

# **UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER**

Department of Sociology

## **Social Psychology**

Fall 2011

SOCY 4031

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:45

HLMS 199

### **Professor Leslie Irvine**

Ketchum 223

irvinel@colorado.edu

Office hours: Tues/Thurs 8-9 am

### **Amanda Shigihara, Teaching Assistant**

Ketchum 409

Amanda.Shigihara@colorado.edu

Office hours: Mon 5 - 6:30 pm

Wed 2 -3:30 pm

### **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.

### **What can this course do for you?**

- It can help you understand how societal conditions affect individuals and groups, giving you useful insight for your personal and professional life.
- It can give you lifelong learning and study skills that you can apply continually to get the best grades and move quickly up the ladder in your workplace.
- It can help you improve your abilities in writing, critical thinking, and analysis—all skills that employers consider among the most important ones needed to succeed on the job.

### **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 Amanda or me for additional clarification of the material if needed.
- If you have an event that has been scheduled prior to the start of the semester that will cause you to miss class or a deadline, you must notify me by **September 13** to discuss alternate grading options. I will not consider options for anyone who waits longer than this to contact me.
- You may use laptops, tablets, or other mobile devices to take notes, but you must have paper and pen/pencil available in every class, too. We will have an electronics-free zone in the classroom for anyone who wishes to avoid the distraction of computer screens.
- You must keep up with the reading. In addition to the text, the readings come from scholarly journals and books, and you may find them more difficult than what 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. 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 information relevant to the class.
- To send Amanda or me an email, 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. Amanda and I will read and respond to email Monday through Thursday, 9-5, and Friday, 9-12. Please note that neither Amanda 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. 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 350 points, distributed as follows:

In-class work/homework	55 points
Composing/Answering Questions	45 points
Midterm exam	50 points
Final exam	50 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. These will be worth 5-15 points each.

Composing and Answering Questions: You will be given numerous, short, in-class writing exercises. Sometimes these will involve composing two or three questions about the day’s

lesson, which we will then use to review the material. Other times, I will ask you to respond to a question about the material. Most, but not all of these will be collected for credit. This assignment is designed to help you to take responsibility for your own learning and participate as an active learner, even when you are not being graded. We will use these to review material, and I will use them to work with individual students who show lack of mastery and to go back to material when most of the class shows evidence of confusion and misconception. When collected, I will grade these on a scale of 0 to 3:

- 0: You did not submit a response
- 1: Your response indicates little understanding of the material
- 2: Your response demonstrates a partial understanding of the material
- 3: Your response demonstrates a competent understanding of the material

At the end of the semester, I will drop your two lowest grades, which will allow you to miss two exercises without penalty. If you have a documented medical or legal excuse for missing more than two of these exercises, see me for an alternate assignment (and provide documentation).

**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 the case of documented, genuinely extenuating, medical or legal circumstances. You will have an opportunity to earn extra credit on the midterm. I will explain this in class prior to the exam. This is the only extra credit offered in this course.

**Final project:** The final project will consist of two parts. I will post and discuss detailed information about the project approximately midway through the semester. The first part of the project involves a social psychology scavenger hunt. In the second part, you will write a short paper demonstrating the knowledge about social psychology you gained during the scavenger hunt. The final project is worth 150 points.

**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 except for religious holiday or documented medical or legal emergencies.
- You must submit all assignments in class. Amanda and I do not accept and will not acknowledge work submitted via email or left under our office doors.
- You must format all written work using the guidelines of the American Sociological Association (see link on CU Learn).

- 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 Amanda 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. Amanda 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.

Note:

- 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 Amanda or me early in the semester so that we can resolve the problem before you fall behind.

Week 1	Aug 23	Introduction to the course
	Aug 25	SP chap. 1; Mills*
Week 2	Aug 30	SP chap 2 (up to 37); Blumer*
	Sep 1	SP chap 2 (37 to end)
Week 3	Sep 6	SP chap 3; Adler & Adler*; Lovaglia*
	Sep 8	SP chap 4 (to 93); West & Zimmerman*
Week 4	Sep 13	SP chap 4 (94-103); Schooler, Mulatu, & Oates*
	Sep 15	SP chap 4 (103 to end); Lucas*
Week 5	Sep 20	SP chap 5 (up to 138, stop at the heading that says “Measuring...”)
	Sep 22	SP chap 5 (138-140); Goffman*
Week 6	Sep 27	SP chap 5 (141 to end); Kuhn & McPartland*
	Sep 29	SP chap 6 (to 158, top); Corsaro*; Piaget* (Wikipedia)
Week 7	Oct 4	SP chap 6 (158-178); Elder*; Erikson* (Wikipedia)
	Oct 6	SP chap 6 (to end); Correll*
Week 8	Oct 11	No reading; review for exam
	Oct 13	Midterm exam
Week 9	Oct 18	SP chap 7 (to 201); Becker*
	Oct 20	SP chap 7 (201 to end); Leisenring*
Week 10	Oct 25	SP chap 8 (to 233); Conrad & Potter*
	Oct 27	SP chap 8 (233-239); Horwitz & Wakefield*
Week 11	Nov 1	SP chap 8 (239 to end); Karp*
	Nov 3	SP chap 9 (to 261); Perry*
Week 12	Nov 8	SP chap 9 (261-267); Alwin*
	Nov 10	SP chap 9 (269-end); Sherif*

Week 13	Nov 15	SP chap 10 (to 289); Ellis & Irvine*
	Nov 17	SP chap 10 (289 to 296); Hochschild* (up to 566, heading)
Week 14	Nov 22	No class: Thanksgiving Break
	Nov 24	
Week 15	Nov 29	SP chap 10 (296 to end); Hochschild* (566 to end)
	Dec 1	SP chap 11 (to 321); Clarke*
Week 16	Dec 6	SP chap 11 (321 to end); Haenfler*
	Dec 8	Bringing it all together; review for exam
Final Exam	Dec 15	4:30-7:00 p.m. HLMS 199

## **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](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)