

PSYCHOLOGY 235: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY I – Fall 2019

Time & Location: MWF, 9:00 – 9:50AM in Oechsle Hall 223

Instructor: Professor Angela Bell
Office: 301 Oechsle Hall

E-mail: bellac@lafayette.edu

Phone: (610) 330-3335
Office hours: Mondays 4:00-6:00PM or by appointment

Required text: NOBA Open-source text – *Together: The Science of Social Psychology*.

<http://noba.to/txqy938d>. The linked text is available online free! Follow the link to create a student account and access course readings.

Hard copies are available to purchase for a \$16.95 fee:

<https://www.lulu.com/shop/http://www.lulu.com/shop/noba-project/together-the-science-of-social-psychology/paperback/product-23196587.html>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This survey course introduces students to the science of social psychology and the study of how people think, feel, and act in social contexts. We will examine a broad overview of classic and contemporary topics in social psychology, including attitudes, conformity, prejudice, group dynamics, aggression and cooperation. We will learn about the theoretical principles governing human social behaviors through the study of experimental methods that underlie social psychological research. The overall goals of the class are to (1) build the skills necessary to critically analyze everyday situations and (2) become a savvy consumer of psychological research.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the completion of course requirements, students should be able to:

- (a) Demonstrate a deeper understanding of main perspectives, theories, and research methods that social psychologists use to study various topics within the field
- (b) Identify social psychological phenomena we encounter in our everyday lives and apply theoretical principles for a greater understanding of the situational determinants of human behavior
- (c) Foster consumption, criticism, and dissemination of psychological research
- (d) Communicate the science of social psychology to a lay-audiences in clear and accessible language

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Applied Social Activities. In addition to lectures, there will be 10 class-wide activities conducted. On these days, we may conduct experiments, play games, watch a relevant documentary, or bring in real-world examples of social psychological phenomena (e.g., stereotypes in advertisements) for discussion. The activities encourage active engagement with the course material. Activities will be announced the week they take place (the ones listed on the course calendar are estimations, not final dates) and they cannot be made up if you are not present in class.

Cognitive Bias Assignment. With this 4-5 page paper, you will demonstrate your understanding of the causes and consequences of a cognitive bias and apply its impact on thinking and reasoning to every-day social interactions. You will select a bias from the *Cognitive Bias Codex* (on Moodle), and write about it for a layperson of your choice (e.g., real or imaginary best friend). Support your explanation with evidence from social psychology research and identify it with original, real-world examples. A separate handout will be provided.

Social Behavior Observation Study. This group project gives you hands-on experience with course content. You will be required to develop and conduct an observational study as a group, give a formal presentation of your findings, and individually write a 4 page reflection about your experience. A separate handout will be provided.

Exams. Each exam is a non-cumulative test comprised of a mix of multiple choice and short-answer questions from the textbook, lectures, and other supplemental materials. Exams will assess your understanding of the course material and abilities to apply research and theory to everyday contexts. A review sheet will be provided to aid you in the studying process. Exam deadlines are firm; arrange for alternative test times with me **in advance**, if you are unavailable to take the exam for reasons excused by the college (e.g., documented medical emergencies, catastrophic events, and religious observances). If you miss an exam for reasons not excused by the college then you will receive a zero grade for that exam.

Extra Credit. You can receive extra credit for participation in research studies within the psychology department. At the end of the drop/add period of the semester you will receive an email notification with your login information for our online participation system (<http://lafayettecollege.sona-systems.com>). There are also instructions for using the system available on the Moodle site for the course. Research is voluntary; **do not** miss lecture to participate in research, or rely on extra credit to make up for missed work, as this is likely to be more harmful to your grade. You have until the *last day of class* to complete extra credit but I do not recommend waiting until the end of the semester to participate. You can participate for up to 4 hours-worth of studies, and you will earn 2.5 points for every 30 minutes of research, up to a maximum total of 20 points. In the event you do not want to use SONA to participate in research, there will be alternative writing assignments provided to earn research credits. It is important to note that extra credit can only apply 2% to your overall grade. **Extra credit raises a passing grade but does not allow you to pass the course.**

Grading Procedure. For confidentiality reasons, I do not discuss grades via e-mail. Keep track of your own work through the grading summary below. You are also responsible for producing your graded assignments in the event of grade appeals. The offered point totals are non-negotiable; **I do not “round up” points** you did not earn. Final grades will be based on the final number of points earned divided by the points possible, **with no exceptions**. Your open communication with me throughout the semester, and not waiting until the week all assignments are due, is evidence that you are concerned about your class performance. Make an appointment to see me if you have any questions about your progress throughout the semester.

