Sociology 245  
Individual and Society  
Dr. Brandy Simula

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will explore the dynamic relationship between the individual and society by exploring the interdisciplinary field of social psychology. Social psychology is the study of how the presence of other people (real or imaginary) affects our beliefs, perceptions, emotions, and behaviors. We will focus on how social groups influence and are influenced by individuals. The course covers several key areas of social psychology, including: selves and identities, the social construction of reality, social cognition, emotions, and interpersonal relations. Through a variety of in-class exercises, students will learn to use social psychological concepts to better understand their own experiences.

Over the course of the semester our readings and conversations will address the following questions: What does it mean to say that selves and identities are social processes? How and why do our selves and identities change over time? What information do we use to form impressions of one another? How do we perceive others and what common errors in perception do we make? What cognitive processes influence how we perceive and interact with others? What factors affect interpersonal attraction? How do relationships develop and change over time? How does social inequality influence our everyday interactions with others? How do cultural beliefs about gender, race, ethnicity, dis/ability, age, class, and sexual orientation influence interactions in groups? How do status hierarchies develop in groups?

COURSE MATERIALS

Companion website with flashcards and quizzes:  
http://bcspublishers.com/aronson11e/  
Additional readings available on e-reserve.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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<th>REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Quizzes (25%)
Quizzes will be given frequently during the semester—typically at the end of each unit. Quizzes cannot be made up without a documented emergency or excused absence (e.g. a letter from your coach or the Dean’s office). Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Research Paper (25%)
This assignment will give you the opportunity to conduct your own mini research study on a social psychological topic or process of interest to you. Using materials from our class as well as additional empirical studies, you will generate a hypothesis and test that hypothesis through collecting and analyzing data. I will provide detailed instructions early in the semester. **I do not accept late work except in the case of a documented emergency.**

- Paper proposal due February 15th
- Research project workshop in class March 20th
- Draft papers for paper workshop due April 3rd
- Paper workshop in class April 5th
- Final paper due April 15th

**Exams (50% total)**
- Mid-term exam: 25%
- Final exam: 25%

The mid-term and final exams will provide you with the opportunity to demonstrate your ability to apply social psychological concepts and analytical skills. **Make-up exams will only be offered in the case of a documented emergency.**

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<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>Achievement outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
<td>Achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77</td>
<td>Achievement meeting the basic course requirements in every respect</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-67</td>
<td>Achievement worthy of partial credit that does not meet the basic requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>60 and below</td>
<td>Performance failing to meet the basic course requirements</td>
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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Participation and Attendance**
Much of the substantive content for this course will be delivered during lecture. Frequent in-class activities, group work, mini-experiments, and active discussion will provide you with opportunities to apply course content for practice prior to the research projects and exams; thus attending and actively participating in class are critical components of your success in the course. **If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate; I do not provide**
private tutorials to students who miss class, nor do I make power points from lecture available outside of class.

**Electronic Devices**
Please remember to turn off all electronic devices (e.g. mp3 players, cell phones, etc.) before coming into class. If you have a special situation that requires you to have a cell phone or beeper on during our class (e.g. sick family member, on-call sexual assault volunteer), please notify me before class. The use of laptops is permitted only by arrangement through the Office of Disabilities. **If I see you using an electronic device during class without having previously arranged permission with me, I will ask you to leave.**

**Disability Accommodations**
If you are in need of accommodation for this class, please notify me as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements that will facilitate your full participation in the course.

**Honor Code/ Plagiarism**
Every student enrolled in Emory College is bound by the university’s honor code, which prohibits any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarizing. Violations of the honor code will immediately be referred to the Honor Council.

**Office Hours and Instructor Availability**
You are always welcome to use office hours or make an appointment to discuss questions or concerns about our class or any other issue that affects your life at Emory. Also remember that you can talk to a trained counseling staff member—free and confidentially—at the Emory counseling center at any point during your academic career. For more information, see [http://www.emory.edu/SCOUNSEL](http://www.emory.edu/SCOUNSEL).

