (happiness)
On Civil Disobedience, Thoreau (dissent, morality and society)
The Accidental Century, Michael Harrington (critical analysis of U.S. culture)
The Social Construction of Reality, Berger & Luckmann (sociology of knowledge)
On Death and Dying, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross (psychology of death)
Technopoly, Neil Postman, (critical analysis of technology and progress)
On Violence, Hannah Arendt (social psychology of violence)
Life is A Miracle, Wendell Berry (science, art, knowledge, morality)
In the Presence of Fear, Wendell Berry (globalization)
Feminist Thought, A Comprehensive Introduction, Rosemarie Tong (feminism)
On the Future of the Planet, Edward O. Wilson (deep ecology)
The Sea of Cortez, John Steinbeck, (science, art, evolution, human nature)
Selected writings of George Herbert Mead, Edited by Andrew J. Reck
On Suicide, Emile Durkheim
Freedom and Culture, John Dewey
Experience and Nature, John Dewey
The Robbers Cave Experiment, Muzafer Sherif, Harvey, White, Hood, Sherif
Collapse, Jerad Diamond, (ecological basis of society)
The Organizational Man, William F. White (classic in sociology on conformity)
Manufactured News, Noam Chomsky (media, communication, politics)
Never Cry Wolf, Farley Mowat (naturalist, deep ecology)
The Unsettling of America, Wendel Berry, (ecology, economics, business)
Small is Beautiful, Economics as if People Mattered, Schumacher (ecology & survival)
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, Dee Brown (racism, imperialism)
Gorillas in the Mist, Diane Fossey (specieism)
Black Boy, Richard Wright (racism)
The Acorn People, Ron Jones, (Life with disabled and terminally ill kids, stigma)
Democracy for the Few, Michael Parenti (radical view on elitism, class conflict)
Uncle Tom’s Cabin, H. B. Stowe (racism)
The Nature of Prejudice, Gordon Allport (prejudice)
The Lemming Condition, Alan Arkin (family, deviance, labeling)
The Gift of Fear, Gavin De Becker, (crime prevention, detection, profiling)
Genome, Matt Ridley, (Genetics, Deep Sociobiology)
The True Believer, Eric Hoffer (Social psychology of reactionary movements)
Marx's Concept of Man, Eric Fromm
Connected: The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks mChristakis & Folwer.
Bright-Sided: How the Relentless Prmotion of Positive Thinking Has Undermined America.
Barbara Ehrenreich.
Freakonomics, Steven D. Levitt. (research driven theory)
Super Freakonomics, Steven D. Levitt (research driven theory)
My Stroke of Insight, Jill Bolte Taylor, (cognition, social experience)
Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality, Kent L. Daniel D. Sandstrom, Martin, Gary Alan Fine