Grading Summary	
Applied Social Activities	100 points
Cognitive Bias Assignment	100 points
Social Behavior Observation Study	200 points
Exam 1	200 points
Exam 2	200 points
Exam 3	200 points
Total points possible	1000 points

Grading Scale	
A	< 930 points
A-	900 - 929 points
B+	870 - 899 points
B	830 - 869 points
B-	800 - 829 points
C+	770 - 799 points
C	730 - 769 points
C-	700 - 729 points
D+	670 - 699 points
D	630 - 669 points
D-	600 - 629 points
F	< 600 points

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and participation. Daily attendance is not explicitly graded but absenteeism will harm your grades. You are expected to be an active participant in each class session. Do not expect to follow the lectures or complete work in a timely fashion when you miss class. If you miss class, arrange to catch up with missing lectures or clarify class concepts on your own time.

Often, I look to my students to provide me with feedback about how you are doing (i.e., mid-semester evaluations). If you have a question, rest assured that other students in the room also have the same question. Do not be afraid to ask questions because your silence can often result in negative outcomes for you and your peers (a phenomenon known as pluralistic ignorance; Katz & Allport, 1931). It is important that you ask questions during class when you do not understand something, rather than proceeding at the risk of not grasping an important concept. Your participation and insight is incredibly valuable to the overall experience of the course.

Classroom conduct. Respectful and courteous behavior is necessary for the classroom to be an environment where learning can occur. You are expected to be punctual, turn off cell phones, and approach the class with conscientiousness. Disrespectful behavior is disruptive and not permitted. You are not required to attend lecture; thus, if you need to sleep, study for another class, talk or text message on your phone, do not come to class. Further, any harassment of fellow students or myself will also result in a referral to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Use of electronics in class. Smartphones and music players are not allowed during class. Laptops and tablets should not be used for any purpose other than taking notes about the class. Research shows that electronics serve as a distraction to me and the students around you (Sana, Weston, & Cepeda, 2013; do you really want your neighbors seeing what questionable Reddit threads you surf “anonymously?”). Be mindful of your laptop use or you risk losing the privilege of using your laptop to take notes.

Late work policy. The due dates for all assignments are on the course schedule and it is your responsibility to keep track of what is due well in advance. If you need help in completing your work in a timely manner, please speak with me on how to manage your work schedule for the course. Mercury in Retrograde and electronics unexpectedly breaking down is not an excuse to turn in late assignments. Applied Social Activities are in-class assignments and cannot be made up outside of class. For written assignments, there is a 10%-point reduction each day the assignment is late. **Without a Dean’s Excuse, late assignments are not accepted after 3 days of the due date.** To avoid all penalties when you do experience catastrophic life events, provide documentation of your Dean-excused emergency and keep an open line of communication with me.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY

I am happy to work with students and the Accessibility Services office to best support students’ learning needs. You should contact Rebecca Brenner (610-330-5098, brennerr@lafayette.edu) as soon as possible to verify your eligibility for reasonable accommodations, and register with the Academic Resource Hub for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations (<https://hub.lafayette.edu/disability-services/>). I must receive documentation for exam accommodations at least a week (two is best for scheduling a time with the HUB) before the scheduled exam.

INCLEMENT WEATHER / CANCELED CLASSES

Lafayette's practice is to remain open for classes, even if College offices open late or close early. I will hold classes despite inclement weather conditions. However, if I need to cancel class for weather (or illness and family emergencies), I will make announcements over email before class time.

COURSE WEBSITE

Lafayette College Moodle Privacy Statement:

"Moodle contains student information that is protected by the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA). Disclosure to unauthorized parties violates federal privacy laws. Courses using Moodle will make student information visible to other students in this class. Please remember that this information is protected by these federal privacy laws and must not be shared with anyone outside the class. Questions can be referred to the Registrar's Office."

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Lafayette College Student Handbook Code of Conduct:

"To maintain the scholarly standards of the College and, equally important, the personal ethical standards of our students, it is essential that written assignments be a student's own work, just as is expected in examinations and class participation. A student who commits academic dishonesty is subject to a range of penalties, including suspension or expulsion. Finally, the underlying principle is one of intellectual honesty. If a person is to have self-respect and the respect of others, all work must be his/her own."

