

Syllabus Psychology W2630x: Social Psychology

This syllabus is based on Prof. E. Tory Higgins' W2630y course, "Social Psychology."

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:35-11:50 AM

Class Location: Schermerhorn 614

Instructors: Justin Cavallo (jvc2124@columbia.edu) and
M. Joy McClure (mjm2251@columbia.edu)

Office hours: TBA, Schermerhorn 219 (McClure) and TBA, Schermerhorn 329 (Cavallo) or by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Loren Berman (lb2587@columbia.edu),
Danielle Golomb (dmg2112@columbia.edu) and
Christine Webb (cw2472@columbia.edu)

Office hours: TBA

Textbook:

E.R. Smith & D. M. Mackie. *SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY* (3rd Edition)

The book is available at the Columbia Bookstore. You can also buy a used textbook, just make sure you have the correct edition.

The additional readings and optional readings will be posted on Courseworks.

SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Lecturer	Readings	Exercises
Tuesday, Sept. 6	Introduction	McClure	1	
Thursday, Sept. 8	Research Methods	McClure	2	
Tuesday, Sept. 13	Attitudes & Persuasion	Cavallo	7	
Thursday, Sept. 15	Attitudes & Behaviour	Cavallo	8	
Tuesday, Sept. 20	Person Perception	McClure	3	
Thursday, Sept. 22	The Self	McClure	4	
Tuesday, Sept. 27	Cognitive Biases	McClure	Articles from Courseworks	
Thursday, Sept. 29	Discrimination & Prejudice	Cavallo	5	Exercise 1 Due
Tuesday, Oct. 4	Stereotypes	Cavallo		
Thursday, Oct. 6	Social Identity	Cavallo	6	

Date	Topic	Lecturer	Readings	Exercises
Tuesday, Oct. 11	Take up Exercise 1/Review	Both		
Thursday, Oct. 13	Social Behaviour of Animals	Guest Lecture: Christine Webb		
Tuesday, Oct. 18	Midterm			
Thursday, Oct. 20	Performance in Groups	McClure	12	
Tuesday, Oct. 25	Leadership & Group Decisions	McClure		Exercise 2 Due
Thursday, Oct. 27	Health Psychology	Guest Lecture: Gertraud Stadler		
Tuesday, Nov. 1	Attraction	McClure	11	
Thursday, Nov. 3	Relationships	McClure		
<i>Tuesday, Nov. 8</i>	<i>Election Day - University Holiday</i>			
Thursday, Nov. 10	Cross-cultural Psychology	Cavallo	Articles from Courseworks	
Tuesday, Nov. 15	Norms	Cavallo	9	
Thursday, Nov. 17	Conformity	Cavallo	10	Exercise 3 Due
Tuesday, Nov. 22	Aggression	Cavallo	13	
<i>Thursday, Nov. 24</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Day - University Holiday</i>			
Tuesday, Nov. 29	Helping	Cavallo	14	
Thursday, Dec. 1	Social Neuroscience	McClure	Articles from Courseworks	
Tuesday, Dec. 6	Evolutionary Psychology	McClure	Articles from Courseworks	
Thursday, Dec. 8	Review	Both		Exercise 4 Due by 9AM the day of the Final Exam

GRADING

Your grade will be determined by the following:

Activity	Percentage of Final Grade
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	45%
Exercises	20%

EXAMS

Each exam will consist of two parts. The first part will be comprised of multiple-choice questions. For the second part you will be allowed to choose from a list of short answer questions to answer.

EXERCISES

You will be required to complete four take-home exercises. The detailed instructions for each assignment will be posted to Courseworks. For different exercises you will: observe the behavior of your friends or peers in their natural settings and think about how what they do differs from or resembles what social psychology would predict, think about how the theories and findings from the class play out in the real world, or read about and propose extensions to social psychology research.

The deadlines for the exercises are listed in the class schedule, above. For exercises 1-3, hand in your exercise in class. For exercise 4, submit via e-mail to socialpsychcourse@gmail.com (this e-mail address is not otherwise monitored). You do NOT need title pages, but DO make sure that your name and uni are clearly indicated! Each exercise will be graded as Fail (if not handed in or completed as instructed), Pass, and Pass Plus (for exceptional work). It is expected that all students will complete and hand in all 4 exercises. Under exceptional circumstances, an alternative to conducting a specific exercise will be considered. A student should not take the course if he or she does not want to participate in the research exercises.

NOTE. The exercises that involve data collection are designed solely to provide the students in the class with an opportunity to practice various social psychology research methods as well as data analysis. The projects are quite limited in scope, do not lead to generalizable knowledge, and are not undertaken with that goal in mind. For example, a student may interview a peer when the interview does not involve any sensitive, personal information. The projects have been selected to not put you or the participants at any more risk than the minimal risk of any other common everyday activity. The data must and will be recorded anonymously (i.e., with no names, social security numbers, or any other codes that can be linked to a list of names). These projects are considered "classroom exercises" only. There is absolutely no anticipation that the results will be published or presented at a professional meeting. The data collected will be presented and discussed, in the form of general summary findings, only within the classroom.

READINGS

You should do your best to do the readings before class. This will allow you to get more out of the lecture and will make it easier for you to participate in class discussions.

COMMUNICATING WITH INSTRUCTORS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS

We encourage you to talk with us about the course material after class, during office hours or via e-mail. If you have questions that are relevant to the whole class, you may want to e-mail us and we will share them and the answer with the rest of the class.

We will hold office hours every week. We encourage you to drop by to discuss the course material and pose any questions you may have. If the time of office hours is not convenient, you can email us to set up another time to meet during the week.

Note: For content-specific questions (i.e. not about the general running of the course), you should first contact one of the teaching assistants. They are usually able to answer your questions quickly and thoroughly! In the unlikely event that they are unable to fully address your inquiry, they will pass it onto us and we will be sure to follow-up with you as soon as we can.