PSY 230: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Spring Semester 2024
Mondays and Thursdays 2:30-3:45pm
Fully In-Person Instruction*
Room 1036 Hunter North

1) GENERAL STUFF

PROFESSOR:
Dr. Jason Young, email: Jason.young@hunter.cuny.edu
Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 4:00-6:00PM in room 1422HW; other times by appointment
Main Office location: Room 738 HN

REQUIRED TEXT:
Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., and Nisbett, R.E. (2023). Social Psychology, 6th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.
Paperback version: ISBN: 9781324045557
E-book version: ISBN: 9781324045670

Link to bookstore for textbook:
https://hunter.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php?action=browse#books/4119623/

- Any of the above textbook formats are acceptable for the course as long as they are the 6th edition of this textbook. The hardcover is the most expensive; the e-book costs roughly half as much. The online InQuizitive tool offered by Norton Publishers will be used for exercises and homework. Be sure it comes bundled with whichever textbook format you purchase.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The purpose of this course is to introduce you to key themes in the field of social psychology. There are three major goals: (1) To explain how social psychologists think about and conduct research to understand human behavior. (2) To introduce you to the body of knowledge and underlying principles that currently exist in the field. (3) To encourage you to critically reflect about the implications of social psychological research for the social situations you encounter in your (and others') everyday life.

MAJOR TOPICS TO BE COVERED: The Relevance of Theory and Research in Social Psychology; Beliefs, Attitudes, and Social Behavior; Causes of Pro-Social and Anti-Social behavior; The Nature of Prejudice; Influencing Attitudes and Changing Behavior; Understanding Ourselves and Other People; Social Interaction and Interpersonal Relationships; Group Dynamics; Social Psychology and Society.

2) COURSE REQUIREMENTS

 Class meetings and exams will take place Mondays and Thursdays from January 25 until May 13, 2024.

BUT there are some EXCEPTIONS:

- The following dates there will only be an online lecture—**no in-class meeting on these dates** as explained below*—
  March 4, 7, 11, 14
- The following dates there will be **no class meetings due to holidays**, as listed on the college calendar:
  February 12, 19
  April 22, 25, 29
- The following date we DO have class: February 28 (this is a **Wednesday** treated as a Monday schedule)

*NOTICE: Because of a research trip, there will be 4 dates that class will only be online. Further instructions about accessing these classes will be provided on Blackboard.
These dates are: March 4, 7, 11, 14 . THERE WILL BE AN ASSIGNMENT FOR EACH OF THESE CLASSES THAT MUST BE COMPLETED ON THE DATE OF EACH CLASS AND WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR EXAM 2 SCORE. FAILURE TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THESE ASSIGNMENTS ON THE DATE OF THE CLASS WILL COUNT AGAINST YOUR EXAM 2 GRADE.

LECTURES: Students generally get much more out of lectures when they become involved in the discussion…therefore, I do encourage you to talk in class, but only when called upon. In general, lecture material will be ***different*** from the material presented in the text, although some topics for lectures and reading will overlap.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Attendance is not taken in this course—it is your choice to attend or not. The wise student will arrive on time, attend all lectures, and borrow notes from a trusted classmate if a lecture must be missed. Knowledge of lecture material will account for about 50 percent of your course grade. Lecture outline slides will be posted on Blackboard – these provide an outline of the class lecture but they are not a substitute for the full lecture presented in class. Translation: students wishing to earn an A in this class will attend all lectures. If you know you must arrive late or leave early on a particular day, to minimize distraction to others, please sit near the exit.

Cell phones are NOT welcome in class lectures, because of the disruption they cause to other students in the class. It is requested that all cell phone ringers be switched "off" before entering

class. Students who fail to do this may be disenrolled from the course.

TEXTBOOK READINGS: The assigned readings for each section of the course will account for about 50 percent of your course grade. You are encouraged to read the chapters according to the schedule provided in this syllabus. In preparation for each exam, it is recommended that you construct and review outlines of the main points made in each chapter.

- *Note that this is a survey course of the entire field of Social Psychology—There will be a moderately heavy reading load as you will be expected to read most of the assigned textbook over the course of the semester, supplemented by occasional articles provided via Blackboard.*

BLACKBOARD WEBSITE access:

You will be expected to weekly check the Blackboard website created for this course. This site will include all announcements and reminders of upcoming exams, as well as provide a forum for exchanging questions and comments related to class discussions. I occasionally post news articles and other current events related to class discussions. If you find interesting stuff that is relevant to course topics, please email it to me and I will post it to share with your classmates.

