

Instructor: Dr. Vicki S. Helgeson

Office: Baker 335B

Office Phone: X82624

Office Hours: T, Th 12:00-1:30 WITH appt

Email: vh2e@andrew.cmu.edu**Teaching Assistants:**

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TAs will each hold one office hour the week prior to the exam and the week after exams are returned.

Purpose: The main goal of this course is to help students become aware of the impact the environment or the situation has on one's own and others' thoughts, behavior, and feelings. The course is roughly divided into three sections (an exam covering each), corresponding to these three domains: thoughts, behavior, and feelings.

Text: *Social Psychology* (10th Edition) (2019); by Elliot Aronson, Timothy D. Wilson, Robin M. Akert, Sam Sommers (you may purchase earlier editions but you are responsible for the material covered in the 9th ed)

There is a Canvas Board associated with this course: canvas.cmu.edu

Course goals:

- Instill a sense of curiosity, critical thinking, and enthusiasm for the field of social psychology
- Familiarity with theory, research, and applications in social psychology and related disciplines
- Familiarity with diverse experimental, laboratory, and field paradigms in social psychology
- Understanding of the ethical issues surrounding research in social psychology

These goals are accomplished via short-answer exams and essays on personal experiences in social psychology.

Research Requirement. There is a research requirement for all students enrolled in this course who have not completed the requirement for two other PSYCHOLOGY classes in the past at CMU. Failure to complete the research requirement will result in an incomplete in this course. Failure to make up the incomplete next semester will result in the loss of one letter grade.

Assessment Strategies:

Final grades will be based on:

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| • 3 exams consisting of about 20-25 short-answer questions | 100 pts each | 300 pts total |
| • Final exam consisting of about 30-40 short-answer questions | | 150 pts total |
| • 3 written exercises that require relating what you have learned about social psychology to the real world | 50 pts each | 150 pts total |
| • 10 pop quizzes | 5 pts each | 40* pts total |

*There are no excused absences for pop quizzes, and no makeups for pop quizzes are provided. You can miss 2 without any cost to your grade, as 40 is the number of points used to calculate your final grade. The quizzes will not be difficult. They are to reward attendance and paying attention in class as well as to ensure that you have read the articles for class.

Final grades are based on the percentage of 640 points earned: 90% and above = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% =D; below 60% = R

Exams: The format for all exams will be short answer. Concise and complete answers will be rewarded.

EXAM DATES: Exam 1 Tues 9/17; Exam 2 Thurs 10/17; Exam 3 Th 11/14

Missed Exams: The only acceptable excuse for a missed exam is personal or family illness. In the instance that one of these rare events occurs, verification must be provided and the instructor must be notified prior to the exam. There will be no makeup exam given. If your absence for an exam is excused, the final will be assigned greater weight. If your absence for an exam is unexcused, you will receive a 0 for the exam.

Exercises: There will be three written exercises. You can choose any 3 from the list of 6 exercises posted on Canvas. There are three separate due dates. You can do any of the exercises in any order, but you can only complete a single exercise once. Exercises should be submitted to Canvas by the start of class (1:30) on the following dates.

EXERCISE DUE DATES: #1 9/24; #2 10/29; #3 11/21

10% of your grade (5 points) will be deducted for each 24-hour period an exercise is late.

Missing class: You are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements made. Thus, there is no reason to let me know that you will be missing class because the above still holds. If you miss class, you should go to 331 to obtain a copy of the lecture notes and then ask a friend to borrow his/her written notes. After reviewing the lecture notes and your friend's notes, if you have questions you should schedule a time to meet with me or with one of the TAs to answer specific questions. We will not review the entire lecture.

Plagiarism: I expect your work to be your own. Please see the Student Handbook for University definitions and policies regarding cheating and plagiarism. You do not need to worry about quoting another person because quotes are not allowed on papers, pop quizzes, or exams. Use your own words.

Accommodations: The Equal Opportunity Services Office offers accommodations to students who face physical and/or mental challenges. Please let me know about any accommodations as soon as possible, but especially before the first exam or the first exercise is due. I will work with you to ensure that accommodations are provided and appropriate. If you suspect that you may have a disability and would benefit from accommodations but are not yet registered with the Office of Disability Resources, I encourage you to contact them at access@andrew.cmu.edu

I EXPECT YOU TO:

1. **attend class and arrive on time.** You are responsible for all material presented and discussed in class (including announcements made).
2. pay attention in class and take notes.
3. read the assigned material **before class.** This is especially important for assigned articles. They will be discussed—not reviewed—in class. There is a very high likelihood that there will be pop quizzes when an article has been assigned before it is discussed in class.
4. **not use a laptop, cell phone, or other electronic device** during class. LAPTOP COMPUTERS/IPADS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN CLASS. By providing copies of the lecture outlines, you do not need to write down everything that is said in class. There is space on the lecture outlines for you to take additional notes. *Research has shown that taking handwritten notes is more effective in enhancing learning and memory than typing on an electronic device.*
[Mueller, Pam A., and Daniel M. Oppenheimer. "The pen is mightier than the keyboard advantages of longhand over laptop note taking." *Psychological science* (2014): 0956797614524581.]
5. contact me or one of the TAs if you need help.
6. contact me in the event of an illness or family emergency that prevents you from taking a test or turning in a paper **before it is due.** (In the unlikely event that you do not do this, I expect you to contact me **immediately** after you have missed an exam or paper deadline.)

