About your instructor:
I am a PhD graduate student in Sociology with an emphasis in Comparative International Sociology. I graduated with Master's degree in Social Psychology in 2006 with an emphasis in theoretical and philosophical psychology. I began teaching university courses as an undergraduate and have been responsible for my own curriculum for over 15 semesters.
I believe wholeheartedly in education and its merits but I believe education is only useful in as much as it can be applied to real world experiences and situations. As such, I value dialogue and discussion to include diverse experiences as a useful and necessary means to educational ends. It is my opinion that learning comes with a balance between effort and success. Therefore, if you just want to cruise through class, I do not recommend taking this course—this course is an elective, so it is available to you to change courses and still fulfill the program requirements. I invite you to consider your goals as a student at University as you are spending valuable time and money to be here.
I expect students to be interested and enthusiastic in the subject matter and willing to put in time and effort to learn material. I encourage students in my classes to think practically, creatively, and flexibly or “outside-the-box.” I want to help students verify that their learning style matches my teaching style as a good student-teacher match will ideally make for an enjoyable and productive semester for everyone.

Course Overview:
Social Psychology is the scientific study of how our behaviors, thoughts, and emotions are affected by the real or imagined presence of other people. Social psychology is, in essence, the study of people in social interactions. This course is designed to introduce students to selected areas of research in social psychology, including domains such as the social self, social influence, and social relations. Through lectures, readings, discussions, and group activities, students will learn about the theories and research practices surrounding the study of social psychological phenomena.

Course Objectives:
To enable students to identify and describe behavioral phenomena as they relate to social groups.
To familiarize students with researchers and areas of research involved in developing the discipline of Social Psychology.
To critically evaluate and apply course material to social situations and to students themselves.

Text:

Additional Readings:
From time to time, there will be additional journal articles to supplement course topics. These materials are listed on the course schedule when they will be covered in class and are available on WebCT.


**Assignments:**

**Participation:**

There will be class activities where you will be required to participate. There will be 10 points for each class period assignment. You may choose to miss 1 class period assignment without penalty to your grade. You are encouraged to come prepared for lectures having read course materials. You will not be penalized for class periods that have been canceled.

**Question Sets:**

For each chapter, there are sets of short essay questions designed to help you apply material from your textbook for each chapter we cover (1-13). You are encouraged to complete 5 short essays of your choice including an illustration or example of each principle from your own personal experience or of someone you know well. A personal experience is required so that you can apply this material to your own life. In some questions, an example is explicitly required in the question; in such cases you do not need to provide more than one. You may use your textbook and other resources to complete these essays. Essay responses are to be double spaced, 1 inch margins, size 12 pt font. Each assignment is optional but in completing one successfully, I will add 5 points to your exam score for every question set completed. Question sets will only be accepted the week that material is covered in class (Question set 1 will be due on Week 2). Late question sets are not accepted.

**Exams:**

Exams will be administered online and will be comprised of select questions covering material from your question set list. Each test will cover roughly 3 chapters covering 50 questions (2 points per question). You will have roughly 45 minutes to complete them. Your exams will be worth 40% of your total grade.

**Extra Credit:**

Social psychology is visible in small groups which can be manipulated to accentuate how such social processes and phenomenon work. The party game “Mafia” is such an environment where you can practice watching certain social principles at work. 30 points extra credit will be given to students who play the game and provide a 4 page write up of the social psychology of the game.
There are many variants of the game, most of which are acceptable (see http://www.princeton.edu/~mafia/oldmafia/rules.htm for details of game play and variations). Apply what you learn from the course to your game of Mafia. Please describe the type of game, the number of players, the principle(s) you observed and how it played out during the game. Explain the actors’ roles in the processes you describe and how it compared with your knowledge of the principle from class. Be specific and include examples from the game you played.

Final grades will be based on your cumulative total points from the above assignments at the end of the semester. Grades are based on the following percentages:

- A = 95%
- B- = 80%
- D+ = 66%
- A- = 90%
- C+ = 76%
- D = 63%
- B+ = 86%
- C = 73%
- D- = 60%
- B = 83%
- C- = 70%
- E = less than 60%

Class Schedule:
This schedule is subject to change and will likely occur depending on our progress.

Week 1 Jan 12
Course Info and Introduction to Social Psychology

Week 2
The Person and the Situation ch. 2

Week 3
Social Cognition. Ch 3
Test chs 1-3, online through WebCT open Thursday-Friday.

Week 4
Presenting the Self. Ch 4
Additional Reading “Private Reactions to Public Transgressions”

Week 5
Attitudes and Persuasion. Ch 5

Week 6
Social Influence Ch 6
Additional Reading “Behavioral Study of Obedience”
Test chs 4-6, online through WebCT open Thursday-Friday.

Week 7
Affiliation and Friendship. Ch 7
Week 8
Love and Romantic Relationships. Ch 8

Week 9
Prosocial Behavior. Ch 9

Week 10
Aggression. Ch 10
Additional Reading “Southern Culture of Honor”
Test chs 7-10, online through WebCT open Thursday-Friday.

Week 11 – Spring Break – No Classes Mar 21-26

Week 12
Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination. Ch 11

Week 13
Groups Ch 12

Week 14
Social Dilemmas (through page 468) Ch 13 and Conclusions
Additional Reading “Plan 9 from CyberSpace”
Test chs 11-13 (through pages 468), online through WebCT open Thursday-Friday.

This syllabus may change depending on circumstances during the semester. You will be notified of any changes throughout the course of the semester. Please ensure that the your email account registered with the University is one you regularly check as I will attempt to send information using that email account.

Things to Remember:

- Faculty and Student Responsibilities: All University policies and procedures will be followed. Please refer to the University of Utah Faculty Handbook (http://www.admin.utah.edu/fhb/) and Student Code (http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html).
- Cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean. The penalty for cheating is an automatic failing grade for the course, in addition to other potential penalties decided by the Dean's Office.
- These actions are consistent with consequences of other forms of theft. The reason for strict cheating and plagiarism guidelines results from the fact that plagiarism is stealing other's work and claiming it as your own. The foundation of science is that one person's
findings can be trusted. Furthermore, distrust undermines the whole progress of scientific
discovery. Please prepare ahead of time so you will not feel tempted to steal work from other
people. See to it that you are not guilty of undermining the progress of knowledge.
• ADA Statement: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services
and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class,
reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union
Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements
for accommodations. Please inform me of disabilities with written documentation from the
Center for Disability Services within the first 2 weeks of class so appropriate accommodations
can be made.
• Accommodations: Some of the writings, lectures, films or presentations in this course may
include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus
and course materials carefully to see if this course is one you are committed to taking. If you
have concerns, please discuss it with me within the first two weeks of the course.
• If you are a member of a university athletic team, you must provide me with a schedule of
games and team commitments during the first two weeks of the semester.
• I will retain unclaimed student exams and papers until May 31st 2011. Please make a note of
this for your records.
• As there will be class discussions, I ask that you please be respectful towards me and others as
well as turning off cell phones, refraining from disruptive personal conversation and arriving on
time. If you do bring a laptop for notes, please do not surf the interwebs as it is a distraction to
others around you and your instructor can usually tell making it a distraction to him/her also.