It’s fine to use e-mail for quick questions or to let me know you will not be able to make it to class, but **questions about assignments, your course performance, or concepts from lectures, discussions, and readings should take place during office hours. I check e-mail regularly and will do my best to reply to your messages promptly (usually within 48 hours).**

**Grade Review Policy**
If you feel that the grade you have earned on an assignment/ assessment is inaccurate, you may request a grade review by submitting a written explanation of why you feel your grade is inaccurate along with the original graded assignment/ assessment within 2 class periods from when the grade is returned to you (e.g. if I return an assignment in class on Monday, you must submit a written appeal by the next Friday). Once I have reviewed your original grade and your written appeal, I will schedule an appointment with you to discuss the outcome of the review.

**Syllabus Subject to Change**
This syllabus is subject to change with advance notice.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Jan 16: Introductions

Jan 18: What is Social Psychology?
Aronson Ch 1 - What is Social Psychology? pp. 1-11

Jan 21: No Class/ MLK Holiday Observance

Jan 23: How do people create selves and identities?

Jan 25: Selves and identities, cont’d

Jan 28: Selves and identities, cont’d

Jan 30 Selves and identities, cont’d

Feb 1: Selves and identities, cont’d

Feb 4: How do researchers study social interaction?
Aronson, Ch 9- Social Psychology as a Science pp. 405-429

Feb 6: Studying social interaction, cont’d

Feb 8: Studying social interaction, cont’d

Feb 11: How do people socially construct their realities?
Aronson, Ch 2- Conformity pp.19-35

Feb 13: Constructing realities, continued
Aronson, Ch 2- Conformity pp.35-56

Feb 15: Constructing realities, continued

Paper Proposals Due

Feb 18 Constructing realities, continued
Aronson, Ch 3- Mass Communication, Propaganda, and Persuasion pp. 59-73
Feb 20: Constructing realities, continued
Aronson, Ch 3- Mass Communication, Propaganda, and Persuasion pp.73-84

Feb 22: Constructing realities, continued
Aronson, Ch 3- Mass Communication, Propaganda, and Persuasion pp.84-102

Feb 25: Constructing realities, continued

Feb 27: How do we process information?
Aronson, Ch 7- Prejudice pp. 297-313

Mar 1: How do we process information?
Aronson, Ch 7- Prejudice pp. 313-330

Mar 4: Information processing, cont’d
Aronson, Ch 4- Social Cognition pp. 113-132; 139-144

Mar 6: Information processing, cont’d
Aronson, Ch 4- Social Cognition pp. 152-175

Mar 8: Mid-Term Exam Review

Mar 11-15: Spring Break

Mar 18: Mid-Term

Mar 20: Research Project Workshop
   Bring preliminary data, methodological questions, preliminary analyses, etc.

Mar 22: Information processing, cont’d

Mar 25: Information processing, cont’d

Mar 27: How do we experience emotions?

Mar 29: No Class/ Work on Research Papers

Apr 1: Emotions, cont’d

**Apr 3: Emotions, cont’d**


**Bring two hard copies of drafts of your research paper**

**Apr 5: Paper Workshops**

Read papers of your workshop group members

**Apr 8: How do we relate to others?**

Aronson, Ch 8- Liking, Loving, and Interpersonal Sensitivity pp. 355-379;

**Apr 10: How do we relate to others?**

Aronson, Ch 8- Liking, Loving, and Interpersonal Sensitivity pp. 389-400

**Apr 12: Relating to others, cont’d**


**Apr 15: Relating to others, cont’d**


**Research Papers Due**

**Apr 17: Relating to others, cont’d**


**Apr 19: Research Project Presentations**

**Apr 22: Presentations, cont’d**

**Apr 24 and 26: No Class/ Southern Sociological Society Annual Meetings**

**Apr 29: Exam Review**

**Tuesday, May 7 12:30-3:00 Final Exam**