YOU CAN EXPECT ME TO:

1. start and end class on time.
2. provide an outline of the class lecture at the start of class. These notes will only be available at class. If you miss class and would like a copy of the notes, please see my office assistant in Baker 335H to get a copy of the notes.
3. give exams that reflect the class lectures and the text.
4. grade and return exams and papers within one week.
5. provide feedback on exams and papers.
6. respond to email within 24 hours unless I am out of town.

ON A MORE PERSONAL NOTE:

I know that college can be a stressful time – changes in relationships with family and friends; academic expectations from family, friends, and yourself; challenging classes, homework, assignments; figuring out your future life plans. Here are a couple of thoughts:

- 1. Try to take care of yourself – eat well, get some exercise, get sleep, and find some healthy recreational choices. Schoolwork is more manageable when you have a healthy mind and body as resources.*
- 2. Do not be afraid to ask for help – from a friend, a professor, a counselor, or myself. Students often believe that asking for help is a sign of weakness, but it is a sign of strength that you can come to the realization that not all problems are solvable on your own. Feel free to contact Counseling and Psychological Services for assistance (CaPS; 412-268-2922; website <http://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>) or to ask me for other resources.*

CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING (9th ed)</u>
T 8/27	Overview of Course Introduction to Social Psychology	Ch 1
Th 8/29	Methods & Ethics <i>Research Requirement Presentation</i>	Ch 2
T 9/3	<i>Film: Obedience to Authority (45 min)</i>	Ch 8 (pp 256-265) <i>Article: Elms “Obedience in retrospect”</i>
Th 9/5	Attitudes (cognitive dissonance)	Ch 7 (pp. 188-198); Ch 6
T 9/10	Attitude Change	Ch 7 (the rest of it!)
Th 9/12	Social Cognition	Ch 3 <i>Article: Burger & Burns “The illusion of uniqueness”</i>
T 9/17	EXAM 1	
Th 9/19	Attribution Theory	Ch 4 (pp. 97-115)
T 9/24	Review Exam & Discuss Article EXERCISE 1 DUE	<i>Article: Rosenhan “On being sane in insane places”</i>

Th	9/26	Social Roles <i>Film: Quiet Rage: Stanford Prison Experiment</i>	<i>Article: Haney "A study of prisoners and guards in a"</i>
T	10/1	Gender Roles and Gender Development	TBA
Th	10/3	The Self and Social Comparison Theory	Ch 5
T	10/8	Conformity	Ch 8
Th	10/10	Group Behavior	Ch 9 (pp. 262-286)
T	10/15	Groupthink <i>Film: Abilene Paradox</i>	Ch 9 (pp. 279-280)
Th	10/17	EXAM 2	
T	10/22	Conflict	Ch 9 (pp. 286-292) Social Action 1 (pp. 455-468)
Th	10/24	Prejudice <i>Assign to watch Film CRASH</i>	Ch 13
T	10/29	Reducing prejudice and stereotype threat EXERCISE 2 DUE	<i>Articles: Aronson "Jigsaw groups"</i> <i>Steele "Thin ice: Stereotype threat:"</i>
Th	10/31	<i>Discussion of CRASH film</i>	
T	11/5*	Moral Licensing (Kody)	
Th	11/7	Prosocial Behavior	Ch 11
T	11/12	Aggression	Ch 12
Th	11/14	EXAM 3	
T	11/19	Interpersonal Attraction	Ch 10
Th	11/21	Psychology and Law EXERCISE 3 DUE	Social Action 3
T	11/26	CLASS CANCELLED	
		NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK	

T	12/3	Social Support and Culture: Jeanean Naqvi	TBA
Th	12/5	Health Psychology	Social Action 2 <i>Article: Taylor "Adjustment to threatening events"</i>

FINAL EXAM — TBA (Cumulative, with emphasis on the material since exam 3 —150 pts)

*** Please do not make arrangements to leave for the end of the semester until after the final exam. If you have 3 exams scheduled within a 24-hour period, I will give you the exam one day early. Otherwise, there are no alternative dates to take the final exam.*