

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER

Department of Sociology

Social Psychology

Fall 2010

SOCY 4031

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-11:00

HLMS 201

Dr. Leslie Irvine

Ketchum 223

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Office hours: Tues/Thurs 11:30-12:30

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Office hours: Mon/Wed 1-2

Course Description

Social psychology is the systematic study of people's thoughts, feelings, and behavior in social contexts. Social psychologists include psychologists, who focus on how individual minds and selves function, and sociologists, who examine the influence of the social world on individuals. This course will introduce you to major approaches, debates, and theories of sociological social psychology. The course is organized into three sections:

Part I: Perspectives and Methods of Social Psychology

Part II: The Relationship between the Individual and Society

Part III: Areas of Social Life: A Sample of Social Psychological Research

The course combines lecture and discussion of the readings with activities and film clips intended to bring social psychological concepts to life for you. It will not be a "memorize the lecture notes" course, and its success depends largely on your taking an active role in learning.

Course goals

- To understand how societal conditions affect individuals and groups
- To use the perspectives of social psychology to explore sociological questions
- To improve your abilities in writing, critical thinking, and analysis

Course Text

Rohall, David E., Melissa A. Milkie, and Jeffrey W. Lucas. 2011. *Social Psychology: Sociological Perspectives*. (Second Edition) Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

There are additional required readings posted on CU Learn. These are marked with an asterisk in the reading schedule.

Course policies

- You must attend class regularly. I will not post the notes online. If you miss a class, first contact a classmate for notes. After you have copied and reviewed the notes, see Kristina or me for additional clarification of the material if needed.
- I do not allow laptops in class. If you are required to use a laptop because of a disability, please provide documentation within the first two weeks of class.
- This course requires a considerable amount of reading. It is important that you keep up. In addition to the text, the readings come from scholarly journals and books, and you will find them more difficult than the textbooks you might be accustomed to reading. They will require more time and attention, along with a different style of reading. You will find it helpful to see “Tips for Reading Research Articles” on CU Learn. Please note that although we will not necessarily review the details of each reading in class, you are responsible for all content assigned. In some cases, we will discuss the material in considerable depth; in others, the reading will provide a platform for considering related issues.
- You must check CU Learn and your CU email account regularly for announcements relevant to the class. To send Kristina or me an email, you *must* put SOCY4031 in the subject line of your message. You can follow this with other information (e.g., “SOCY4031 paper question”) but your message must start with SOCY4031. Messages with blank subject lines go directly into a spam folder. Kristina and I will read and respond to email Monday through Thursday, 9-5, and Friday, 9-12. Please note that, by law, neither Kristina nor I can discuss your grades through email.
- Be courteous in class. Arrive on time. Turn phones off and put them away before the start of class. Do not try to keep your phone in your lap. Refrain from sleeping, holding conversations, reading newspapers, or doing work for other classes. Respect everyone in the learning environment.
- Inform me immediately if you have a health problem or a disability that necessitates leaving the classroom during lectures/discussion.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on 500 points, distributed as follows:

In-class work/homework	55 points
Midterm exam	75 points
Final exam	100 points
Reading Responses (12)	120 points
Final project	150 points

In-Class Assignments and Homework: Throughout the semester, you will be given in-class assignments and out-of-class homework designed to help develop your social psychological thinking. You must format all written work using the guidelines of the American Sociological Association (see link on CU Learn).

Reading Responses: After a reasonable “settling in” period, I will begin each Thursday’s class by posing one or more open-ended question(s) that require you to consider some aspect of the readings that you completed for that week. You will have up to 10 minutes to write a response. Your Reading Responses will be collected and graded on a scale of 0 to 10:

- 0: I cannot tell from your response whether you completed the readings
- 7: Your response demonstrates a partial understanding of the reading
- 10: You answered correctly and thought about the reading carefully

There will be 13 reading responses, and we will drop your lowest grade for a possibility of 120 points. If you miss class or arrive after we have collected the responses, you forfeit the opportunity to complete that assignment.

Midterm and final exams: The exams will draw on lecture and reading (50/50). Both exams will include multiple choice and T/F questions. You cannot make up exams except in thoroughly documented, genuinely extenuating, medical or legal circumstances.

Final project: The final project will consist of two parts. The first involves a social psychology scavenger hunt. I will provide details later in the course on what you will be collecting. In the second part, you will write a short paper demonstrating the knowledge about social psychology you gained during the scavenger hunt. You must format your paper using the guidelines of the American Sociological Association (see link on CU Learn).

