

## PSYCHOLOGY 245 / SOCIOLOGY 245: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Fall Quarter 2009

Meets MWF, 11:00am – 12:20pm

Location: ED 2841A

**Instructor:** Melissa Grinley

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 11-1, Wednesdays 1-3  
and by appointment

### **Required Text (available at bookstore):**

Kassin, S., Fein, S., and Markus, H. R. (2008). *Social Psychology (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*. Houghton Mifflin Publishers.

**Other required readings:** There is a reader for this course. You can purchase it at Prestige Copy and Print, 11023 8th Ave NE # B- near the Starbucks, behind Greenlake Jewelry on Northgate Way. The cost is about \$8. You might want to call ahead to make sure they have a copy- if they're out, it will take them about 15 minutes to print it- 206-365-5770

### **Course Description**

PSY/SOC 245 is a multicultural introduction to theory and research on the effects others have on the individual's self-concept, social cognition, attitudes and behaviors such as conformity, helping, aggression, attraction, and prejudice. This course fulfills the U.S. Cultures requirement and is a transfer class.

*Social psychology has, as a rule, dealt with various phases of social experience from the psychological standpoint of individual experience.*

~ George H. Mead

*"It may be that we are puppets-puppets controlled by the strings of society. But at least we are puppets with perception, with awareness. And perhaps our awareness is the first step to our liberation."*

~ Stanley Milgram

### **What is this course about and what will I learn?**

Social psychology is a branch of the larger discipline of psychology, which is the scientific study of mental processes and behavior. The course description and above quotes give a sense of what social psychology truly is: the examination of how individuals think about, influence, and relate to each other. That's a lot to tackle in 11 weeks! My overall goal is that you will obtain a stronger sense of how social relations affect the way we think and behave, and that awareness will inform you further to help you think, behave, and relate to others more effectively and compassionately. That said, of course there are also the formal course goals, as well as the NSCC learning outcomes this course is designed to achieve.

### Course Outcomes/Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Describe, recognize, and explain the basic concepts of social psychology
- Think critically about research and understand the importance of the scientific process
- Recognize how powerful the social forces are that affect your interactions and how you

- think and feel about yourself and others
- Appreciate how social psychology is relevant to everyday life
  - Discuss sensitive topics such as culture, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, prejudice, sexual orientation, and abilities in a respectful manner
  - Recognize diversity within U.S. cultures and understand the United States as a multicultural society

NSCC General Education Learning Outcomes Met by Course:

- Outcome 1. Think critically in reading and writing.
- Outcome 6. Work and communicate effectively in groups.
- Outcome 7. Deal constructively with information, ideas, and emotions associated with such issues of diversity and conflict as culture, ethnicity, race, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, and abilities.
- Outcome 11. Understand the nature of the individual and of the relationship between the self and the community.
- Outcome 12. Understand the United States as a multicultural society.

**Course Content and Format**

Class meetings will consist of lectures, films, discussions, and class activities. The overlap between what's covered in class and the readings will vary according to the topic. Classes are meant to *complement* the information contained in the readings. Often, information that is not found in the textbook or reader will be discussed, and often, there will be material in the texts that is not covered explicitly in class. **Thus, both completing all assigned reading and attending class will be necessary for your success in the course.** You are expected to have done the reading **before** the day it is required, so that you may be an active participant in class discussion and activities.

**Grading**

Discussion Preparation: As noted under "Other required reading", there are articles besides the textbook that you will be responsible for reading. These articles illustrate some of the concepts from the textbook and provide further examination of issues related to U.S. culture. For each article you will write a 2 page reflection on the article in preparation for class discussion. Guidelines for this assignment will be given in class. Completed discussion preparation paper (on time) and participation in the discussion earn up to 10 points. However, you may complete the assignment late and turn it in at the next class meeting for up to 5 points. Discussion preparations will not be accepted any later than that following class meeting.

Exams: There will be three exams given over the course of the quarter based on information from your textbook and lecture. Exams will consist of material covered only since the last exam (not cumulative). Exams will be worth 60 points each, and will include multiple-choice, short answer, and short essay questions. **There are no make-up exams.** If you know you will be unable to take an exam ahead of time, please speak with me and we can discuss an alternative.

Appeals: If you believe your answer to an exam question is correct even though it was marked incorrect, you may appeal to me in writing (*not* email) within one week of receiving your exam grade. In your appeal, state why you think your answer is correct, *and why the answer marked as correct is not the best answer.* Note that appeals should be based on the contents of the readings or lecture (or possibly a legitimate outside source), and not on your personal opinion and sources should be cited. Credit can be earned depending on your justification.

Perspectives Project: Because social psychology is an examination of human relationships and

the influence of social experiences on the self, it lends itself well to an examination of social issues and questions. This quarter you will learn to use the discipline of social psychology to examine a question you are interested in. This research project will involve a collection of sources as well as a written component. More detailed instructions for the project will be distributed and discussed in the second week of class.

