

SOC 307-01: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

TTh 2pm Admin 310

Dr. Alecea Ritter-Standlee
Office Hours: MWF 11-12, TTH 10-11.
Office: Admin 117
Email: astandlee@concord.edu

Required Textbook (Available at the Bookstore and Online)

- Rohall, David. 2013. *Social Psychology: Sociological Perspectives*. 3rd Edition
- Additional Blackboard Readings

People often ask, "What is Social Psychology?" This area within sociology asks us to delve deeply into the how the social world we live within shapes our basic self-conceptions, our attitudes, our relationships and our behavior. It is defined as the social science of "how people think about, relate to, and influence each other". This course will explore the implications of human beings as "social creatures". By our very nature, we are constantly in close contact and association with others. Because of this close contact, these others can have a profound impact on us and we can greatly influence them. In short, the course examines the multiple "social" forces that affect us as we live, work, and play.

Course Learning Objectives

There are key concepts you will learn in this course. As time permits throughout the semester, we will work to reinforce these objectives. By the end of the semester, students should be able to provide well thought out, clear, and complete answers to the following questions:

1. What is "social psychology"?
2. How do we become socialized in a culture?
3. What factors influence our self-concept & self-esteem?
4. How do we influence others & how do they influence us?
5. How can we use what we know about social psychology to address real world issues?

Assignments and Grading

- **Participation (20%)**
 - **Attendance (10%)** - You may have three absences throughout the semester. No excuse is required. More than three absences will result in a loss of points for attendance. No exceptions. Extraordinary circumstances come and speak with me.
 - **In class Participation (10%)** - You will be expected to participate in class activities, including small and large group discussions.
- **2 Take Home Essay Exams (60%)**
- **IAT Project (20%)** - You will be asked to participate in and analyze the outcomes of 3 Implicit Assessment Tests in a combination of in class and self-directed activities. The IAT assessment will be 5-7 pages long, and include both your test results and your discussion of those results. It will be due during Finals Week

Policy

The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus and assignments. Changes may be made to accommodate the specific needs of the class.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty, including the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying records, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of ideas of another) is not tolerated at Concord University. These behaviors can result in failure of the course or expulsion from the university. Please see p. 39 of the university academic catalog for the consequences of academic dishonesty.

Academic Resources: Free tutoring available in the Library, Student Center Study Lounge (2nd floor), and Rahall atrium. For specific information, contact the Academic Success Center (asc@concord.edu; 304-384-6074). The schedule will be posted online: <http://www.concord.edu/academics/academic-success-center/drop-tutoring>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability or special need documented with the University, please meet with me as soon as possible so I can make necessary arrangements for accommodations.

Readings listed for each day of class in the course schedule are to have been read **prior** to coming to that day's class.

Student athletes need to notify me in advance to be excused from class and are responsible for making up missing assignments and readings.

Classroom conduct: This course is heavily reliant on discussion, which includes difficult dialogue at times. **This is an inclusive and safe classroom.** All discussion points and questions are valued; as such students are expected to treat one another and the professor thoughtfully and with respect. Racist, sexist, homophobic or other pejorative or discriminatory language will not be tolerated and students who insist on such behavior will be asked to leave the classroom.

Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off before coming to class.

DO NOT text message or work on your laptops during class!

Course Schedule

Week 1 - Intro to Social Psychology

Aug 19-21 - Read Chapter 1

Week 2 - Perspectives in Sociological Social Psychology

Aug 26-28 - Read Chapter 2 & BB “Symbols and the Creation of Reality”

Week 3 - Studying People

Sept 2-4 - Read Chapter 3 & BB “The Belmont Report”

Week 4 - Exam

Sept 9-11 - **Take Home Essay Exam #1**

Week 5 - The Social Psychology of Stratification

Sept 16-18 - Read Chapter 4 & BB “Straddling Racial Boundaries at School”

Week 6 - Self and Identity

Sept 23-25 - Read Chapter 5 & BB “Young children and their Racial and ethnic sense of self”

Week 7 - Socialization over the life course

Sept 30-Oct 2 - Read Chapter 6 & BB “The interaction order of public bathrooms”

Week 8 - Exam

Oct 7-9 - **Take Home Essay Exam #2**

Oct 14-16 - Fall break, No class

Week 9 - The Social Psychology of Deviance

Oct 21-23 - Read Chapter 7 & BB “Being Middle Eastern in the Context of the War on Terror”

Week 10 - The Sociology of Sentiment and Emotion

Oct 28-30 - Read Chapter 10 & BB “Wheelchair Users’ Interpersonal Management of Emotions”

Week 11 - Understanding Persuasion

Nov 4-6 Watch “12 Angry Men”

Week 12 - Attitudes, Values and Behaviors

Nov 11-13 - Read Chapter 9 & IAT (Implicit Association Test) Project Website

Week 13 - IAT Project

Nov 18-20 - IAT Project Work Week

Week 14 - Collective Action

Dec 2-4 - Read Chapter 11 & BB “Collective Forgetting and the Symbolic Power of Oneness”

Dec 8th - IAT Project Paper Due