REVIEWING THE TEXTBOOK MATERIAL: INQUIZATIVE

InQuizitive is an online tool provided by your textbook's publisher, W.W. Norton Publishers, to help you review, and quiz yourself on the textbook's material. It consists of online review materials, exercises, and quizzes accessed via the course Blackboard site. Reports from past students indicate that taking these quizzes helped them greatly in preparing for class exams. You are encouraged to complete at least some of the InQuizative quizzes for each chapter assigned in class.

Your scores on these quizzes will NOT apply to your final course grade. BUT what *will* affect your final grade is your regular (weekly) use of InQuizitive. As described below, your final course grade will be determined based on the class exams. However, once this grade is calculated, should your final grade fall at the dividing line between grade categories (for example, between a "B-" and a "B") your use of InQuizitive throughout the semester will be reviewed. Evidence of regular use of InQuizitive (i.e., having completed at least one exercise and/or taken a quiz at least once each week during the semester) will result in your grade being pushed to the higher grade if it falls at a grade dividing line.

3) EARNING YOUR COURSE GRADE

EXAMS: There will be four in-class exams, and *no exam during the finals period*. Each of these 4 exams will be noncumulative (i.e., they will cover only the material presented in lecture and in the assigned readings since the previous exam). Exams will contain a combination of multiple choice and short answer (2-3 sentence) questions. *A review sheet highlighting key concepts will be posted before every exam to assist in organizing notes for exam preparation*.
Exams are tentatively scheduled for the following dates:

EXAM #1: Thursday, February 22, 2024 in class during regular class time 2:30-3:45pm
Gilovich et al reading covered: Chapters 1, 2, 13, 6 (only pp. 183-191 214-215)

EXAM #2: Thursday, March 21, 2024 in class during regular class time 2:30-3:45pm
Gilovich et al reading covered: Chapters 6(pp. 191-215), 4, 10, 11,14

EXAM #3: Thursday, April 11, 2024 in class during regular class time 2:30-3:45pm
Gilovich et al reading covered: Chapters 7, 8, 5

EXAM #4: Monday May 13, 2024 in class during regular class time 2:30-3:45pm
Gilovich et al reading covered: Chapters 3, 12, 9

GRADING: There are 4 graded exams in the course. Final grades will be based on the highest 2 grades received on any of the first 3 exams, **plus** the grade received on the 4th exam. If you miss any of the first 3 exams, that will be the exam score that is dropped in calculating your final grade. The grade for the 4th exam will count for all students.

Note that **all students MUST take the 4th exam on May 13, 2024** (no exceptions), regardless of their grades received on the first 3 exams. Students who fail to take the 4th exam will receive a WU for the course.

Each exam will be worth 50 points, with an additional 4 extra-credit points per exam. For each exam, a grading curve will be calculated to transform your numerical score into a letter grade. The extra credit points will be added onto your exam score *after* this curve is calculated and the letter grade will be adjusted accordingly. Note that this is the only opportunity for extra credit—no other extra credit assignment options are available in this course.

 The letter grades of the 3 counted exams (i.e., as determined by the second sentence under *Grading* above) will be averaged together to determine your final course grade.

4) Lecture topics covered in each part of the semester

Part 1/Exam 1: --Introduction to the field –why are we here? How does social psychology differ from other ways of understanding human nature?

--Research methods we use –can the study of social behavior be truly scientific?

--Aggression and anti-social behavior (used as an example of how different research methods can be applied to answer research questions) –what makes you grouchy?

--Attitudes and the prediction of behavior – can you accurately predict others' (your friend's, your date's, your Tinder pal's) behavior?

Part 2/Exam 2: --Cognitive dissonance theory—does guilt lead you to change your attitude?

--Social Cognition –what thinking habits and biases affect how you view others?

--Stereotyping and Prejudice: Origins – what makes you stereotype and dislike others and why?

--Stereotyping and Prejudice: Implications—how do these affect us personally and as a society?

--Cooperation and Altruism– when are you more likely to help and be nice others?

Part 3/Exam 3: --Persuasion theories –how do advertising and other techniques change your attitudes?

--Automatic influence-–can subtle persuasion techniques influence you without your conscious awareness? (oh no!)

--Social influence—can other people really change your attitudes and behavior? Can you really change these yourself?

--How our emotions relate to our social world –what social triggers affect your feelings?

Part 4/Exam 4: --Our sense of self and identity—how do you decide who you "really" are?

--Group behavior— why do you behave differently when you are in a group vs. alone?

--Social and romantic relationships – how do you decide who you want to be friends with? who you want to date? when it's time to break-up with someone?

5) College Policies that apply to (and are enforced in) this class

Statement on Academic Integrity
Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The college is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic Accommodation
In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212- 772-4857)/TTY (212- 650- 3230).

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct
"In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.
a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.
CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:
https://hunter-undergraduate.catalog.cuny.edu/policies-and-requirements/institutional-policies/cuny-policy-on-sexual-misconduct

Psychology 230 Syllabus

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