Course Syllabus for PSYC130:
Introduction to Social Psychology
TTR 10:00 – 11:15, Votey 105

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THIS IS YOUR SYLLABUS. IT CONTAINS CRITICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS COURSE. YOU SHOULD READ YOUR SYLLABUS AND UNDERSTAND IT.

THIS THURSDAY, YOU WILL HAVE ONE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SYLLABUS. AFTER THAT, IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE COURSE, CHECK THE SYLLABUS FIRST. STUDENTS WHO ASK ME A QUESTION THAT IS ANSWERED ON THE SYLLABUS WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH A FRUSTRATED PROFESSOR. DO NOT DO IT. I AM UNPLEASANT WHEN FRUSTRATED. THANKS. 😊

Note about teaching assistants: In this class, you will have an on-campus and an off-campus teaching assistant (TA). Both TAs will assume a lot of different responsibilities that I will not list here. You should, however, be aware of the partition of labor that directly affects you and whom you should contact depending on your specific needs.

If you need to meet with someone in person to go over your exam, class materials, or anything else, contact your on-campus TA. If you need to discuss your grade on written work or issues pertaining to blackboard and the calculating of grades, contact your off-campus TA.

Note about office hours: Your on-campus TA and I both need 24 hours advance notice if you are going to meet with us during office hours. If you anticipate meeting with us, use the sign-up mechanism available through blackboard.


You can find a copy at the student bookstore or look for a less expensive copy online. I will also have a copy on reserve at the library. Lastly, you can always borrow mine or your TA’s during office hours.

If you choose to buy an earlier edition, you do so at your own risk.
**Course Website:** Visit the course website to view announcements, access electronic versions of course materials, view your grades, and download the course outlines. To access the course website, go to [http://bb.uvm.edu](http://bb.uvm.edu) and click on the link to Psyc 130. This should take you to a user-friendly website.

**Aah, to think like a social psychologist…**

Back when I was a graduate student, the best compliment anyone could imagine receiving from the faculty was that he/she "thought like a social psychologist."

What does that mean, to think like a social psychologist?

"*That's an empirical question!*"

Are people more likely to get help if their car breaks down on a busy highway or if it breaks down on a quiet side street? People can argue over the answer to this question until the cows come home, but social psychologists will tell you that this is an "empirical question," meaning that to answer it one would have to conduct research. **In their quest for knowledge about the human condition, social psychologists rely on empirical evidence.**

"*It depends on the situation.*"

Will psychologically healthy human beings inflict severe pain on innocent people for what seems like no good reason? Social psychologists will tell you that the answer to this question is both an empirical one AND that it depends on the situation. If a powerful authority figure commands them to inflict harm on an innocent person, most people will obey. **Thinking like a social psychologist means recognizing that the situation in which people find themselves is an important determinant of how people think, feel, and act.**

**Course Objectives**

This course will introduce you to the fundamentals of social psychological theory and research. It will encourage you to question your assumptions and to think critically about issues that you might previously have taken for granted. More generally, this course will encourage you to think like a social psychologist.

**A friendly piece of advice:** We will be discussing a lot of social psychological theories and concepts, but not without spending a lot of time examining the research supporting these theories and concepts. Thus, if you do NOT like learning about research, this course is NOT for you.
Evaluation

I will determine your final grade for the class on the basis of 4 multiple choice exams, 2 written assignments, and in-class activities.

Multiple Choice Exams: Four multiple choice exams will be spaced evenly throughout the semester. These will consist of 40 multiple choice questions and 2 or 3 short essay questions testing both basic and applied knowledge of the information that we cover. You will receive review sheets to help you prepare for these exams. Your exams will count for a total of 75% of your grade (each exam will be worth approximately 19% of your grade).

“Day of” Writing Assignments: These writing assignments will involve completing a “Day of” exercise and turning in a 2-page report. You will choose to complete TWO such entries. Specifically, you will have the choice of four different “Day of” exercises: A Day of Socially Comparing Yourself to Others, A Day of I-sharing, A Day of Being Physically Different, and A Day of Helping. You will choose two of these four. Make sure to look at when these assignments are due, consider your schedule for the fall, and visit blackboard to select the two day of assignments you would like to complete. So as not to place an undue burden on your off-campus TA, we can only allow 75 people to complete each day of assignment. Sign up early to get your top choices!

For the two “Day of” exercises that you select, you will complete a writing assignment that requires you to describe your observations as well as identify and accurately describe relevant course content. You will receive specific instructions for each assignment as its due date approaches. Each writing assignment is worth 10% of your grade, for a total of 20%. All writing assignments must be typed and printed out and free of typos. Get your assignment in on its due-date. For each day that your assignment is late, your grade will go down by 5 points.

In-Class Activities: We will complete a variety of in-class activities. You will be acknowledged for being present to complete them. Completion of these activities will count toward 5% of your final grade.

“Who Wants to be a Social Psychologist?”

