

**UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

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Office Hours: T TH 1:00 - 2:00

And by appointment

PYC 360 - Social Psychology

PYC361 - Lab Assistant: Nicole Neumann

Term I/Fall 2004

Lecture: T TH 2:00 - 3:15 / B36

Lab: TH 3:30 - 4:30 / B36

Text: Social Psychology: Understanding Human Interaction.  
Baron & Byrne. Allyn and Bacon (10<sup>th</sup> Edition).

Course Objectives:

- A. To provide an overview of the field of Social Psychology including: 1) The field's history; 2) The field's relationship to the profession of psychology; 3) The sub-specialties of the field, and 4) The principles, practices, and problems of Social Psychology (i.e. Learning the Content).
- B. To provide students the opportunity to conduct and participate in social psychological research and report writing (i.e. Understand Social Psychological Methods).
- C. To provide students an understanding of how Social Psychology will directly influence and improve the quality of their individual and communal lives as job applicants, employees, family members, citizens, leaders, and life long learners (i.e. Practical Application).
- D. To engage in interesting discussions that shed light on important aspects of human behavior and social processes (i.e. Enjoyment)
- E. To develop an understanding of the social psychological phenomenon of "altruism" and "pro-social behavior" through the opportunity to provide "servant leadership" (volunteer community service) at a local human service organization.
- F. To accomplish the above objectives with academic integrity and honesty. Jeopardizing this objective, through means of plagiarism or cheating on an exam, will result in failure of the course.

Lab assignments: The specifics of these mini-projects will be detailed during the lab portion of this course. Each will involve hands-on experience with social psychological constructs and theories and will require a brief written assignment.

Lab Report/Term Paper: The specifics of this semester-long assignment will be detailed during the lab portion of this course. It will involve pairs of students who will design an original experiment, generate hypotheses, collect and analyze data and generate a written report. The key theories that will be addressed by this research will be "altruism" and "pro-social behavior". Students involved in the servant-leadership option may be able to coordinate their efforts on these two assignments.

Class participation: Attendance is important to your success. You will be expected to demonstrate your knowledge of the material you have read during daily class discussions. Attendance will be taken at the end of each lab session. Since the intent of a lab is to give students hands-on experience with research, it is clear that experience cannot be gained without active participation.

Grading System:

A.	PYC 360:	Exam I (Chapters 1,2,3)	75 pts.
		Exam II (Chapters 4,5,9,10)	100 pts.
		Exam III (Chapters 6,11,12)	75 pts.
		Exam IV (Chapters 7, 8)	50 pts.
		Essay Exams or Summary	200 pts.
		Attendance	<u>75</u> pts.
B.	PYC 361:	Attendance	75 pts.
		Assignments	150 pts.
		Term Paper/Lab Report	<u>200</u> pts.
		Total Points	<u>1000</u> pts.

The final grade for both portions of the course will be based on a straight scale, and will be determined by the total regular points accumulated. Students who have satisfactorily completed some extra credit points will then have these points added to their total. If this pushes their total above the regular point cut-off for their grade, then their grade will be raised. A maximum of 100 bonus points (i.e. one grade) can be earned. Bonus points will be given for conducting additional assignments (described in class), as well as for locating relevant newspaper/magazine articles and cartoons.

Feedback: You are encouraged to offer feedback throughout the course so that the course can be geared and related to your particular understanding and interests. Feel free to contact me by any of the mechanisms listed above (i.e. during office hours, telephone, fax, e-mail). Also, comments may be placed in by department mailbox.

## Course Requirements:

In-class Exams: There will be four non-cumulative exams which utilize the objective testing (i.e. multiple choice) format. They are scheduled in advance, so try to arrange your affairs to be present. No early or make-up exams will be given. If a scheduled exam is missed, the weight of that exam will be added to the last exam. For example, miss Exam I and Exam IV will count as 125 points. However, the student must also demonstrate competency, in writing, of the material covered by a missing exam. Note: A list of "study/focus topics" for the exam will be provided during the lab portion.

Essay Exam Option: Students selecting this option will broaden their knowledge of the field of social psychology by translating theories and concepts into their own words and by providing relevant, original examples. A pool of five essay questions for each chapter will be handed out at the lab session approximately three weeks prior to the scheduled date of the test. I will randomly select two questions from each chapter at the time of the exam. Students may turn in answers that were completed prior to the exam or they may complete them during the scheduled exam period. However, no early or late answers will be accepted for credit.

Essay Summary Option: Students selecting this option, will gain direct experience with the concepts of altruism and helping behavior through servant-leadership. In addition, the setting for this assignment may be a useful one for conducting the research and data collection required for the laboratory component of this course. This volunteer experience will be coordinated with the University of Detroit Mercy's Leadership Development Institute. The Institute was designed to encourage lifelong habits of community service and volunteerism among university students.

On September 9th, a volunteer coordinator will attend class to describe the various service opportunities that are available, and explain how interested students can contact the participating social service agencies. Each student should plan to begin his or her volunteer work by September 20th, and expect to spend a minimum of three hours a week at their respective agency. Students may work in pairs and are asked to volunteer for at least seven weeks, for a total of twenty-one hours. In addition, attendance at one "reflection session" is expected. Students are encouraged to volunteer at organizations that address issues that are of interest to them and/or are located in close proximity to either the University, their home or their place of employment. Opportunities to volunteer at St. Thecla School are especially encouraged.

The student is required to provide written documentation of their learning. The following items are required: 1) a list of materials (articles, chapters, organizational literature) which you have read to orient yourself to your chosen agency. 2) a journal with a written entry for each week of your volunteer service. Each one or two page, narrative entry should describe your work and personal reflection on the nature of your experience. 3) a two to three page summary essay which draws conclusions about your experience and relates it to altruism and pro-social behavior.

## Lecture/Discussion Schedule

September	07	Introduction
	09	Chapter One: The Field of Social Psychology: How We Think About and Interact With Others
	14	Chapter One (Continued)
	16	Chapter One (Continued)
	21	Chapter Two: Social Cognition: Thinking About the Social World
	23	Chapter Two (Continued)
	28*	Chapter Three: Social Perception: Perceiving and Understanding Others
	30	Chapter Three (Continued) - Symposium
October	05	Exam I (Chapters 1, 2, 3)
	07	Chapter Four: Attitudes: Evaluating the Social World
	12	Chapter Four (Continued)
	14	Chapter Five: The Self: Understanding "Who Am I?"
	19	Chapter Five (Continued)
	21	Chapter Nine: Social Influence: Changing Others' Behavior
	26	Chapter Nine (Continued)
	28	Chapter Ten: ProSocial Behavior: Helping Others
November	02	Chapter Ten (Continued)
	04*	Exam II (Chapters 4, 5, 9, 10)
	09	Chapter Six: Prejudice: Its Causes, Effects, and Cures
	11	Chapter Six (Continued)
	16	Chapter Eleven: Aggression: Its Nature, Causes, and Control

	18*	Chapter Eleven (Continued)
	23	Chapter Twelve: Groups and Individuals: The Consequences of Belonging
	25	Off – Thanksgiving Holiday
	30	Chapter Twelve (Continued)
December	02	Exam III (Chapters 6, 11, 12)
	07	Chapter Seven: Interpersonal Attraction: Meeting, Liking, Becoming Acquainted
	09	Chapter Eight: Close Relationships: Family, Friends, Lovers, and Spouses (Lab Report/Term Papers Due)
	17*	Friday, 11:00 - 12:50 Exam IV (Chapters 7, 8)