

**Course Syllabus**  
**Social Psychology – Winter Quarter 2009**

**Time: W, FR 10:00 – 11:50 am**  
**Location: Frontier Room 45**  
**Prerequisites: SOCS 1710 or equivalent**

**Instructor: Iris Mauss, Ph.D.**  
**Office: 355 Frontier Hall**  
**Office Hours: 12-2 pm W or by appointment**  
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**Teaching Assistant: Amanda Miller**  
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**Office Hours: 12-1 pm TH, 12-1 pm FR or by appointment**  
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**Course Description**

This course is designed as a comprehensive survey course of theory and research in social psychology. The goal of this course is to explain how our thoughts, feelings, and behavior are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of other people. Topics to be studied include the self, social perception, social cognition and information processing, attitudes and persuasion, stereotyping and discrimination, social influence and group behavior, romantic relationships, aggressive behavior, helping behavior, and applied social psychology. Throughout the course, you will be encouraged to think about how research in social psychology can shed light on events going on around the world and in your own lives.

**Required Readings**

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., & Nisbett, R. E. (2006). *Social psychology*, First Edition, Norton.  
This book is on reserve at Penrose library.  
Additional readings as assigned.

**Course Website**

The course blackboard website will contain the syllabus, lecture material, descriptions of assignments, sample test questions, the online gradebook, and major announcements. New information will be added to the website frequently, so please check it often. You may access the course website by first logging into webcentral at <http://webcentral.du.edu/cp/home/loginf>, and then choosing PSYC 2740 Social Psychology under the courses tab.

**Course Requirements**

1. **Participation:** You will have opportunity throughout the class to participate in discussions, to give others feedback on ideas, to ask questions, or to come to office hours. Any engagement with the class material will contribute to the participation grade.
2. **In-Class Midterm Exam:** There will be one in-class midterm exam during this course. More information on the exam and sample questions will be given during the review session before

the midterm. The midterm will cover material from the textbook and from lecture. It will include multiple choice as well as short-answer questions.

3. **Empirical paper discussion questions:** In order to give you exposure to original empirical research in social psychology and to teach you to critically engage with it, each student will submit a discussion question on the two empirical papers that will be posted online. Discussion questions must be submitted via email to Iris on the day before class by 3 pm. In order to write a question, students must read and understand the paper. Discussion questions can include critiques of the paper’s theory or methods, suggestions for future directions, or interesting insights you had while reading the paper. Discussion questions typically range from a short paragraph to a page. Late questions will not be accepted.
4. **Group research project:** There will be one group project for the course (groups will be determined in class). As part of this project, students will devise and complete a real-life social psychological experiment. Groups can come up with their own ideas for this project (the only requirement being that the topic is related to social psychology and it interesting to all group members), or they may choose one from a list of suggested topics. Topics will be announced in class. This project includes devising an experimental design, collecting and analyzing data, and writing up the study in a research report format.

In order to garner helpful feedback on their project ideas from the instructor, groups will make at least one 1-hour appointment during the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> week of the class. Each group will also present their final project to the class and submit a written research report. In order to maximize *social facilitation* and minimize *social loafing*, students within each group will grade each other based on participation. More detail on the format of each of these assignments will be given during class and on the class website. Because the projects will demand a high level of engagement from students, it is expected that students will make use of the instructor’s and the TA’s office hours to get help when needed. Final papers are due at the beginning of the last class. Papers will be deducted a grade point for every hour they are late.

5. **Final Exam:** The final exam will be cumulative, but it will emphasize material covered after the in-class midterm (66% of the questions will cover material after the midterm). Like the midterm, it will cover material from the textbook and from lecture. It will include multiple-choice as well as short-answer questions.