Participation: Due to the nature of the class material, class participation is an important aspect of the learning process and is worth a portion of your grade. This includes coming to class every day on time, paying attention in class, and participating in class activities and discussions, as well as keeping up with the reading (which prepares you for those activities and discussions!). Because to a certain degree, participation is subjective, you will be asked to assess your own class participation at exams.

Grade Assessment: Grades will be assessed according to the following point system:

Discussions (8 @ 10 points each) = 80 points

Exams (3 @ 60 points each) = 180 points

Perspectives Project = 100 points

Participation = 40 points

**Total Points Possible = 400**

**Final grades will be assessed by the following point totals:**

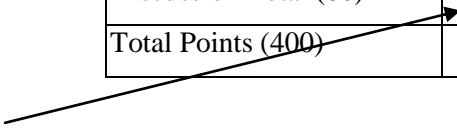
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386-400	4.0	338-342	3.0	298-302	2.0	258-262	1.0
370-385	3.9	332-337	2.9	292-297	1.9	252-257	0.9
367-369	3.8	329-331	2.8	289-291	1.8	246-251	0.8
365-366	3.7	326-328	2.7	286-288	1.7	240-245	0.7
363-365	3.6	323-325	2.6	283-285	1.6	0-239	0.0
360-362	3.5	320-322	2.5	280-282	1.5		
356-359	3.4	316-319	2.4	276-279	1.4		
353-355	3.3	313-315	2.3	273-275	1.3		
348-352	3.2	308-312	2.2	268-272	1.2		
343-347	3.1	303-307	2.1	263-267	1.1		

**You are responsible for keeping track of how you are doing in the course. I recommend you keep a running total of your points as the quarter progresses.**

Discussion Preps	Points
Discussion #1 (10)	
Discussion #2 (10)	
Discussion #3 (10)	
Discussion #4 (10)	
Discussion #5 (10)	
Discussion #6 (10)	
Discussion #7 (10)	
Discussion #8 (10)	
Discussion Total (80)	

Overall Grade	Points
Exam 1 (60)	
Exam 2 (60)	
Exam 3 (60)	
Participation (40)	
Perspectives Project (100)	
Discussion Total (80)	
Total Points (400)	



Withdrawal, No Credit, or Incomplete Grades

You are responsible for your course registration and enrollment. **If you decide you do not want to continue this course, you must withdraw through registration before November 20.** If you do not withdraw, and do not complete enough coursework to earn a passing grade, you will receive a 0 in the course unless an NC or I is warranted AND requested (note that it is under my discretion whether to grant it).

**Computer Issues**

I stick very solidly to my late policies. I mark down (as noted earlier) if your assignment is late, and discussion prep papers that are not ready to be discussed at the **start** of class on the day they're due are late. If you have a computer problem, this is not an acceptable excuse for lateness and I will not adjust my policy. That is, if you come in to class late because the printer jammed and you couldn't get your discussion prep done in time, it will not be accepted late. I suggest making sure to have things done and printed the night before class to ensure there are no glitches and to give you ample time to solve any computer problems that may arise.

**Plagiarism and Cheating**

Though I dislike having to give this section its own heading, I have learned from the past that it is important to address the issue of academic dishonesty. The Seattle Community College District takes its Academic Honesty Code very seriously and so do I. If a student is found cheating on an exam or using other's work without proper citation in an assignment, a zero will be given and further disciplinary action may be taken (per Washington Administrative Code 132F-121-120).

**A Note About Attendance**

Due to the amount of material in the class and the nature of the coursework (e.g. discussions and activities), it is important that you come to class every day on time. If you are tardy you may miss important information. If you must miss class, please notify me by phone or email that you will be absent. If you miss class more than 2 days without notification, you will be requested to meet with me to discuss your progress in the course.

### **Cell Phones (and Ipods, etc)...**

are to be **turned off** (even ‘vibrate’ mode is distracting) before class begins, and may not be turned on again until class ends. **No electronic devices are allowed during exams.** Please be courteous to your fellow students by making sure that anything that might ‘go off’ or make noise is turned off so that there are no disruptions.

### **Study Skills/Resources**

This is a course with a heavy load of information, both from class material and the lectures. If you need assistance, you have the following resources at your disposal:

Class Website: I post a class website which is located at: <http://grinley245.blogspot.com/> It contains this syllabus, which you can download if you lose this copy (bookmark it!). Also, I will post any PowerPoint slides presented in class lectures that you may download before class to cut down on note-writing time (note: this does not *replace* taking notes, the slides provide an outline you must complete). The site also contains links to important websites you might need to access (e.g. the Library, the Loft) and current headlines in social psychology news. I will periodically post supplementary material that may be of interest to you, such as news articles or links to websites connected with topics discussed in class. You have the opportunity to respond to any post I make, and I hope you feel free to add comments or thoughts (these can supplement your class participation). The website also contains a link to a discussion board which I hope will be well utilized by all of us- you may post observations, study group meetings, further discussion and/or questions related to class material on this board. I encourage the use of this forum as a chance to connect with fellow students and further delve into topics that might be too limited by our class time.

