PSY 625: Graduate Social Psychology  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45  
Flipse Building, Room 301

Professor: Michael E. McCullough, PhD  
Office: 444 Flipse Building  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:00

Additional copies of this syllabus can be downloaded from the following web site:

http://www.psy.miami.edu/faculty/mmccullough/Index.html

Course Description

This course covers the perennial themes in social psychology (including attitudes, stereotyping, conformity, power, aggression, prosocial behavior, the social self; emotions, group dynamics, and inter-group relations). The emphasis is on recent empirical and theoretical developments rather than on “classics.” Special attention will be given to evolutionary treatments of social-psychological phenomena.

Evaluation of Performance

In-Class Presentation: 10%  
Exam I 45%  
Exam II 45%

Course Requirements

In-Class Presentation: Each student will be responsible for a 15-minute presentation on one of the articles (not the overview articles) that are on the syllabus for the student presentation days. These articles are in boldface in the reading list. You may approach this task in many possible ways, but it must be a presentation and not a discussion or an experiential exercise. You may focus on methodological issues within the study. You can discuss the theory behind the study and what the results say about the theory. There are probably other approaches that will work. If you wish, you may prepare a handout to assist your classmates. However you choose to structure your presentation, you can assume that your classmates will have read the article.

On the first day of class each student will request 3 of the boldface articles that he or she would like to be responsible for presenting. I will try to assign you an article that was in your Top 3. Usually I am able to make everyone happy in this regard.

Exams: There are two exams in this course. Each exam will consist entirely of essay questions. The questions will be designed to test the extent to which you have read and thought deeply about the material that we have covered. I will emphasize “cross-cutting themes” that have shown up in more than one place during my lectures and in your readings. The second exam is not cumulative, but your performance on the second exam will benefit from the material that you learned in the first half of the course.

I would like for each of you to submit at least one possible essay question for the two exams. I will choose from the questions you submit as I prepare the exam. In formulating your questions, please try to think of creative questions that will require students to think in broad and synthetic ways about the material we cover.

Readings
The course readings consist almost exclusively of journal articles. Most of the overview papers come from *American Psychologist, Psychological Bulletin, and Annual Review of Psychology*. Nearly all of the original research articles come from the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, which is the leading journal in social psychology. All of these articles can be located, retrieved and downloaded from the University’s portal to PsycInfo. Start here:

http://iiiprxy.library.miami.edu:5057/webspirs/start.ws?customer=c14878&databases=PSYI

Log on to this site as soon as possible and make sure that you understand how to use PsycInfo. By asking you to retrieve these articles yourselves and printing them on your own paper, I am saving you a ton of money (you would not believe how expensive course readers have become). I hope you think that the small amount of additional work on your part is worth the effort.

When possible, please print these articles from the PDF versions rather than the HTML versions, and use front-to-back printing and photocopying to save a tree or two.

**Optional (But Good) Reading**

As a graduate student, it is important that you learn to write well. Thus, I will evaluate your writing assignments in part on the quality of your writing. There is no doubt that the most successful psychologists are also skilled at non-fiction writing. My favorite book about writing non-fiction is William Zinsser’s (1994) *On Writing Well* (HarperCollins). It has sold nearly 1,000,000 copies. I have read it cover to cover twice and still return to it occasionally (it has a good chapter on scientific writing).

**Schedule of Events (Subject to Change)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments (Articles in Boldface Are Available for Student Presentations)</th>
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| Thu, Aug 24 | Introduction  
History and Systems in Social Psychology  
Syllabus. Pick three articles in **boldface** on the reading list that you’d be interested in presenting in class. |
| Tues, Aug 29 | No Class  
Mike Out of Town |
| Thurs, Aug 31 | History and Systems in Social Psychology  
| Tues, Sept 5 | History and Systems in Social Psychology  
Anderson & Bushman (1997) |
| Thurs, Sept 7 | Automaticity in Social Cognition  
(Student Presentations)  
Bargh & Chartrand, 1999; Fazio & Olson, 2003  
Kawada et al. (2004); Payne (2001); Schultheiss et al. (2005); Shah (2003). |
| Tues, Sept 12 | The Social Self  
Ellemers, Spears, & Doosje (2002). |
| Thurs, Sept 14 | The Social Psychology of Self-Esteem  
Crocker & Park (2004); Ellemers et al. (2002). |
and Narcissism


Thurs, Sept 21  
(Student Presentations)  Bushman, Bonacci, van Dijk, & Baumeister (2003); Dijksterhuis (2004); Muraven, Tice, & Baumeister (1998); Taylor et al. (2003).

Tues, Sept 26  Attitudes  Ajzen, 2001; Wood, 2000

Thurs, Sept 28  Attitude Change and Persuasion  (Student Presentations)  Brinol & Petty (2003); Gregg et al. (2006); Levine et al. (1996); Stitka et al. (2006).


Thurs, Oct 5  Aggression  Anderson et al. (2003), Cohen et al. (1996).

Tues, Oct 10  Stereotypes (Diversity Topic)  (Student Presentations)  Kunda & Spencer (2003).
Blaier et al. (2001); Rudman et al. (2001); Schimel et al. (1999); Sherman et al. (2005).

Thurs, Oct 12  Exam I  Mike Out of Town


Thurs, Oct 19  Altruism and Prosocial Behavior  Levy et al. (2002); Sturmer et al. (2005).

Tues, Oct 24  Power  Bargh et al. (1995); Chen et al. (2001); Tiedens & Fragale (2003).


Kohen (2003); Laughlin et al. (2003); Matz & Wood (2005); Price et al. (2006).

Thurs, Nov 2  No Class  Mike Out of Town


Tues, Nov 14  Intergroup Relations (Diversity Topic)  (Student Presentations)  Hewstone et al. (2002); Pettigrew (1998).
Cottrell & Neuberg (2005); Leach et al. (2003); Reed & Aquino (2003); Wohl & Branscombe (2005).

Feeney (2004); Finkel et al. (2002); Herbst et al.
(Student Presentations) (2003); Neff & Karney (2005).

Tues, Nov 21  No Class Meeting

Thurs, Nov 23  Evolutionary Social Psychology

Tues, Nov 28  Evolutionary Social Psychology

Thurs, Nov 30  Exam II

**READING LIST**

**History, Theory, and Method in Social Psychology**


**Automaticity in Social Cognition**


**The Social Self, Self-Esteem, and Self-Control**


**Attitudes, Attitude Change, and Persuasion**


**Aggression**


**Stereotypes**


**Altruism and Prosocial Behavior**


**Power**


**Obedience and Conformity**


**Small Groups/Group Dynamics**


**Social Psychology of Emotions**


**Intergroup Relations**


**Interpersonal Attraction and Close Relationships**


**Evolutionary Social Psychology**

