

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY LAB: PSYCHOLOGY 614

Fall 2006
MW: 2:50-4:30, Ryder 220

Instructor

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Purpose: Social psychology deals with the influence of social situations on people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. This course is designed to provide you with an overview of the research techniques most commonly used by psychologists engaged in the study of human social behavior (e.g., attitude change, prejudice, emotion, attraction). More specifically, you will learn how to translate research questions (hypotheses) involving social behavior into actual experiments, and through class projects, you will gain experience in the actual conduct of research and the analysis and presentation of findings in accord with scientific convention.

Course content: This course will function primarily as a workshop. Initially, it will take the form of lecture and class discussion. However, as the quarter progresses, more of the class time will be taken up by work involving the conduct of research projects. As you will see below, we have scheduled time for in-class development and analysis of group projects. Given the small class size and workshop nature of the course, it is imperative that you complete the reading and research on time so that we may have fruitful discussions and coordinated action on these projects.

Lectures will not always repeat the text, so I encourage you to attend class regularly. You will be responsible for material covered in the text and in the lectures.

Texts:

- Stangor, C. (2007). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences (3rd Edition)*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.
- **Optional:** *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.

Assignments:

- One exam: 20% of final grade.
- Three research papers in APA format (20% of final grade each for papers 1 & 2; 30% for paper 3).
- Class presentation of final research project: 10% of final grade.

Although data collection and analysis for the research papers will be conducted in groups, each class member is responsible for submitting an individual paper describing the research project in order to receive a grade for the assignment.

As scientific writing may be a new format for many class members, submission of a rough draft for the first two research papers will be required. These will be reviewed and returned with comments. A second and final draft will then be submitted for grading. Students are advised to meet with the TA for advice regarding drafts of their third papers.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading
1.	Wed. 9/6	Overview of course	
2.	Mon. 9/11	The research enterprise	Chapters 1-2
	Wed. 9/13	Ethics in research	Chapter 3
3.	Mon. 9/18	Measures and reliability	Chapters 4-5
	Wed. 9/20	Validity	***Class meets in

4.	Mon.	9/25	Surveys, sampling, and observation	Chapters 6-7	
	Wed.	9/27	Lab 1: Design of Project 1		
5.	Mon.	10/2	Hypothesis Testing and Correlational designs	Chapters 8-9	Data due for Proj. 1
	Wed.	10/4	Lab 2: Data analysis for Project 1	Appendix B	
6.	Mon.	10/9	No Class -- Columbus Day		
	Wed.	10/11	Experimental one-way designs and reporting research results	Chapter 10 & Appendix A	
7.	Mon.	10/16	Lab 3: Design of Project 2		Draft due for Proj. 1
	Wed.	10/18	Lab 4: Design of Project 2		
8.	Mon.	10/23	Experimental factorials	Chapter 11	Return of Proj. 1 drafts
	Wed.	10/25	Control and External validity	Chapters 12-13	Data due for Proj. 2
9.	Mon.	10/30	Lab 5: Data analysis for Project 2		Proj. 1 papers due
	Wed.	11/1	Lab 6: Design for Project 3		
10.	Mon.	11/6	Lab 7: Design for Project 3		Draft due for Proj. 2
	Wed.	11/8	Quasi experiments and Review for exam	Chapter 14	
11.	Mon.	11/13	Exam		Return of Proj. 2 drafts
	Wed.	11/15	Lab 8: Data analysis for Project 3		Data due for Proj. 3
12.	Mon.	11/20	Lab 9: Data analysis for Project 3		Proj. 2 papers due
	Wed.	11/22	No Class -- Thanksgiving		
13.	Mon.	11/27	Lab 10: Data analysis for Project 3		
	Wed.	11/29	Presentation preps		
14.	Mon.	12/4	Presentations		
	Wed.	12/6	Presentations		
	Fri.	12/8	Project 3 Final Papers due by 2pm		
