

PSY 327
Cognitive Social Psychology
Spring, 2014
Shulan Lu

COGNITIVE SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS

Lecture times: TR 11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m.
Lecture room: SS 124

Office: Henderson 218
Office hour: TR (2:00-4:30 p.m.)
Contact: (903)468-8628; shulan.lu@tamuc.edu

What will you learn?

Social psychology is the scientific study of how individuals' thoughts, emotions, and behaviors are influenced by each other. Social psychology as a discipline has amassed a wealth of research findings. It would be impossible to cover all of the important findings in depth in a single course. Therefore, we will selectively examine some popular or important findings in social psychology. Examples of topics that may be covered include: social attribution, relationships, personal and social identity, social influence, attitudes, attribution, emotion, stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination.

Course Materials

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2013). *Social Psychology* (3rd ed.). New York: W. W. Norton.

Additional references:

1. *APA Publication Manual*.
2. Supplementary materials provided by instructor.

Grade Evaluation

Class participation: Given that discussion is a major form of learning in this course, class participation thus becomes an even more important component to a student's learning. Below are a few basic elements that go into class participation.

1. Maintain good attendance. At the maximum, you can miss 4 classes. While anyone can be late on rare occasions, habitual lateness is unacceptable. Also once in class, be prepared to stay for the entire class period.
2. Be attentive. Make frequent, and preferably intelligent, contributions to the class discussions.
3. Participate and collaborate constructively with group members on group work.
4. Be respectful toward all members of the class and their views.
5. Be **POSITIVE** toward the challenges you are facing in this course.

Disruptive behavior or disrespect toward other students or the instructor will not be tolerated. At the very least, it will cost a letter grade, and is subject to further penalty.

Class Participation Total: 40 points

Exams: There are two exams. The exams will be objective; that is, the questions will have a short answer format or a 4-alternative, multiple-choice format (as opposed to lengthy essay questions).

There will be NO after the fact make-up examinations. If for some REAL emergency you must miss an exam, make sure that you contact me BEFORE the exam.

Exam Total: 200 points (100 pts x 2)

Social Psychology in Media: Identify three different concepts we discuss in this course, provide a film snippet or a video clip that illustrates each concept well. For each submission, it needs to include the following components:

1. The concept and its definition in the textbook;
2. One example illustrating the concept in the textbook;
3. The name of the film;
4. A description of the film snippet, explaining how it illustrates the concept.
5. One of the three film snippets must be from a culture outside US and Canada.

The submission timeline: submit one at the end of Feb, one at the end of Mar, and the last one at the end of Apr. Please submit in class in person*.

Social Psychology in Media: 60 points

Research Participation: To gain a greater understanding of the research process, exposure to research is a course requirement. You can meet this requirement by participating in research studies and/or summarizing research articles found in PSYC Info published within the past five years. Some students choose to do a combination of these (e.g., participate in three research hours and summarize three research articles). The department research system has set up the following requirement: Students must participate in 6 hours of research studies. If you show up for ALL of the research studies on time, you only need to complete 4 hours of research studies. Half of the studies can be done online. If you choose to summarize research articles instead, each summarized article counts as 1 research-hour credit. Article summaries need to be emailed to Dr. Shulan Lu. ** The research exposure requirement is due Apr 30 at 11:59 pm.**

Research Participation: Failure to complete the research exposure requirement will result in one-grade step deduction (e.g., if you have an A in the course and do not fulfill the research exposure requirement, you will receive a B in the course).

To be on the safe side, assume that I grade on a numerical scale. However, I reserve the right to reward exemplary attendance and participation.

A = 270-300 pts

B = 240-269 pts

C = 210-239 pts

D = 180-209 pts

F < 180 pts

Other Important Basics:

Keep in mind that a syllabus sometimes shifts a little as the course gets underway. I say that by way of noting the importance of class attendance, as you will be held responsible for any change in plans announced in class. The other basic admonition every syllabus must include is that dishonesty (broadly defined) is not allowed. If you have any questions about what constitutes dishonesty, please see me. Or, as the university likes me to say: **“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”** (See Student’s Guide Handbook).

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Undergraduate Graduation Checklist:

1. Total Hours for degree met? (Must be at least 120 hrs)
2. Required Institutional-25% of course work taken at TAMU-Commerce?
3. Last Number Institutional Required-24 out of last 30 hrs?
4. Overall GPA at least 2.00 (2.50 for Certification Students)?
5. University Studies Met?
6. Major (plus support if applicable) Course Requirements Met?
7. Major GPA is at least 2.00 (2.50 for Certification Students)?
8. Major Required courses have C's or better?
9. At least 6 hours are advanced in Major?
10. All Certification Requirements Met? (Internship/Residency/Etc.)
11. 2nd Major (plus support if applicable) Course Requirements Met?
12. 2nd Major GPA is at least 2.00 (2.50 for Certification Students)?
13. Minor (plus support if applicable) Requirements Met?
14. Minor GPA is at least 2.00 (2.50 for Certification Students)?
15. Junior Level Essay Met?
16. Senior Level Check Met (minimum 60 hrs)?
17. Advanced Hour Check Met?
18. 24 Advanced Hours taken at TAMU-Commerce?
- 19. A&M Commerce GPA 2.00 Met (2.50 for Certification Students)?**

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1/14	General introduction Course organization	Syllabus
	1/16	Introduction to Social Psychology	Chap 1
2	1/21	Self	Chap 3
	1/23		
3	1/28	Thinking about people and situations	Chap 4
	1/30		
4	2/04	Social attribution	Chap 5
	2/06		
5	2/11	Emotion	Chap 6
	2/13		
6	2/18	Attitudes, behavior, and rationalization	Chap 7
	2/20		

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
7	3/04	Methods of social psychology	Chap 2
	3/06	Midterm Exam	
8	3/11, 13	Spring Break	
9	3/18	Persuasion	Chap 8
	3/20		
10	3/25	Social influence	Chap 9
	3/27		
11	4/01	Relationships and attraction	Chap 10
	4/03		
12	4/05	Stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination	Chap 11
	4/07		
13	4/08	Groups	Chap 12
	4/10		
14	4/15	Aggression	Chap 13
	4/17		
15	4/22	Altruism and cooperation	Chap 14
	4/24		
16	4/29	Methods of social psychology	Chap 2
	5/01	Final Exam	