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 its end, 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 adhere 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
ARP = Annual Review of Psychology
JPSP = Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

Course Schedule and Readings
February 2: Introduction
February 9: Attitude

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

February 16: Attitude Formation/Change and Behavior
March 2: Terror Management Theory

March 9: Social Dominance Theory

March 16: 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.)


*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.
*Kelman, H.C. (2006). Interests, relationships, identities: Three central issues for individuals and groups in negotiating their social environment. ARP, 57, 1-26. (You are responsible just for pp. 1-19.)

March 23: 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. (The 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 the next two weeks. Thus, you may want to start reading soon.

March 30: Spring Recess; no class
April 6: Prejudice and Discrimination
*Cuddy, A.J.C., Fiske, S.T., & Glick, P. (2007). The BIAS map: Behaviors from intergroup affect and stereotypes. A model JPSP, 92, 631-648. (This is an elaboration of Fiske et al., 2002)

April 13: Intergroup Relations
April 20: Stereotype Effects on Victims

April 27: Interpersonal Relationships

May 4: The Self

May 11: Wrap-up

FINAL PAPER DUE by 5:00 pm.
Cognitive Consistency
