Professor: Dr. Stephen Reysen  
Class Location: TBA  
Class Times: MTWR 8:00AM-12:00PM  
Office Location: Binnion 213  
Office Hours: M 12:00PM to 6:00PM, and by appointment  
Office Phone: 903-886-5197  
Office Fax: 903-886-5780  
Email Address: Stephen.Reysen@tamuc.edu (email is the best way to reach me)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Description:** The field of social cognition focuses on the underlying cognitive mechanisms for many forms of social behavior. This class will examine many theories and concepts in social psychology such as attribution theory, semantic processing, social comparison, culture, stereotypes, and false memories. There is no textbook for this class. Instead we will read journal articles and book chapters each class period. I will have these available on eCollege. There are no lectures. Instead we will discuss the readings that are assigned for each class period. The purpose of the readings is to give you an understanding of (1) the beginnings of social cognition, (2) major areas within social cognition, and (3) how social psychological research is conducted. Due to the breadth of the research that has been conducted in social psychology it is impossible to cover every theoretical contribution. Therefore, I have selected what I believe to be key writings in the field.

During the first class we will assign discussion leaders for each paper we will discuss in the class. The discussion leader will be responsible for (1) quickly summarizing the main points of that reading, (2) leading the discussion of that paper, (3) make sure we cover the major issues in the paper, and (4) provide their perspective on that paper. Discussion leaders are not to extensively summarize each paper, because all class members will have done the reading before the class session.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Grading:** Grades will be based on in-class contribution and a final research proposal paper. In-class contribution involves participation in each discussion. Discussion involves leading the class discussion for the papers that you are assigned. The final research proposal is a serious proposal of research. This paper should not exceed 15 pages (double spaced). In the proposal you will review some relevant literature, state a hypothesis, and then propose a study that directly tests your hypothesis. Please discuss this paper with me before beginning.

Assessment: In-class contribution: 25%, Research proposal: 75%
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You will need access to a computer with internet to access eCollege.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor: Please feel welcome to contact me by email. All email should receive a response within 48 hours. If you have not received a response then assume your email did not go through and please try again to make contact. All email should include student’s last name, first name, course name, and brief description of the reason for contact.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Student Behavior: My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. (1) Immaturity will NOT be tolerated! If a student’s behavior is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to stop. (2) Respect: Given the nature of this course, we may discuss issues that some of you may find embarrassing, uncomfortable, and/or even “inappropriate.” To remain in this class, you must be respectful of others and maintain a mature and professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course. (3) The Student’s Guidebook addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions. It’s simple. Do NOT cheat (to cheat is to act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage) or plagiarize (to plagiarize is to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one’s own).

Changes to Class: Minor changes may be made to this schedule; modifications will be announced on eCollege.

Students with Disabilities: 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

Respect: More generally, if you have any problems or concerns regarding this course, please contact me as soon as possible. Your feedback (both positive and negative) is more than welcome. We should strive to respect and value the diversity that exists in TAMUC classrooms (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity, national origin, disability, geographic backgrounds, political orientation, sexual orientation). While we may sometimes disagree with each other on topics discussed in class, it’s important that we remember that appreciating diversity in perspectives is an important part of the learning process (and good life skill). If you ever feel that you are not being given the respect you deserve in class, please let me know.
Recording: Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio tape lectures, on the condition that these audio tapes are only used by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

Cheating: Warning: If I detect you engaging in academic misconduct you will automatically FAIL this course. Academic misconduct includes disruption of classes, giving or receiving unauthorized aid on examinations, knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work, or otherwise acting dishonestly. This includes both cheating on exams and plagiarism of any written work that you hand in for this course. Information on the academic misconduct policy of Texas A&M-Commerce can be found at http://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/en/report_custom.asp?clientid=20504

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Class 1: Monday, June 2: Introduction, Syllabus, History

Class 2: Tuesday, June 3: Social Knowledge


Class 3: Wednesday, June 4: Biases


**Class 4: Thursday, June 5: Automaticity**


**Class 5: Monday, June 9: Schema and Categorization**


**Class 6: Tuesday, June 10: Social Identity Perspective**


**Class 7: Wednesday, June 11: Memory**


**Class 8: Thursday, June 12: Stereotypes and Expectancies**


**Class 9: Monday, June 16: Culture**


**Class 10: Tuesday, June 17: Presentations**

Final Research Proposals DUE to me by email by 8:00AM Tuesday, June 17th