

Cognitive Social Psychology

PSY 327 (3SH)

Hen 207 (MWF 11-11:50)

Instructor

Dr. Raymond Green

Office Phone #: 903-468-3001

Office Hours: Office hours will be held in my Honors College office (Prairie Crossing 101). I will be available Monday from 10-10:30 and Thursday from 10:00-10:45, **or by appointment**. I can also be reached by email (Raymond.green@tamuc.edu).

Course Description

This class is designed to introduce the student to the basic principles of social psychology with an emphasis on the cognitive aspects of interpersonal influence. Topics that will be covered include: social cognition, heuristics, stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, cognitive dissonance and self-justification, implicit personality theory, attribution, self-serving biases, obedience to authority, and eyewitness testimony.

Purpose

A goal of this course is to give you a clear understanding of the role of social psychology within the larger realms of psychology and the world. I hope to show you that you are surrounded by social psychological phenomena everyday of your life. You should come away from this course with a greater understanding of the situational influences on your behavior. Upon completion of the course you should be prepared to pursue a more focused and in-depth course within the field.

Textbook

Aronson, E., & J. Aronson (2018). The Social Animal (12th Edition). New York: Worth Publishers. ISBN: 978-1464144189

Readings about The Social Animal (11th Edition). J. Aronson & E. Aronson (Eds.). New York: Worth Publishers. ISBN: 978-1429233422

Grading

Class participation: I consider class participation to be one of the most important, yet underrated elements of a student's education. There are numerous elements that go into class participation: (1) Good attendance (according to University rules, students may be dropped from the class for excessive unexcused absences); (2) Somewhat frequent, and preferably intelligent, contributions to class discussion; (3) Reading the reserve readings (if any are placed on reserve); (4) **Polite and civil** interactions with all members of the class ["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, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)]. **Turn off all cell phones. No laptops are allowed to be used in class.**

Of course, class participation is a tricky thing to evaluate (e.g., some people prefer to listen and evaluate before speaking, etc.). Thus, we will calculate your class participation grade through your submission of a question each week related to the reading and class presentation for that week. The hope is that some of these questions will be posed to the presenter to help create conversation. Questions must be submitted at the start of class (thus you should have a second copy that you refer to in class for actually asking your question). There will be a total of 26 presentations, you must submit questions for 15 of those, and each question is worth 1% of your grade. Questions should be high quality – that is, they should speak to the content and application of the reading. They should not be things like "Did you like the reading?" **Total: 15%**

Oral Presentation: Roughly once a week each of you will be asked to review one of the research articles from the *Readings about the Social Animal* text. Your actual presentation should be no more than 10 minutes (there will be a timer) and then we will leave 5-10 minutes for questions/conversation/debate. Your goal is to briefly summarize the study that was conducted (do not get lost in the minutiae) and to explain how it relates back to the related chapter and/or the real world. Prezi or PowerPoint is welcome but not required. Further, if using technology, remember that it likes to fail you when you need it most. Thus, be ready to extemporize if your file won't open, the internet crashes, etc. **Total=15%**

Exams: Exams will constitute a major portion of your course grade. There will be 3 exams (two tests during the semester and one during the final exam period).

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I mean this. Exams may be rescheduled, without penalty, only when arrangements have been made in advance of the testing date. I expect people to come to me within the first week of class if they have conflicts with the exam dates. Make-ups will only be given in the case of **verifiable** medical or legal excuses. Verifiable means that written documentation is provided (e.g., signed doctors' notes, court appearance tickets, or newspaper obituaries). The final decision concerning make-up exams rests with the instructor. If no valid excuse is presented your exam grade is a zero.

Exams may include both multiple choice questions and essays. None of these exams are cumulative (except where the course material itself is naturally cumulative). You are responsible for all lecture and reading materials. Questions on exams cover basic definitions, research findings, theory, and applications of social psychology to everyday life. Thus, for any given topic covered in the course, you should be able to (1) define what the topic is, (2) describe an experiment conducted to understand the topic, (3) discuss what the topic says about social

psychology theories and how it relates to them, and (4) describe a real-world phenomenon that illustrates the topic. **Total=45%**

IAT Paper: The assignment begins by you going to <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/> and taking the Implicit Association Test of your choice. You will then write a brief paper where you (a) explain what the IAT is assessing; (b) review your findings (where do you fall relative to others, did it surprise you, do your findings bother you?); (c) and to write a 3-5 page paper related to the social relevance of the topic and any recent research on the topic. **Total=10%**

Social Issue Paper: This research paper consists of an analysis of the research that has been accumulated on a social issue (e.g., affirmative action, profiling to slow terrorism, 'body shaming'). The research collected should be from a social psychological perspective (and pulling in some sociology is okay). I expect that this paper should be in the 6-10 page range. I must approve your topic – papers will not be accepted without topic pre-approval. More details will be handed out in class.

Total=15%

Your grade will be determined as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| In-Class Participation | 15% |
| Oral Presentation | 15% |
| Exams | 45% |
| Papers | <u>25%</u> |
| | 100% |

Final grades are based on the total number of points earned during the term in accordance, generally, with the following levels of proficiency: A = 90-99; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 65-69; F = below 65.

Other important information

(1) ADA Statement

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
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

(2) Statement on Nondiscrimination:

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

- (3)** "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, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). **Turn off all cell phones. Texting during class is forbidden.**

Finally, I can not stress enough the importance of contacting me immediately if you find that you are having trouble with the course material. Come to my office hours, use my email, IM me on Facebook, ask me questions before, during, and after class. If we catch a problem early, it can be cured. I can do nothing for you when approached after the semester has been completed.

Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Reading</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Week of 1/14 | Class Introduction | SA 1; R 1,2 |
| Week of 1/21 | Conformity | SA 2; R 3,4 |
| Week of 1/28 | Conformity | R 7 |
| Week of 2/4 | Persuasion | SA 3; R 9,10 |
| Week of 2/11 | Persuasion | http://www.prisonexp.org |
| Exam Monday February 18th | | |
| Week of 2/18 | Social Cognition | SA 4; R 11, 13 |
| Week of 2/25 | Social Cognition | R 12,15 |
| Week of 3/4 | Self Justification | SA 5; R 16, 17 |
| Week of 3/11 | Self Justification | R 19, 20, 21 |
| Week of 3/18 | SPRING BREAK!!!!!!!!!!!! | |
| Week of 3/25 | Aggression | SA 6; R 22, 23 |
| Week of 4/1 | Aggression and Altruism | R 5, 24, 25 |
| Exam Friday April 5th | | |
| Week of 4/8 | Prejudice | SA 7; R 27-29 |
| Friday April 12th IAT Paper Due | | |
| Week of 4/15 | Prejudice | R 30-32 |
| Week of 4/22 | Interpersonal Attraction | SA 8; R 35-37 |

Friday April 26th Social Issues Paper Due

Week of 4/29

Interpersonal Attraction

R 38-39

Week of 5/6

FINAL EXAM WEEK Exam Three

* SA= The Social Animal, R= Readings about the Social Animal

Disclaimer: Minor changes may be made in this schedule. Any alterations will be announced in class. Students who do not attend class assume the responsibility for missing alterations to the course.

Exam #3 Date: Wednesday 5/8 from 10:30-12:30.