

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**T, TH 10.40-11.30, TH 10.40-12.30****Turlington Hall Room L007****Instructor:** Dr. Kate A. Ratliff**Office:** Psych 222**Contact:** ratliff@ufl.edu**Office Hours:** M, W 12.45-1.45**Grad TA:** Rick Klein**Office:** Psych 311-J**Contact:** rklein@ufl.edu**Office Hours:** MW 12.45-1.45**Undergrad TA:** Molly Bunke**Office:** Psych 231 (if needed)**Contact:** mbunke@ufl.edu**Office Hours:** MW 12.45-1.45

If you have a question about assignments, course material, or course policy, please ask Molly first. If you want to discuss your grades or need to arrange a makeup exam, please discuss it with Rick first. Dr. Ratliff will be happy to answer your questions or address your concerns that cannot be resolved by one of the TAs.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social psychology is the scientific study of the ways in which people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. When you complete this course you will be able to: (A) distinguish social psychology from other related disciplines, (B) explain the philosophy and methods of science utilized by social psychologists, (C) understand what is meant by the many technical and standard terms used in the field and be able to use them with precision, (D) appraise the value of new psychological science in light of previous theories and findings, and (E) see the world through the eyes of a social scientist.

COURSE MATERIALS

The primary text for this course is Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. (2013) *Social Psychology* (8th edition), Pearson. The book is optional but I very strongly encourage you to get a copy. The slides that I use in class lectures will be available to you on the course E-learning site by 8pm the night before each class meeting; note, however, that a few slides might sometimes be left blank so that I can conduct an in-class experiment or present a surprise research finding. The course schedule is also posted on the E-learning site and will be updated as needed to reflect what we cover in class.

Although I will lecture in each class, you should not feel like you're a spectator. I would love for you to interrupt at any point with questions, comments, critical thoughts, and examples (as long as they're relevant and respectful). This will make the class more enjoyable for everyone.

COURSE PREPARATION

Although attendance is not mandatory, and purchasing the textbook is optional, it is in your best interest to attend class regularly and to have read the assigned materials before coming to class. Your final grade comes primarily from your performance on exams, and exam material will come entirely from my lectures. Although the slides will be posted online, my lecture notes tend to be sparse and there will certainly be some figures and examples that you cannot understand by looking at the slides alone. Therefore, it is important that you attend the lectures so that you know what the slides mean. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate; we will not provide them to you.

Students often do not understand how to study effectively, so I will tell you exactly what you should do if you want to do well in this class. First, you should read the assigned reading *before* class; that way, you have some idea about what to expect when you get to class. When in class, the key thing to do is to *listen* to the lecture. Taking pages and pages of notes with the assumption that you will go back and read them later is an ineffective strategy for learning. Students who try to write down everything that I say often end up feeling anxious and overwhelmed. Trust me -- the best thing you can do in class is to listen carefully and to actively think about the course material and to relate it to your own life. You are welcome to record the lectures if you think that would help you. As soon as possible after class you should go back over the lecture slides and remind yourself what you just learned. If there is anything that you don't understand, make a note of it so that you can read about in the textbook, ask about it during the next class, or see the TA during his/her office hours for clarification.

In short, to do well in this class you should: (A) read before class, (B) listen in class, (C) review after class, and (D) study hard for exams. If you have questions about the course material or course policies, please first check with the TA. If he cannot resolve your problem, then you may contact the instructor.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Mid-Semester and Final Examinations

There will be three in-class exams during the semester. The exams will be a combination of 50 multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions that come from the lecture material. There will be no study guide provided as the course slides *are* the study guide. Your lowest mid-semester exam grade will be dropped and the other two exam grades will be worth 50 points each. There will be a cumulative, 70-item multiple-choice final exam on Monday, April 28th at 5.30pm. The final exam is worth 70 points.

Makeup exams will be offered only in extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical emergency) at the instructors' discretion. If you have an unexpected emergency and miss an exam, you must contact the graduate teaching assistant within 24 hours of the original exam time and provide written documentation.

After each exam, I carefully examine each item using statistical procedures to make sure that the items are fair, not excessively difficult, and discriminate between students who know the material and students who do not. Although I am always writing new items, I have developed a set of exam questions that have proven to be very good in testing students' knowledge of the material. Developing these exams is difficult and time consuming; thus, students are not allowed to keep them. The graduate teaching assistant for the class keeps all exams. If you would like to view an exam you have taken (and I strongly encourage you to do so), please see the graduate teaching assistant. Toward the end of the semester we will add special office hours for you to review all of your old exams ahead of the cumulative final.

Discussion Group Postings

You will each be assigned to a discussion group composed of 20-25 of your fellow classmates. Most weeks, you will be required to post a brief reflection about something that we covered in class (see course schedule for due dates). Your reflection may take any form you like (e.g., a relevant anecdote from your own life, elaboration, a point of confusion or disagreement, a news story or example from the real world). Your post does not have to be long-winded (a few sentences is enough), but it must be clearly and directly related to course material that we've covered since the last discussion post was due.

You are also required to contribute two replies to your classmates' reflections. The idea is to get a conversation going – you can answer someone's question, perhaps with an overlooked fact, or with your own opinion, or maybe a YouTube video or news article. You can civilly disagree or otherwise expand on someone's initial post. If you're thinking deeply and talking to each other, I'm happy.

Your initial posts are due by 6pm on Fridays and your two response posts are due by 6pm on Sundays. Each post is worth 1 point for a total of 30 points. You will receive no credit for late posts.

COURSE GRADES

Your final grade will be calculated based on your two highest exam grades (50 points each), your final exam grade (70 points), and your discussion post grades (30 points). Your final course grade will reflect how many total points (out of 200) you accumulate:

A	186 or above	C	146-153
A-	180-185	C-	140-145
B+	174-179	D+	134-139
B	166-173	D	126-133
B-	160-165	D-	120-125
C+	154-159	F	119 or below

Note that these cutoffs are real and non-negotiable. If you want an A, get enough points for an A; I will not give you extra points simply you want them. Also, I do not give extra credit so please do not ask.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

CHEATING AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Cheating is defined in the UF Handbook, and it is the student's responsibility to be familiar with its many forms. If a student is caught cheating, the first offense will result in a zero for that exam or assignment and a record of the event will be placed in a temporary file with the Office of Student Affairs. If you are caught cheating on a mid-semester exam, you may not drop that exam's grade, even if it is your lowest. The second offense will result in an "E" for the course, and the student will go before the Honor Court. As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."