This class does not have a comprehensive final. Instead, attendance on the last day of class is mandatory, and we will play “Who Wants to be a Social Psychologist?” (modeled after “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?”). Students from the class will volunteer to be contestants, but the game will require that everyone participate in written fashion, even if they are not a contestant. The game will thus offer everyone a review of the many lessons learned throughout the semester. The day will also include a mandatory, in-class assignment. ATTENDANCE FOR “WHO WANTS TO BE A SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGIST?” and COMPLETION OF THE ASSOCIATED ASSIGNMENT IS MANDATORY. Those who do not attend and do not turn in the assignment will have 2 points deducted from their final grade.
**General Policies…READ CAREFULLY!**

**Course Material and Policy on Attendance:** I strongly encourage you to come to class. Hopefully, you have some intrinsic interest in the subject matter and this alone should draw you to the class meetings. If you are guided more by extrinsic interests, you might also care to know that you cannot perform well in this class if you do not attend.

**Lecture Outlines:** Barebones outlines for each lecture will be available at the course website 24 hours before the class period for which they are intended. Printing these out in advance will save you from having to copy them in their entirety during the class period. The outlines do NOT provide you with all the information that will be covered in class. They represent the skeletal structure of each class period. IF YOU RELY SOLELY ON THE OUTLINES AND NOT ON THE REMAINING MATERIAL COVERED IN CLASS, YOU WILL NOT MASTER THE CLASS CONTENT.

**Make-up Policy:** All students missing an exam will have the opportunity to take a different version of the exam DURING THE FINAL EXAM TIME for this class, which is December 13th from 7:30 – 10:15 am in Votey 105. No make-up exams will be given during the semester proper. If you miss an exam twice (that is, at its regularly scheduled time and then again during finals) you will receive a zero for that exam.

**Grading:** Your final grade will consist of a weighted average of your exams, your written assignments, and your in-class activities.

Any extra credit will be added to this weighted average as per the specific extra credit offering. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale: **A** = 93-100; **A-** = 90-92.9; **B+** = 86.9-89.9; **B** = 82.9-86.9; **B-** = 79.9-82.8; **C+** = 75.5-79.8; **C** = 70-75.4; **D** = 60-69.9; **F** = 59.9 or below.

**Final:** THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM FOR THIS CLASS. Instead, we will use the final exam time scheduled for this class as the time during which students take make-ups for any exam they missed. Thus, any students who missed an exam during the semester will have the opportunity to take a different version of the exam during the final exam time scheduled for this class. FOR STUDENTS WHO TOOK ALL FOUR EXAMS, there is no need to show up for a make-up during the final exam time! Your last day of this class is officially December 3rd!

**Electronic Devices:** Students wanting to use computers for the purpose of taking notes must sit in the designated computer area. Their computers must be used only for the purpose of taking notes. If you use your computer or any smart device for any reason other than note-taking, you risk losing your right to use such devices again.

**Policy on Academic Integrity:** I expect you to uphold The University of Vermont’s Code of Academic Integrity (see [http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf)). If you are found guilty of having violated this code, you will receive an ‘XF’ on your transcript, which reads: “Failure resulting from academic dishonesty.”
Policy on Intellectual Property: Consistent with the University’s policy on intellectual property rights, it is the Psychology Department's policy that teaching and curricular materials (including but not limited to classroom lectures, syllabi, class notes, exams, handouts, and presentations) are the property of the instructor. Therefore, electronic recording and/or transmission of teaching and curricular materials is prohibited without the express written permission of the instructor.

Religious Holidays: According to UVM guidelines, students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. Each semester, by the end of the second full week of classes, students should submit in writing to their instructors their documented religious holiday schedule for the semester. Faculty must permit students who miss work for the purpose of religious observance to make up this work.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course, please contact UVM’s ACCESS Office (Accommodation, Consultation, Collaboration, and Educational Support Services) by phone (656-7753) or email (access@uvm.edu). The ACCESS office will guide you through the process of getting accommodations in place for this course.

Expectations for Behavior:

- Class starts when I address the group. I expect you to settle down and follow my cues from that point until the end of class.
- Please do not hold conversations (electronic or otherwise) unless I invite you to as part of the class. If someone next to you insists on talking, please ask them politely to be quiet.
- Despite the size of this class, I anticipate a fair amount of participation. I expect everyone to be respectful of the comments, questions, and opinions voiced by others.
- Do not start packing up your things until I signal that the class has ended.
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<th>DATE(S)</th>
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<th>READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/27 – 8/29</td>
<td>Introduction, Research Methods</td>
<td>Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>9/3 -- 9/10</td>
<td>The Social Self</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>9/12</td>
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<td>Exam #1</td>
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<td>9/17 – 9/24</td>
<td>Perceiving Persons</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>9/26 -- 10/3</td>
<td>Attraction/Relationships</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>10/10 -- 10/15</td>
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<td>Attitudes</td>
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<td>10/31 -- 11/5</td>
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<td>Social Influence</td>
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<td>11/7 – 11/14</td>
<td>Hurting and Helping</td>
<td>Chapters 10 &amp; 11</td>
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<td>Exam #4</td>
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Instead of class on 11/21, attend one of the social cluster job talks (dates TBD) and write a two-page summary (an alternative will be provided for time conflicts)

| 11/25 – 11/29 | NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING RECESS      |
| 12/3          | “Who Wants to be a Social Psychologist?” (Mandatory Attendance!!!) |

DATES TO REMEMBER ESPECIALLY WELL: 9/12, 10/8, 10/29, 11/19, 12/3
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<td>Due-date for those choosing option 4 as one of their “Day of” journal entries</td>
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