



SOC 336 Social Psychology
Winter I (October 17 – December 17) Term, 2016

Instructor: Jean Kilnoski, Phone
Email: jean.kilnoski@doane.edu
Phone: 402-467-9021

Course Description

The study of human thought and behavior as it is influenced by the presence of other people. Topics include conformity to social norms, persuasion, self-justification, group processes, and aggression. Students successfully completing the course will demonstrate their understanding of the major empirical findings on these topics as well as the major theories and concepts which help us understand the processes by which social factors, as opposed to stable personality traits, influence human thought and behavior.

Participants in the course will be involved in scholarly dialogue and class discussions; will prepare for and present a selected topic for debate to the class; will complete one midterm paper; and will prepare a final paper of acceptable college-level work. Grading will encompass class attendance; the participation in class discussion and the degree of preparedness for each class session; the quality of the debate presentation(s) in terms of content and preparedness; and the quality of the written work in terms of content, concept or theory development, and writing skills.

Required Text:

[Myers, David. \(2011\). Exploring Social Psychology. \(7th\) ed. Publisher: McGraw-Hill, New York, NY, 2009.](#)

[ISBN: 0077825454](#)

Course Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the definition of social psychology, and comprehend how social psychology bridges the gap between sociology and psychology;
2. Understand the core concerns and important theoretical perspectives in social psychology;
3. Comprehend social psychology as a science, major research methods used by social psychologists and associated ethical issues;
4. Understand and be able to apply the critical thinking perspective to the evaluation of social psychological concepts and theory;
5. Enhance writing skills through course assignments

6. Master the practical application of social psychological theory and concepts to everyday, real life situations.

Course Requirements and Evaluations (Grading):

1. Attendance and participation in classroom discussions. This includes being prepared to discuss assigned readings, handouts, and videos, etc. Fifteen percent of your final grade will be based on participation and attendance. After reading the syllabus, you can understand that attendance is important to take full advantage of all the learning opportunities of this course. **There is no make-up work for absences.** If you anticipate more than two absences, please enroll for the course at a more convenient time.
2. Debate – will be discussed during the first class meeting.
3. Midterm Paper
The paper will apply social psychological concepts to a real world situation chosen by the instructor. Papers that are submitted late will lose five points for each day past the due date.
4. Debate Position Paper
The paper will outline and support your position in the debate.
5. Final Paper
The paper will apply social psychological theories and concepts, or combination thereof, to a *real world* situation, event or issue. The paper should be typed, double-spaced and a minimum of 8 pages. The following topics are not acceptable for a final paper: Movies, television shows, comic books, novels. Papers that are submitted late will lose five points for each day past the due date

Points:

Attendance/ Participation	15%
Midterm	25%
Debate position paper	10%
Final Paper	25%
Debate	25%

Grading Scale:

A+	100 – 97	B+	89.9 – 87	C+	77-79.9	D+	67-69.9
A	96.9 – 93	B	86.9 – 83	C	73-76.9	D	63-66.9
A-	92.9 – 90	B-	80-82.9	C-	70-72.9	D-	60-62.9
						F	Below 60

Academic Policy

Academic honesty is one of the most important qualities influencing the character and vitality of Doane College. Academic dishonesty is defined to include those acts which would deceive, cheat, or defraud so as to promote or enhance one's scholastic record. It includes: academic misconduct, dishonesty, plagiarism and cheating, or knowingly or actively assisting another person in doing the same. Violations of academic honesty represent a serious breach of discipline and may be considered grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal from the College. Students are responsible for upholding the principles of academic honesty as they would any other professional and ethical standard.

Civility, Respect and Classroom Etiquette:

Doane College strives to offer learning experiences and opportunities designed to help students think effectively, develop the capacity to communicate, differentiate values, and make relevant judgments. To do this successfully, many times multiple perspectives will be presented; some of which may represent points of view on which everyone will not agree. A successful educational experience requires a shared sense of respect among and between the students, the instructor and various points of view. Further, it is to be expected that the instructor will treat all students with dignity and respect—it is also expected that the students will treat both the instructor and other students with this same respect. In order to facilitate this process more effectively, students are asked the following:

- 1) Turn off all pagers and cell phones;
- 2) No text messaging during class;
- 3) Minimize side conversations; and
- 4) Maintain respectful interactions.