

University of Indianapolis
School for Adult Learning
Term I, Session 1
2008-2009
PSY-215: Social Psychology (3 credit hours)
Wednesday 6 to 9:45
8/27, 9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24
Call the SAL Office at 788-3393 for Location

Welcome to Social Psychology

Social Psychology offers a unique way to study human behavior. We will investigate the way peoples' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the presence or imagined presence of others. My hope is for this course to be both interesting and applicable to your lives. In order to successfully participate in this course, six to eight hours of time outside of class will be required. Because this is an accelerated course, it is especially important to complete reading prior to class and to attend all classes. A significant part of each class will be made up of discussion, therefore respect for your classmates' opinions and privacy is essential. I look forward to learning with all of you.

Tips for Success:

1. Attend all classes
2. Complete all readings and assignments prior to class
3. Be open to the thoughts and opinions of others.
4. Reflect on the readings and discussion both in and out of class

Catalogue Description

Social Psychology is the scientific study of how social situations influence the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals. Topics covered include attitude formation and change, conformity, aggression, pro-social behavior, interpersonal attraction, the formation and maintenance of relationships, group structure and dynamics, and social perception.

Instructor

Kristen Viverito, MA

Adjunct Instructor

School for Adult Learning

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Office Hours: By appointment

Mail Box Location: Esch 102

MA in Clinical Psychology, University of Indianapolis

BS in Psychology, University of Florida

Teaching Philosophy

- My goals are not only to transmit factual knowledge, but also to affect how students view their world. I believe psychology especially lends itself to introducing new ideas that may change the way we view others and ourselves.
- As an instructor I will act as a knowledge base, but I will not be solely responsible for learning. The class will also need to take an active role in their learning through preparing for class and thinking critically about the topics.
- In addition, I will encourage students to bring all questions to class. Because I cannot promise to have all of the answers, if I do not know the answer I will work to find it and share the results with the class.

Required Text

Aronson, E., Wilson, T.D., Akert, R.M. (2007). *Social Psychology (6th ed.)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

ISBN: 0-13-238245-8

Availability: University of Indianapolis Bookstore

- Additional readings may be assigned and will be distributed one week prior to their discussion.

Course Rational

All of us are impacted by others (whether we realize it or not!). Learning more about the impact of others on thoughts, feelings, and behaviors is not only interesting, but also applicable to all areas of life including our careers. In addition, becoming aware of how we are affected by the presence of others can help us learn more about our current lives and history. In short, I hope that this course is not only academic but also stimulates thinking and commitment to change.

Course Goals

This course offers an introduction to the study of social psychology. It will provide students with a basic understanding of social psychological principles and provide the opportunity to apply these principles to society and personal experience.

Student Objectives

The successful learner will:

- Be able to define, describe, and discuss social psychological concepts as applied to groups, interpersonal situations, and the individual.
- Be able to explain and discuss how these concepts apply to past and current social phenomena.
- Be able to define, describe, and discuss the different methods of research within the field of social psychology.
- Be able to explain and discuss how social psychological knowledge can be channeled into social action.
- Analyze, describe, and discuss social psychology as applied to the areas of health and law.
- Analyze how personal thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the presence or imagined presence of others.

University-Wide Learning Goals

The University of Indianapolis is an AQUIP accredited university, dedicated to continual quality improvement. As a part of the university, the School for Adult Learning commits to the same learning outcomes and the ongoing assessments of them. The learning outcomes are as follows:

- Social Responsibility – In the area of social and personal responsibility, students in the School for Adult Learning are responsible for their own learning, connect the ethical and socially responsible practices presented in the classroom to the world in which they live, and understand that their behaviors affect society. Both forms of responsibility involve moral obligation to self and community, and rely upon such virtues as honesty, self-discipline, respect, loyalty, and compassion.
- Creativity – In the area of creativity, students in the School for Adult Learning generate, appreciate, and evaluate new possibilities, alternatives, and ideas which enable them to see the world in new ways.
- Critical Thinking – In the area of critical thinking, students in the School for Adult Learning intentionally apply higher-order thinking to reach evidence-based conclusions.
- Performance – In the area of performance, students in the School for Adult Learning write, speak, compute mathematically, and are technologically literate based upon the standards established by SAL.
- Although not every learning outcome will be emphasized in each class, successful students will have demonstrated all four outcomes upon the completion of the SAL curriculum.