## Grading

Your grade will be comprised of:		Grades will be assigned as follows:
In-Class Participation (Discussions, Questions, etc.)	10%	A = 93 – 100%
In-Class Midterm	25%	A- = 90 – 92%
Empirical Paper Discussion Question	5%	B+ = 87 – 89%
Final Group Project Presentation	10%	B = 83 – 86%
Peer-Graded Group Project Participation	5%	B- = 80 – 82%
Group Project Paper	15%	C+ = 77 – 79% etc.
Final Exam	30%	
Total	100%	

**Extra Credit**

Students may earn up to three percentage points of extra credit. Extra credit will be added after final grades are tabulated and may add as much as a half letter grade. There are two options for earning extra credit. First, students may participate in research. Research projects will be advertised in <http://du.sona-systems.com>. Second, students may complete a summary comparing a newspaper or magazine article and the original research paper on a topic relevant to class. More information on these summaries will be available on the course website.

**Honor and Conduct Codes**

All students are expected to follow the honor code that they signed upon entry to the university. (<http://www.du.edu/ccs/hcpgs.html>). Violations of the Honor Code include, but are not limited to, taking or attempting to take, or assisting someone else in taking or attempting to take, the following actions:

- *PLAGIARISM*: representation of another’s work or ideas as one’s own in academic submissions.
- *CHEATING*: actual or attempted use of resources not authorized by the instructor(s) for academic submissions.
- *FABRICATION*: falsification or creation of data, research, or resources to support academic submissions.

In addition, students are expected to follow the university conduct code <http://www.du.edu/ccs/code.html> and, in particular, to treat each other, themselves and the course instructor and teaching assistant with respect and courtesy, including respecting diversity of all types.

**Course Schedule**

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	W	1/7	Introduction: What Is Social Psychology?	Ch. 1	
	FR	1/9	Methods		
2	W	1/14	The Social Self	Ch. 5	
	FR	1/16	Attraction	Ch. 3	
3	W	1/21	Relationships	Ch. 4	
	FR	1/23	Groups	Ch. 2	Sign up for group project in class; start thinking about group projects
4	W	1/28	Social Influence	Ch. 6	
	FR	1/30	Attitudes & Persuasion	Chs. 7 + 8	
5	W	2/4	Midterm Review	Ch. 1-8	
	FR	2/6	In-Class Midterm Exam	Ch. 1-8	Plan group project; sign up to meet with Iris or Amanda before 2/15
6	W	2/11	Causal Attribution	Ch. 9	

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	FR	2/13	Social Judgment; Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Ch. 10	By 2/15 data collection for group research project should be under way
7	W	2/18	Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination Continued	Ch. 11; Eberhardt, J. L., Davies, P. G., & Purdie-Vaughns, V. J. (2006). Looking deathworthy: Perceived stereotypicality of black defendants predicts capital-sentencing outcomes. <i>Psychological Science</i> , 17, 383-386.	Submit discussion question for empirical article (Eberhardt et al.) <b>by 3 pm on 2/19</b> via email to Iris: imauss@psy.du.edu; Collect data for group project before 2/25
	FR	2/20	Emotion	Ch. 12; Brescoll, V. L., & Uhlmann, E. L. (2008). Can an angry woman get ahead? Status conferral, gender, and workplace emotion expression. <i>Psychological Science</i> , 19, 268-275.	Submit discussion question for empirical article (Brescoll & Uhlmann) <b>by 3 pm on 2/24</b> via email to Iris: imauss@psy.du.edu; Analyze and interpret data for group research project
8	W	2/25	Aggression	Ch. 13	Complete data analyses for group project; prepare and practice presentation; start to write paper
	FR	2/27	Altruism		
9	W	3/4	Applied Social Psychology: Morality & Health	Ch. 14 ( <b>pp. 553-567 only</b> ); start reviewing chapters	
	FR	3/6	In-Class Presentations of Group Projects		In-class group project presentations
10	W	3/11	Wrap-up and Review	Ch. 1-14	Extra credit due; group project papers due in class
11	TH	3/12	FINAL Exam; 10:00-11:50	Ch. 1-14	