CREDIT HOURS

The student work in this course is in full compliance with the federal definition of a four-credit-hour course. Please see the Registrar's Office web site for the full policy and practice statement:

<http://registrar.lafayette.edu/addiitonal-resources/cep-course-proposal/>



COURSE CALENDAR*

Date		NOBA Module Reading / Class Event	Assignment
Week 1	Mon Aug 26	<i>Class introduction</i>	
	Wed Aug 28	<i>An Intro to the Science of Social Psychology</i>	
	Fri Aug 30	<i>Research Methods in Social Psychology</i>	
Week 2	Mon Sep 2	<i>Research Methods in Social Psychology</i> <i>Statistical Thinking</i>	ASA 1: Folk Wisdom studies
	Wed Sep 4	<i>Conducting Psychology Research in the Real World</i>	Meet observation groups
	Fri Sep 6	<i>Self and Identity</i>	
Week 3	Mon Sep 9	<i>Self and Identity</i> <i>Culture</i>	ASA 2: The Social Self
	Wed Sep 11	<i>Social Comparison</i>	
	Fri Sep 13	<i>Social Comparison</i>	
Week 4	Mon Sep 16	<i>Social Cognition and Attitudes</i>	
	Wed Sep 18	<i>Social Cognition and Attitudes</i>	ASA 3: Implicit Association Tests
	Fri Sep 20	<i>Social Cognition and Attitudes</i> <i>Functions of Emotions / Culture and Emotions</i>	ASA 4: Emotions
Week 5	Mon Sep 23	Meet with observation groups / Review for Exam 1	
	Wed Sep 25	Exam 1	
	Fri Sep 27	<i>The Psychology of Groups</i>	ASA 5: Bomb Shelter Demo
Week 6	Mon Sep 30	<i>The Psychology of Groups</i>	Observation Proposal due by 9AM
	Wed Oct 2	<i>The Psychology of Groups</i> <i>Conformity and Obedience</i>	
	Fri Oct 4	<i>Conformity and Obedience</i>	
Week 7	Mon Oct 7	<i>Conformity and Obedience</i> <i>Persuasion: So Easily Fooled</i>	Cognitive Bias Assignment due by 9AM
	Wed Oct 9	<i>Persuasion: So Easily Fooled</i>	
	Fri Oct 11	<i>Persuasion: So Easily Fooled</i>	ASA 6: The Persuaders
Week 8	Mon Oct 14	Fall break – no class	
	Wed Oct 16	<i>Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping</i>	
	Fri Oct 18	<i>Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping</i>	
Week 9	Mon Oct 21	<i>Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping</i>	ASA 7: Intergroup Monopoly
	Wed Oct 23	Meet with observation groups / Review for Exam 2	
	Fri Oct 25	Exam 2	
Week 10	Mon Oct 28	<i>Aggression and Violence</i>	
	Wed Oct 30	<i>Aggression and Violence</i>	
	Fri Nov 1	<i>Helping and Prosocial Behavior</i>	Observation Data Collection Plan due by 9AM
Week 11	Mon Nov 4	<i>Helping and Prosocial Behavior</i>	
	Wed Nov 6	<i>Cooperation</i>	

	Fri Nov 8	<i>Cooperation</i>	ASA 8: Campus Interventions
Week 12	Mon Nov 11	<i>Love, Friendship, and Social Support</i>	
	Wed Nov 13	<i>Love, Friendship, and Social Support Attachment Through the Life Course</i>	
	Fri Nov 15	<i>Attraction and Beauty</i>	
Week 13	Mon Nov 18	<i>Attraction and Beauty</i>	ASA 9: Dating Profiles
	Wed Nov 20	Meet with observation groups / Review for Exam 3	
	Fri Nov 22	Exam 3	
Week 14	Mon Nov 25	Data collection & workshop for social observation studies	
	Wed Nov 27	Thanksgiving break	
	Fri Nov 29	Thanksgiving break	
Week 15	Mon Dec 2	Final group presentations	
	Wed Dec 4	Final group presentations	
	Fri Dec 6	Final group presentations “I’m a social psychologist – AMA!” wrap-up	ASA 10: War & Peace
Finals	Wed Dec 11	Final papers	<i>Observation paper and peer- evaluation due by 12P</i>

***Note:** With the exception of course exams and written assignments, the schedule is tentative and subject to change. All changes will be announced in class, via email, and an updated schedule will be posted on Moodle.