This course is an introduction to social psychology. G.W. Allport, one of the giants in social psychology, identified the scope of the field as “the thought, feeling, and behavior of individuals” in the context of and shaped by the “actual, imagined, or implied presence of others.” Clearly, the scope of social psychology is broad and the field overlaps with many other fields of psychology to some extent. A one-semester course can only skim the surface of social psychology. This course will do that. By the end of the course, the student should have a basic familiarity with many social psychological issues.

**Requirements**

Each student will select a substantive area or topic to investigate in detail and summarize for the seminar via an oral presentation. The student will generate a final paper that further elaborates on the area of interest or that addresses another area of concern in social psychology. The paper must be grounded in social psychology’s theoretical and empirical literature, but it may integrate, add to, or illuminate other psychological perspectives, if appropriate. The paper must be no more than 15 double-spaced pages that adheres to APA writing style and is copied single-sided. *The term paper is due at the last meeting of the course.*

The first half of most weekly meetings will be devoted to review and discussion of the assigned readings, and the remaining half to a student’s oral presentation. For both parts of the weekly gathering (i.e., the assigned readings and oral presentations), critical evaluation of the literature and originality of ideas will be rewarded, as will class participation.

**Readings**

All readings are available on Blackboard, except books. Recommended readings are identified below by an asterisk. Articles should be read in the order listed.

**Abbreviations**

JPSP = *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*

**Course Schedule and Readings**

**January 31 Introduction**


**February 7: Attitude**


**Note.** In 2007, *Social Cognition* devoted an entire issue (#5) to attitudes.

**February 14: Attitude Formation/Change and Behavior**


February 21: Cognitive Consistency


February 28: No class, Clinical Psychology Admission Day

March 7: Evolutionary Psychology and Social Psychology


March 14: Terror Management Theory


March 21: Social Influence
Bond, R., & Smith, P.B. (1996). Culture and conformity: A meta-analysis of studies using Asch’s (1952b, 1956) line judgment task. *Psychological Bulletin, 119*, 111-137. (Note. *If you are unfamiliar with Asch’s work, see the recommended article by him, cited below. You must know Asch’s work to appreciate and understand Bond and Smith’s work.*)


Note. We would have reviewed the following articles on Social Influence in a second session, had it been possible.

**March 28: Automaticity of Social Behavior (get ready for stereotyping)**
Schröder, T., & Thagard, P. (2013). The affective meanings of automatic social behaviors: Three mechanisms that explain priming. *Psychological Review, 120*, 255-280. *(This article uses neural network modeling, which is complicated. Feel free just to skim the findings on pp. 261-272, getting the gist of them.)*

Note. There is plenty of required reading for next week. Thus, you may want to start reading soon.

**April 4: Prejudice and Discrimination**

**April 11 and 18: No classes, spring recess**

**April 25: Intergroup Relations**

**May 2: Stereotype Effects on Victims**

**May 9: Interpersonal Relationships**
function of similarity to the ideal self. *JPSP, 84*, 1206-1219.


**May 16: Wrap-Up**

**FINAL PAPER DUE DURING THE LAST SEMINAR, on MAY 16.**

Note. An extra session was not available to review social psychological perspectives on *The Self*. Below are articles for you to peruse at leisure.


File: SocialPsyF17_syllabus (Revision of 1/29/17)