

**PSY U402 Social Psychology**  
**Spring 2008**  
**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 1:35 – 2:40am**  
**201 Mugar**

**Instructor:** Jackie Mascher, PhD  
**Office Hours:** NI 138, x3799  
**Phone:** Mondays & Wednesdays 3 – 5pm and by appointment  
**Email:** j.mascher@neu.edu

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course is a brief introduction to the broad field of social psychology, or how people think, feel and behave in various contexts. General topics include self-perception, perceiving others, stereotyping and prejudice, attitude formation, conformity, group processes, attraction and intimacy, and aggression. Some interdisciplinary applications of social psychology are also explored, including the role of social psychology in business, law, and health. The prerequisite is PSYU101.

**Course Sessions:**

Classes will be one hour and five minutes in length. Students should attend all classes, and students may be asked to sign attendance sheets to confirm their presence during lectures.

In order to minimize disruptions to the learning process, the instructor asks that students not engage in conversations on cellular telephones in the classroom. Please either turn off your phones and beepers, or use silent/vibrate functions. If it becomes necessary for you to use your communication devices during class time, please temporarily excuse yourself from class to use them.

**Course Textbook:**

Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H.R. (2008). *Social psychology (7/e)*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

**Course Requirements:**

|                            |     |                  |
|----------------------------|-----|------------------|
| Exam 1                     | 30% | (chapters 1 – 5) |
| Exam 2                     | 30% | (ch. 6 – 10)     |
| Exam 3 (Final)             | 30% | (ch. 11 – 14)    |
| Attendance / Participation | 10% |                  |

*Exams 1 and 2 will be administered as noted on the Class Schedule below.  
Exam 3 will be given in accordance with the NEU Final Exam Schedule.*

**Grading:** The grading scale will be as follows:

|              |              |              |              |           |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 100 – 94 (A) | 89 – 87 (B+) | 79 – 77 (C+) | 69 – 67 (D+) | 59 and    |
| 93 – 90 (A-) | 86 – 83 (B)  | 76 – 73 (C)  | 66 – 63 (D)  | below (F) |
|              | 82 – 80 (B-) | 72 – 70 (C-) | 62 – 60 (D-) |           |

**Other Course Policies:**

**1. Make-up quizzes**

A student will be given a make-up quiz **only** if s/he has an illness or emergency situation that results in him/her not being able to make the exam as scheduled. *The student must present documentation as proof of the illness or emergency.*

**2. Assessment material**

Exam material will consist of information from textbook chapters as they are listed in this syllabus, even if such material is not covered during lectures. Exam material will also consist of lecture material, even when such material is not covered in the textbook.

**3. Lecture notes and handouts**

If a student is unable to attend a class session, it is the student's responsibility to obtain session lecture notes, handouts, and/or assignments from someone other than Dr. Mascher. Most lecture notes and handouts for this course will be available electronically at Northeastern University's Blackboard Academic Suite™ (<http://blackboard.neu.edu>), but it is the student's responsibility to ensure that s/he recovers all information from the missed class session.

**4. Attendance / Participation**

Student attendance will be recorded for class sessions. Occasionally students will be asked to complete in-class exercises for participation credit. If a student misses a class session, attendance and participation points cannot be made up; however, attendance and participation will be "excused" with proper documentation of an emergency (e.g., doctor's appointment, death in the family).

**5. Electronic devices during exams**

Use of computer or electronic devices is not permitted during exams. If you are observed using such devices, you will receive a grade of "F" on the exam.

**6. Cheating on exams**

Cheating will earn you a grade of "F" on the exam, as well as a recommendation to the Academic Judicial Committee that you be expelled from the University.

**7. Tape recording lectures**

You may not audio- or videotape lectures without the instructor's consent.

**Class Schedule: Spring 2008**

| <b>Date</b>             | <b>Kassin, Fein &amp; Markus Chapter</b> | <b>Topic</b>                    |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| January 7, Mon.         | 1, 3                                     | Introduction, Social Self       |
| January 9, Wed.         | 3  | Social Self                     |
| January 10, Thu.        | 3  | Social Self                     |
| January 14, Mon.        | 3  | Social Self                     |
| January 16, Wed.        | 4  | Perceiving Persons              |
| January 17, Thu.        | 4  | Perceiving Persons              |
| January 21, Mon.        | MLK JR BIRTHDAY – NO CLASSES             |                                 |
| January 23, Wed.        | 4  | Perceiving Persons              |
| January 24, Thu.        | 4 – 5                                    | Perceiving Persons, Stereotypes |
| January 28, Mon.        | 5  | Stereotypes                     |
| January 30, Wed.        | 5  | Stereotypes                     |
| February 31, Thu.       | 5  | Stereotypes                     |
| <b>February 4, Mon.</b> | <b>Exam #1 (Chapters 1 – 5)</b>          |                                 |
| February 6, Wed.        | 6  | Attitudes                       |
| February 7, Thu.        | 6  | Attitudes                       |
| February 11, Mon.       | 7  | Conformity                      |
| February 13, Wed.       | 7  | Conformity                      |
| February 14, Thu.       | 7  | Conformity                      |
| February 18, Mon.       | PRESIDENTS' DAY – NO CLASSES             |                                 |
| February 20, Wed.       | 7  | Conformity                      |
| February 21, Thu.       | 7  | Conformity                      |
| February 25, Mon.       | 8  | Group Processes                 |
| February 27, Wed.       | 8  | Group Processes                 |
| February 28, Thu.       | 8  | Group Processes                 |
| March 3, Mon.           | SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES                |                                 |
| March 10, Mon.          | 9  | Attraction and Intimacy         |
| March 12, Wed.          | 9  | Attraction and Intimacy         |
| March 13, Thu.          | 9  | Attraction and Intimacy         |
| March 17, Mon.          | 10                                       | Helping                         |
| March 19, Wed.          | 10                                       | Helping                         |
| March 20, Thu.          | 10                                       | Helping                         |

|                       |  |            |
|-----------------------|--|------------|
| <b>March 24, Mon.</b> | <b>Exam #2 (Chapters 6 – 10)</b>             |            |
| March 26, Wed.        | 11   | Aggression |
| March 27, Thu.        | 11   | Aggression |
| March 31, Mon.        | 11   | Aggression |
| April 2, Wed.         | 12   | Law        |
| April 3, Thu.         | 12   | Law        |
| April 7, Mon.         | 12   | Law        |
| April 9, Wed.         | 13   | Business   |
| April 10, Thu.        | 13   | Business   |
| April 14, Mon.        | 14   | Health     |
| April 16, Wed.        | 14   | Health     |
| <b>April 17 – 25</b>  | <b>Exam #3 (Chapters 11 – 14)</b>            |            |
|                       | <b>TBD by University Final Exam Schedule</b> |            |