

**The University of Findlay
College of Liberal Arts
Spring Semester 2009**

*The Mission of the University is to equip our students
for meaningful lives and productive careers.*

Course Number/Title: PSYC 302.01 – Social Psychology

Credit Hours: 3

Class Time/Place: MWF 11:00 pm to 11:50 pm / TLTC 003

Prerequisites: "C" or better in ENGL 106, PSYC 100, and junior standing or consent of the instructor

Instructor: John R. Leach, PhD., Assistant Professor of Psychology
306 College Street, Room A (Psychology House)
(419) 434-6917 leach@findlay.edu

Office Hours: Mon. 9:00 am to 10:50 am
Wed. 10:00 am to 10:50 am
Fri. 9:00 am to 10:50 am
or by appointment

Course Description This course is a study of human behavior in social settings. Interpersonal relations are considered in the light of principles of attitude formation, prejudice, group dynamics, leadership, etc. Research methodology unique to the field is also covered.

Relationship to the Conceptual Framework Behavior has been defined as the combination of situation and disposition. This course focuses on the situational (social) side of the equation. Social influence is at the heart of social psychology. Other people can influence our behavior or our thoughts and our feelings through direct attempts at persuasion or more indirectly through their presence and the transmission of cultural values.

Course Objectives

1. Student should show familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in the field of Social Psychology.
2. Students should understand basic research methods of Social Psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
3. Students should respect and use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavioral and mental processes.
4. Students should understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.
5. Students should be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of Social Psychology as a discipline.
6. Students should understand themselves and others in a cultural context and develop interpersonal skills for diverse settings over the lifespan.
7. Students should emerge from the course with realistic ideals about how to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings.

General Education Learning Outcomes Addressed

Goal 1. Students will take courses which expose them to a range of basic religious beliefs and diverse ethical perspectives and which encourage them to develop their own perspectives on global issues.	X
Goal 2. Students will become familiar with the historical, scientific, literary, and/or philosophical content of a range of disciplines.	X
Goal 3. Students will acquire and practice skills for reading, writing, speaking, listening, abstract inquiry, critical thinking, logical reasoning, and using computers and related technology.	X
Goal 4. Students will develop an appreciation for and means of analyzing art, literature, music, communication, science, and/or theatre.	X
Goal 5. Throughout their general education experience, students will analyze and reflect upon the challenges facing our global society as well as the importance of being a life-long learner and responsible citizen.	X

Required Textbooks and other materials

Myers, David G., (2008). Social Psychology, 9th Ed. McGraw Hill Publishing

Knowledge Base

Various readings selected by the instructor

Instructional Strategies

Case Analysis	X	Library and Internet Research	X
Debate	X	Practice/drill	
Discovery/Independent Research	X	Problem solving	X
Discussion/Questioning/Interviewing	X	Reading assignments	X
Experiential Learning	X	Role playing/simulation games	X
Field Experience	X	Service Learning	
Group Presentation	X	Video/Audio Review and Critique	
Laboratory Experiences		Other	
Lecture	X		

Methods of Assessment

Abstracts		Oral/written review of literature	X
Attendance	X	Participation	X
Capstone Project		Peer Evaluation	
Case Study	X	Portfolio	
Exams	X	Portfolio Lab Performance	
Group Projects	X	Presentations	X
Homework Assignments		Professional Evaluation	
Internet Research		Quizzes	
Journaling		Research project	
Lab Performance		Other	

Grading	Exams: 4 @ 100 points each:	400
	Social Experiment:	50
	Attendance and Participation:	<u>50</u>
	Total:	500

Grading Scale/Distribution	A	500 to 465 points	93 to 100 %
	A-	464 to 450 points	90 to 92 %
	B+	449 to 435 points	87 to 89 %
	B	434 to 415 points	83 to 86 %
	B-	414 to 400 points	80 to 82 %
	C+	399 to 385 points	77 to 79 %
	C	384 to 365 points	73 to 76 %
	C-	364 to 350 points	70 to 72 %
	D+	349 to 335 points	67 to 69 %
	D	334 to 315 points	63 to 66 %
	D-	314 to 300 points	60 to 62 %
F	299 or less points	below 60 %	

Honor Code

I will not knowingly engage in any dishonorable behavior, cheat, steal, lie or commit any act of plagiarism during my academic work, course, or endeavor. If I observe an act which I believe violates the University's Honor Code, I may, in my discretion, report it to the appropriate personnel.

Course Policies and Practices

The course will be more of the collective discovery and discussion type than the lecture type. I will occasionally lecture on specific topics, but even that will NOT be me giving a word for word retelling of the readings. What I am looking for in this class is active participation and discussion on your part. **I expect you to read the relevant text prior to class and be prepared to engage in lively and informative discussion, debate, and activities.** To do well in this course you will need to integrate readings, demonstrations, activities, and discussions.

During each class session, we will focus on a few important topics from the chapter. However, you are still responsible for **all** the material in each chapter (not just what is discussed in class).

Exams:

Four exams will be given. Exams will be some combination of multiple choice, fill-in, matching, or short essay. Each exam will be worth 100 points, and will cover material covered up to that point.

Attendance:

Attendance is expected, and it does count towards your final point total. Attendance will be taken everyday by means of a signup sheet. It is your responsibility to make sure you have signed the attendance sheet, as this is your only proof of attendance. There are times when a student has a legitimate reason for missing a class. Thus, you may miss up to three class periods without penalty. After that you will lose five attendance points for each class you miss. If you must miss a class, get notes from a fellow student or see me about the material you missed.

Social Experiment:

At one point during the semester we will be conducting group projects. The projects will be social experiments and participation is vital. Students will conduct and observe behavior in several different social contexts. More information on this will be given at a later date.

Final Exam Date Final Exam date: Tuesday, April 30th, 10:00 am to 11:50 am

Special Services If you are a student with a disability, it is your responsibility to register with the Office of Disability Service and notify your instructor one week prior to any needed service so that reasonable accommodations can be made for you.

Course and Instructor Evaluation A standard evaluation survey to be made available at the end of the semester.

Tentative Course Outline (a detailed outline will be forthcoming)