Final Grade Scale

A: 94-100%	B: 84-86%	C: 73-76%	D: 64-66%
A-: 90-93%	B-: 80-83%	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-63%
B+: 87-89%	C+: 77-79%	D+: 67-69	F: 59% or less

Relevant Grading Policies

- You must keep copies of all graded course work until you receive your final, official grade. In the case of an incorrect or missing grade, it is your responsibility to provide graded work to request a change.
- With few exceptions for documented, genuinely extenuating medical or legal circumstances, we will not accept late assignments.
- No make-up exams will be made available without written confirmation of a medical emergency, religious holiday, or similar extenuating circumstances.
- You must submit all assignments in class. Kristina and I do not accept and will not acknowledge work submitted via email or left under our office doors.
- Please adhere to university policies regarding academic honesty (see CU policy below). Any student caught cheating, plagiarizing, or engaging in academically dishonest behavior will automatically receive an F in this class.
- If you become concerned about your grade in this course, see Kristina or me to discuss strategies for improvement.
- If you receive a grade that you believe is incorrect or unfair and would like it reconsidered, you must submit 1) your graded assignment, and 2) a typed letter, no more than one page in length, explaining why you believe the grade you received does not accurately reflect the quality of your work, given the requirements of the assignment. Kristina or I will inform you of the decision within a week of receiving these items. Please note that if you ask us to reevaluate your work, your new grade may be lower than the original.

Course Schedule

Subject to change. I will announce any changes in class and post them on CU Learn. It is your responsibility to stay current with changes.

The course text is designated as “SP.” The required readings posted on CU Learn are designated with *. If you have difficulty accessing the readings on CU Learn, please inform Kristina or me early in the semester so that we can resolve the problem before you fall behind.

Week 1	Aug 24	Introduction to the course
	Aug 26	SP chap. 1; Mills*
Week 2	Aug 31	SP chap 2 (up to 37); Blumer*
	Sep 2	SP chap 2 (37 to end)
Week 3	Sep 7	SP chap 3; Adler & Adler*; Lovaglia*
	Sep 9	SP chap 4 (to 93); West & Zimmerman*
Week 4	Sep 14	SP chap 4 (94-103); Schooler, Mulatu, & Oates*
	Sep 16	SP chap 4 (103 to end); Lucas*
Week 5	Sep 21	SP chap 5 (up to 138, “Measuring...”)
	Sep 23	SP chap 5 (138-140); Goffman*
Week 6	Sep 28	SP chap 5 (141 to end); Kuhn & McPartland*
	Sep 30	SP chap 6 (to 158, top); Corsaro*; Piaget* (Wikipedia)
Week 7	Oct 5	SP chap 6 (158-178); Elder*; Erikson* (Wikipedia)
	Oct 7	SP chap 6 (to end); Correll*
Week 8	Oct 12	No reading; review for exam
	Oct 14	Midterm exam
Week 9	Oct 19	SP chap 7 (to 201); Becker*
	Oct 21	SP chap 7 (201 to end); Knight*
Week 10	Oct 26	SP chap 8 (to 233); Conrad & Potter*
	Oct 28	SP chap 8 (233-239); Horwitz & Wakefield*
Week 11	Nov 2	SP chap 8 (239 to end); Karp*
	Nov 4	SP chap 9 (to 261); Perry*
Week 12	Nov 9	SP chap 9 (261-267); Alwin*
	Nov 11	SP chap 9 (269-end); Sherif*
Week 13	Nov 16	SP chap 10 (to 289); Ellis & Irvine*
	Nov 18	SP chap 10 (289 to 296); Hochschild* (up to 566, heading)
Week 14	Nov 23 & 25	No class: Fall Break
Week 15	Nov 30	SP chap 10 (296 to end); Hochschild* (566 to end)
	Dec 2	SP chap 11 (to 321); Clarke*
Week 16	Dec 7	SP chap 11 (321 to end); Meyer*
	Dec 9	Bringing it all together; review for exam
Final Exam	Dec 15	4:30-7:00 p.m. HLMS 201

Relevant University Policies

Academic Integrity and Honor Code

Plagiarism and cheating will be grounds for receiving a failing grade on the relevant exam or assignment and possibly failing the course. To ensure academic integrity, students in this course *must* observe the Honor Code in all work.

Disability Policy Students with *documented* disabilities, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, attention deficit/hyperactive disorder, or psychiatric disabilities should see me after class or during my office hours (preferably during the first two weeks of class) to discuss possible reasonable accommodations. For more information, consult the Office of Disability Services, Willard 322 (303-492-8671).

Discrimination and Harassment The University of Colorado at Boulder policies on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>) Sexual Harassment, and Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. For information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment, see <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Religious Observances Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or attendance. Please notify me early in the semester if you will need accommodations for religious observance. For more information, see http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html