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 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, video and audio taped lectures and lecture outlines are posted weekly 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. Each lecture will be broken into two twenty or thirty-minute segments.

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, you can earn extra credit, by posting up on the Blackboard with a thought or question.
Class Requirements

Each student must write one five or six page paper, double spaced in a readable font. 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. 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. 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. 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 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.” Occasionally, I also show videos in the lectures. When this is done, I will direct you to the appropriate video in “Assigned Videos File.”

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 are built into each exam. 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. These questions and responses must address concepts or issues addressed in the class, and must made before the last week of class.

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 (May 16): **Introduction / Psychological and Sociological Social Psychology**

- Social Psychology: Chapter 1, Introducing Social Psychology
- Social Psychology: Chapter 2, Methodology

Week Two (May 23): **Epistemology / Methods / Theory**

- Social Psychology: Chapter 3, Social Cognition
- Social Psychology: Chapter 4, Social Perception

Week Three (May 30): **Cognition / Perception / Attribution Theory / Erving Goffman on Impression Management**

- Social Psychology: Chapter Five 5, The Self

Week Four (June 6): **Self-Awareness / Self-Esteem / Attitudes & Belief Systems**

- Social Psychology: Chapter 6, The Need to Justify Our Actions
- Social Psychology: Chapter 7, Attitudes and Attitude Change

Week Five (June 13): **Midterm Review / Midterm**

Midterm Review

- Online Midterm Tuesday 14 through Wednesday the 15th.

  - Frist four weeks, lectures, text, in-class presentations and videos.
  - Social Psychology : Chapters 1 – 7

- Video: Twelve Angry Men

Week Six (June 20): **Group Processes Sociological Social Psychology, Milgram on Obedience and Authority**

- Social Psychology: Chapter 8, Conformity

- Video: Thirteen Days, Kevin Kostner

Week Seven (June 27): **Interpersonal Attraction and Prosocial Behavior**

- Social Psychology: Chapter 9, Group Processes
- Social Psychology: Chapter 10, Interpersonal Attraction
**Week Eight (July 4): Prosocial Behavior / Aggression**

- Social Psychology: Chapter 11, Prosocial Behavior: Why People Help
- Social Psychology: Chapter 12, Aggression: Why We Hurt Other People

**Week Nine (July 11): Aggression / Prejudice**

- Social Psychology: Chapter 12, Aggression: Why We Hurt Other People
- Social Psychology: Chapter 13, Prejudice

**Week Ten (July 18) Applied Social Psychology**

- Social Psychology: Social Psychology in Action 1, Social Psychology and Health

**Week Eleven (July 25): The Sociological Model / Symbolic Interactionism / Sociology of Knowledge / Conclusions**

  - Work on papers.
  
  - Papers due Frday 28th of July.

**Week Twelve (August 1): Final Review / Exam**

  - Final Exam: Wednesday August 3rd through Thursday August 4th.

  - Lectures, Text, In-class Presentations, Videos, Weeks 6 - 11.

  - Social Psychology Chapters 8 - 13

  - Social Psychology in Action 1, 2, 3

  - Symbolic Interactionism

  - Video: Twelve Angry Men
  - Video: Thirteen Days, Kevin Costner
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
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, Eric 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 It's 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 (sociolog, 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 Berger, (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, Muzafet 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, Christakis & Fowler.
Bright-Sided: How the Relentless Promotion 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