

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

Sociology 341/Psychology 341

Social Psychology

Instructor: Dr. Sean O'Connell

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Office Hours: TBA, or by appointment.

COURSE OUTLINE

TEXT: Wrightsman, L., and Deaux, K., Social Psychology in The 80's (3rd Edition) Monterey: Brooks Cole, 1981.

This outline will give you the required procedure for completing this course. It will give you a clear understanding of what you must accomplish and it should aid you in planning your work. Please read it carefully and retain it until the end of the semester.

Essentially, what you need to do in order to successfully complete this course is (1) read the entire text and remember what is in it, (2) attend classes and remember the lecture material, (3) complete a research paper on a subject covered in the text, (4) make a brief classroom presentation based on your paper. The presentation itself will not be graded, but it is a condition for having the paper graded.

The course will consist of lectures, discussions, structured experiences, and examinations. Lectures will not necessarily run parallel to the weekly readings. Although lectures will reflect the text's format, they cannot be a substitute for diligent reading and study. They are intended to illuminate and augment the contents of the text, and in no way will they be simple repetitions of it.

You will be responsible for finding out any announcements made in class during your absence.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To have an understanding of the tools and methods of social-psychological research.
2. To have a comprehensive understanding of the theories and facts in the field of social psychology.

3. To have a relatively sophisticated grasp of one area in this discipline.
4. To be able to find practical applications of social psychology to your vocational area.

**GRADING:**

The final grade will be calculated on the basis of a mid-term exam, a final exam, and a presented research paper. Weighting and content will be apportioned as follows:

|                         |   |                     |                      |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mid-term:               | 25% Multiple choice items                                 | Chapters 1-7, 9, 10 | (30%)                |
|                         | 25% Short answers   | (5)                 |                      |
|                         | 50% Short essays  | (2).                |                      |
| Final:                  | 25% Multiple choice items                                 | Chapters 11-19      | (30%)                |
|                         | 25% Short answers   | (5)                 |                      |
|                         | 50% Short essays  | (2).                |                      |
| Paper/<br>Presentation: | (Presentation will not be graded, but cannot be omitted). |                     | <u>(40%)</u><br>100% |

In the event that you are caught cheating, you will be required to hand in your exam and you will be given a grade of zero for that exam! No make-up will be allowed. Plagiarism in research papers, as well as handing in someone else's work, will be treated in a similar manner: the paper will be given a grade of zero and no make-up will be permitted.

- Important Dates: Mid-term exam - October 20 (Sec. A1)  
October 21 (Sec. N1).
- Final exam - TBA, during the regularly scheduled exam week of December 14-21.
- Paper - on your presentation day. This day will be determined in class. No exceptions to these dates are permitted. Exams cannot be written at any other time.

GRADING SYSTEM:

| GRADE | INTERPRETATION                | EQUIVALENT PERCENTAGE |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9     | Excellent; 1st Class Standing | 90-100                |
| 8     |                               | 80-89                 |
| 7     | Good; 2nd Class Standing      | 73-79                 |
| 6     |                               | 65-72                 |
| 5     | Pass                          | 58-64                 |
| 4     |                               | 50-57                 |
| 3     |                               | 46-49                 |
| 2     | Failure                       | 30-45                 |
| 1     |                               | 0-29                  |

SUGGESTED WEEKLY READING:

|             |                     |                |                   |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Week One:   | pp 2-40             | Week Eight:    | pp 298-340        |
| Week Two:   | pp 40-84            | Week Nine:     | pp 340-377        |
| Week Three: | pp 84-126           | Week Ten:      | pp 380-421        |
| Week Four:  | pp 126-168          | Week Eleven:   | pp 421-467        |
| Week Five:  | pp 168-207          | Week Twelve:   | pp 467-507        |
| Week Six:   | pp 234-297          | Week Thirteen: | pp 508-539        |
| Week Seven: | Review and Mid-term | Week Fourteen: | Review and Final. |

RESEARCH PAPER:

The paper will be ten to fifteen typed (double-spaced) pages, or an equivalent length in legible handwriting (also double-spaced) and must be handed in for grading at the conclusion of your presentation. Each paper must deal with some subject covered in the text and must indicate that you have carried out some research from sources outside the text. You may accordingly need to use research resources outside the LRC, since our selection is not extensive. Interlibrary loans can be arranged through our learning centre.

Your paper should follow the normal conventions for writing an essay. It should include:

1. An introduction, in which you indicate the purpose of the paper, its major themes, and your approach.
2. The main text, in which you present your information, interpretations, evidence, arguments, etc.
3. A conclusion, in which you summarize what you have accomplished.
4. A reference page, indicating what authors you have either consulted or quoted.

When you quote someone else's words you must provide a reference. Your referencing system may be of any form, so long as it is logical and consistent. The preferred system is the APA format. This system will be explained in class. Enclosed is an essay assessment sheet. Please look it over, and hand it in with your paper.

You are strongly encouraged to select your own topic. Check with the instructor about it before proceeding with the research. Here are some sample topics:

1. Attributional factors in impression formation.
2. "Who am I?": A social-psychological approach.
3. Love: What is it?
4. The social dimensions of sexual behavior.
5. Competition and cooperation.
6. The social psychology of conformity and obedience.
7. Theories of leadership.

These are very general topics; your research will ideally lead you into more specific areas.

Your presentation should be ten to fifteen minutes long, based on your research paper. It's purpose is to summarize your major findings and communicate them to the rest of the class. Typically, you will present information not otherwise available from lectures or reading. You may use any aids you wish (pictures, slides, charts, tests, etc.).