Instructional Approach/Emphasis

This course will be a discussion-based course with significant reading requirements.

Course Requirements (Detailed explanations will be available at the first class.)

- A short ten-point quiz will be given at the beginning of each class period over the readings for each week.
- A reaction paper (no more than 3 pages double spaced) worth five points over the readings for the week will be due each class. Just respond to the reading with your thoughts and feelings. I encourage you to check out the *Try it!* exercises and write about your experiences.
- A discussion question worth five points over the readings for the week will be due each class. Ask about anything from the reading that was confusing, you are interested in hearing others' opinions about, or you would like to know more about. The *Connections* sections may be especially interesting for class discussion.
- A final project worth 100 points will be due on the last class. You can choose from a research paper, presentation, or written exam. Details for each option will be provided during the first class. At the second class you will inform me what final project selection you wish to complete. Topics for the research paper and presentation must be approved by the third class.

Grading Scale

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Quizzes 5 x 10 pts 50pts | Reaction Papers 5 x 5 pts 25pts | Discussion Questions 5 x 5pts 25pts | Final Project 1 x 100pts 100pts | = | 200 possible points |
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188 – 200 points = A 180 – 187 points = A-

176 – 179 points = B+ 168 – 175 points = B 160 – 167 points = B-

156 – 159 points = C+ 148 – 155 points = C 140 – 147 points = C-

120 – 139 points = D

119 points and below = F

Policies

- As of August 22, 2005, SAL is no longer automatically withdrawing students for not attending the first night of class. Students are directly responsible for letting SAL know if they will not continue in the class. To receive a 100% refund, students must withdraw from a course by Friday of the first week of classes.
- Punctual class attendance and participation are essential and mandatory. If a class or part of a class is going to be missed, please inform me as soon as possible through email. Submit any assignments due by email. Because this is an accelerated course, you may not miss more than one class and successfully complete the course – continuation in the course after two absences will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- All assignments are due in class on or before the date listed in the syllabus. If you miss a class, you must email the assignment to me before midnight on the evening it is due. A make-up assignment will be assigned to account for the missed quiz.
- Acceptance of late work will be at instructor discretion and full credit will not be given for late work.
- There are no make-ups or late submissions of the final project. If it is not turned in on the final night of class, a zero will be recorded as the grade.
- All assignments must be typed and double-spaced unless otherwise noted.
- University of Indianapolis students are expected to adhere to the ideal of academic integrity in all academic work. Academic honesty and respect for the work of others are considered inviolable tenants of an institution of higher education. Plagiarism and cheating are contrary to the ideal of academic honesty and are not tolerated. Violation of the Academic Integrity (i.e. plagiarism, cheating) policy of the University of Indianapolis is unacceptable and will result in non-acceptance of the affected assignment. Additionally, it may result in failure in the course and other additional consequences. For full policy, please see the current academic catalogue.
- If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please inform me immediately so that your learning needs will be appropriately met. Students with a disability must register with the

Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD) in Schwitzer Center 206 (317-788-6153 / www.uindy.edu/ssd) for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations. You are responsible for initiating arrangements for accommodations for tests and other assignments in collaboration with the SSD and the faculty.

Student Support Services

Services such as a writing lab are available to University of Indianapolis students. Please let me know if you need more information about support services available at the university.

Class Schedule

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| Class 1 | Read: Chapters 1 and 2 Quiz on readings | Due: Week one reaction paper and discussion question |
| Class 2 | Read: Chapters 3,4,5,6, and 7 Quiz on readings | Due: Week two reaction paper and discussion question; final project selection due |
| Class 3 | Read: Chapters 8, 9, and 10 Quiz on readings | Due: Week three reaction paper and discussion question; topic due for paper and presentation |
| Class 4 | Read: Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14 Quiz on readings | Due: Week four reaction paper and discussion question |
| Class 5 | Read: Chapters 15 and 16 Quiz on readings Final exam/Presentations | Due: Week five reaction paper and discussion question; final paper due |

Please Note

This syllabus is a dynamic document and, as such, is subject to change based on the needs of the learners.

***After you have read this syllabus, please email me your name, preferred email address, and why you decided to take Social Psychology at this time. ***