PSY 625: Graduate Social Psychology  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15  
Flipse Building, Room 301

Professor: Michael E. McCullough, PhD  
Office: 444 Flipse Building  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:30

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Course Requirements

In-Class Participation: I expect every study to come to class each day having read the material for that day in advance. I will evaluate class participation in terms of attendance, contributions to in-class discussions, and evidence that reading assignments were completed.

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: Classroom participation consists in no small measure of demonstrating familiarity with the readings.

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.

**Final Paper:** The Term Paper should be a major effort—4000 words or so. For these term papers, I want you to explore deeply a body of research in social psychology. Your topic should be a topic that is frequently studied in articles that are published in *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* or *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. I do not want a recitation of the same material on a given topic that we have covered during class. It is fine for you to write about, say, the self, but you must do so in a way that requires you to cover new ground.

## 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 Psyc Info. Start here: [http://findit.library.miami.edu/databases.php](http://findit.library.miami.edu/databases.php).

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. Unlike other scientific fields, where the typical research article might include 2,000 words and a few references, the articles that psychologists publish typically exceed 10,000 words and include 40 or 50 references. 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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</table>
| Thu, Aug 25 | Introduction  
Syllabus. Pick three articles in **boldface** on the reading list that you’d be interested in presenting in class. |
| Tues, Aug 30 | History, Theory, and Method in Social Psychology  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu, Sept 8</td>
<td>The Social Self</td>
<td>Ellemers, Spears, &amp; Doosje (2002).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, Sept 20</td>
<td><em>(Student Presentations)</em></td>
<td>Bushman, Bonacci, van Dijk, &amp; Baumeister (2003); Dijksterhuis (2004); Muraven, Tice, &amp; Baumeister (1998); Taylor et al. (2003).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, Sept 22</td>
<td>Attitudes</td>
<td>Ajzen, 2001; Wood, 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, Sept 27</td>
<td>Attitude Change and Persuasion <em>(Student Presentations)</em></td>
<td>Brinol &amp; Petty (2003); Levine et al. (1996); Bassili (1996); Zuwerink &amp; Devine (1996).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, Oct 4</td>
<td>Aggression</td>
<td>Anderson et al. (2003), Bushman et al. (2001), Cohen et al. (1996).</td>
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<td>Alexander et al. (1999); Blaier et al. (2001); Rudman et al. (2001); Schimel et al. (1999).</td>
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<td>Thurs, Oct 13</td>
<td>Altruism and Prosocial Behavior</td>
<td>Levy et al. (2002); Sturmer et al. (2005).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, Oct 20</td>
<td>Power</td>
<td>Bargh et al. (1995); Chen et al. (2001); Tiedens &amp; Fragale (2003).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, Oct 25</td>
<td>Obedience and Conformity <em>(Milgram Video)</em></td>
<td>I am out of town today.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs, Oct 27</td>
<td><em>No Class Meeting</em></td>
<td>I am out of town today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, Nov 1</td>
<td>Small Groups/Group Dynamics <em>(Student Presentations)</em></td>
<td>Kerr &amp; Tindale (2004).</td>
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<td>Cohen (2003); Laughlin et al. (2003); Matz &amp; Wood (2005); Postmes et al. (2001).</td>
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Thurs, Nov 10  Intergroup Relations  Hewstone et al. (2002); Pettigrew (1998).
               (Student Presentations)  Cottrell & Neuberg (2005); Leach et al. (2003); Reed & Aquino (2003); Wohl & Branscombe (2005).

               Relationships  Feeney (2004); Finkel et al. (2002); Frank & (Student Presentations) Brandstatter (2002); Herbst et al. (2003).

Thurs, Nov 17  No Class Meeting  I am out of town today.


Thurs, Nov 24  Thanksgiving: No Class

Tues, Nov 29  Evolutionary Social Psychology  Schmitt & Buss (2001); Fournier et al. (2002).

Dec 1  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**

(OVERVIEW)