Counseling Center: Located in CC 2346A (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, north end of the CC building), 527-3676. The Counseling Center provides an array of free academic support services, including consultations on study skills, test taking, and concentration issues. They also are available to help students with career counseling, stress management, and offer support for both academic and personal issues. Their website: <http://www.northseattle.edu/services/counseling/>

The Loft Writing Center: Located in the top floor of the Library, Tel: 526-0078. If you need assistance with your writing, they can help. They offer free one-on-one help with everything from ESL issues to brainstorming and revising term papers. They also have a nice website that has some handouts on writing: <http://www.northseattle.edu/services/loft/> Click on “Online Resources”. Another good website is the UW Psychology Writing Center: <http://depts.washington.edu/psywc/>

Disability Services: Located in CC 2460, 527-3697, 526-0079 (TTY). DS provides assistance to students with permanent or temporary physical, mental, learning, or sensory disabilities. The American Disabilities Act is designed to ensure that students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to access academic programs and successfully complete their studies. Any student with special needs must bring documentation to Disability Services before any academic adjustments will be made. Any contacts and/or information will remain strictly confidential. If you have a documented disability, register with DS, and speak to me as soon as possible about any course adaptations or accommodations you might need, or if you have emergency medical information or special arrangements in case of an evacuation so that I can be aware of your needs. DS website: <http://www.northseattle.edu/services/disability/>

ME: Obvious but often overlooked! I have office hours; please do not hesitate to use them. If

you cannot meet during the times listed at the top of the syllabus, please send me an email and we can arrange a time to meet. I am here for you, please let me know if you are having trouble understanding a concept or studying for exams, etc. If you get through the first exam and are worried about your grade, please come to me and we can work on areas that need improvement. Don't wait until the end of the quarter to sort out grade issues or try to make it up...it will be too late.

Other Students: I encourage study groups. There is a lot of material in this class to learn. Getting together with fellow classmates outside of class to discuss this material not only helps you remember but also gives you a chance to articulate points and concepts, which will promote better understanding. You can also offset your weaknesses with others' strengths and vice versa.

#### **One final note- your role**

**We will talk a lot this quarter about *social roles*. According to David Myers, social roles are “a set of norms that defines how people in a given social position ought to behave.” We all have many roles in our lives: as daughters, sons, mothers, fathers, friends, coworkers, customers, spouses...the list can be quite long. Something I find in the classroom is that there are often expectations for these roles: the teacher teaches and the students learn. This is a half-truth. Part of why I enjoy teaching so much is because I love learning, and every quarter I learn so much from what students bring to the class- from their own past learning or from new discoveries along the journey. I look forward to a classroom environment that promotes this openness and learning by all of us from each other. Welcome to class!**

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:** Please have all readings completed **before** class on the day they are listed.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>1</b>		<b>9/30</b>	<b>10/2</b> Introduction Text Chapter 1 <i>Discussion Prep 1 due</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>10/5</b> Research Methods Text Chapter 2	<b>10/7</b>	<b>10/9</b> Reader: Dutton and Aron <i>Discussion Prep 2 due</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>10/12</b> Social Self Text Chapter 3	<b>10/14</b>	<b>10/16</b> Reader: Tatum <i>Discussion Prep 3 due</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>10/19</b> Perceiving Persons Text Chapter 4	<b>10/21</b> Reader: Pitts, Jr.	<b>10/23</b> <b>EXAM #1 (Chapters 1-4)</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>10/26</b>	<b>10/28</b> Attitudes Text Chapter 6	<b>10/30</b> Reader: Murphy Paul. Kivel (1) <i>Discussion Prep 4 due</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>11/2</b>	<b>11/4</b> Prejudice Text Chapter 5	<b>11/6</b> Reader: Ayo, Bronson and Merryman <i>Discussion Prep 5 due</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>11/9</b>	<b>11/11</b> <b>VETERANS DAY: NO CLASS</b>	<b>11/13</b> Reader: Chow <i>Discussion Prep 6 due</i>
<b>8</b>	<b>11/16</b> Conformity Text Chapter 7	<b>11/18</b> Reader: Ehrenreich	<b>11/20</b> <b>EXAM #2 (Chapters 5,6,7)</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>11/23</b>	<b>11/25</b> Attraction Text Chapter 9	<b>11/27</b> <b>THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11/30</b>	<b>12/2</b> Group Processes Text Chapter 8	<b>12/4</b> Reader: Ifill <i>Discussion Prep 7 due</i>
<b>11</b>	<b>12/7</b> Helping Text Chapter 10	<b>12/9</b> Reader: Gino and Pierce	<b>12/11</b> Reader: Kivel (2) <i>Discussion Prep 8 due</i>
<b>12</b>	<b>12/14</b> <b>EXAM #3 (Chapters 8-10)</b>	<b>THURSDAY, DEC. 17, 10:30am-12:30pm:</b> <b>Perspectives Project due</b>	