



**UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK TIRANA**  
**Fall 2007**

Course: **Social Psychology (3 credit hours)**

Instructor: **Blerta Bodinaku, M.A.,** Psychotherapist

Office hours:

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Meeting day and time:

**Catalog Description**

This course provides a wide view of the social behavior; how thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are affected by others, and how we feel, think, and behave in regard to others.

**Course Purpose**

This course is an overview of the field of social psychology. It is intended to provide students with knowledge of the most recent findings about the social nature of the human behavior, main theories that explain different aspects of the social behavior and their implications and applications. It attempts to help you develop a deeper understanding of your social self, social influence, and social relating.

**Required Textbook**

Brehm, Kassin, Fein, (2006) Social Psychology Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company (6<sup>th</sup> ed.)

**Course Objectives**

**Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:**

1. Describe the scientific methods used in social psychology for gathering knowledge.
2. Develop a critical reasoning on different theories and controversies, and an ethical reasoning about different applications in social psychology.
3. Discuss the concept of the social self, the way it is developed, presented, and protected.
4. Discuss the processes of attribution; theories and applications.
5. Describe and discuss the phenomenon of prejudice and discrimination; evidence and analyze different

- aspects of social life reflecting these phenomenon.
6. Describe the link between attitudes and behavior; discuss strategies of persuasion.
  7. Describe and differentiate obedience, compliance, and conformism; discuss strategies to maintain our own attitudes.
  8. Describe the helping behavior versus aggression; evidence and analyze different aspects of social life reflecting these phenomenon.
  9. Discuss applications of social psychology in fields of health, law, and business.

### **Content of the Course**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | What is Social Psychology                                    |
| 2  | Doing Social Psychology Research                             |
| 3  | The Social Self <b>(paper)</b>                               |
| 4  | Perceiving Persons   |
| 5  | Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination <b>(paper)</b>    |
| 6  | Attitudes <b>(Mid-term exam)</b>                             |
| 7  | Conformity <b>(paper)</b>                                    |
| 8  | Group processes  |
| 9  | Helping others <b>(paper)</b>                                |
| 10 | Aggression   |
| 11 | Applied Social Psychology in Law <b>(paper)</b>              |
| 12 | Applied Social Psychology in Business <b>(presentations)</b> |
| 13 | Applied Social Psychology in Health <b>(presentations)</b>   |

### **Course Requirements**

**A. Reading assignment:** The textbook and additional reading assignments are crucial to your understanding of the course material. **Note that not all the text material will be covered in class. Completing all reading assignments each week remains student's responsibility.**

**B. Attendance** is mandatory:

- *Students who miss more than three classes may be required to withdraw from the course.*

- Students with perfect attendance will be given extra credit toward their final grade (for example, a B would become a B+).
- Any **unexcused absences** will lead to loss of participation and attendance points.
- Any illness or emergency situation should be reported to the instructor. **Only in this case, it will be considered excused.**

**C. Participation** is as important as attendance. Participating in class discussions is a good tool to practice your communication skills. Sharing your experiences, opinions and raising questions will be beneficial to all. However, if you do not feel comfortable speaking in front of others, please see me.

**D. Bi-weekly papers:** Students will be required to prepare bi-weekly papers on an issue of their choice relevant to the topics discussed in the two last chapters. It may be a personal experience, an observation on recent events in Albania, or in the world, a discussion triggered by a comment raised or information brought in the class.

*Criteria for writing papers:*

- It should not exceed 3 pages, but shouldn't be shorter than 2 pages.
  - It should be written in double spaced lines.
  - Each paper should cover the following
    - Introduction of your topic, and the reason you have chosen it.
    - Evidences to demonstrate your topic, or support your observations, controversies, dilemmas, comments, and analysis on the experience you have chosen.
    - What did you learn from your own paper?
- If you do not turn in your assignment on time, you will receive 0 points.
  - All the papers will count for 20% of your final grade.
  - **Remember, your paper needs to be unique and individually written.**

**E. Tests:** There will be 1 test during the course of the semester, and 1 final exam. These tests will consist of a series of multiple choice questions and short answered question which will cover the material presented in your textbook, material discussed in class and all assigned readings. The final exam will be cumulative that means that it will cover all the issues presented during the semester. The test will count for 20% of your final

grade, and the final exam will count for 40%. **No make-up tests.**

**Exceptions - only** in documented cases of emergency.

- F. Individual Presentation:** Each student will choose a different, specific topic of their interest, which is relevant to the course material. The topic must be approved by the instructor by the forth week of class.
- Each student is required to provide a *copy of the outline presentation* to the classmates and to the instructor.
  - Presentations should be 30 minutes in length and should facilitate the class discussions.
  - *If for any reason, you will not be present on the scheduled day, your presentation will be postponed for the next week, and you will get 5 points deduction.*

### **CLASS POLICIES**

**A.** It is expected that students **show respect in class**. It is very disrespectful to talk to your neighbor while someone is speaking. If you need assistance regarding a point you missed, please ask.

**B. Being on time** for class is important. If you will be late for the class, you are allowed to enter the class and not miss it. However, note that regular tardiness will lower your grade.

**C. Raise your hand** when you would like to speak. It is not rare that most of students want to speak at the same time. Raising hand will facilitate our discussions and will assist us respect everyone equally. If you will ignore this rule, your word will be ignored as well.

**F. Cell phones** should be turned off or silenced. In cases of emergency, please let me know before the start of class. If you need to go out, please do so quietly without disturbing the class process.

**G. Late Assignment & Paper** will be penalized. For each day the paper or the assignment is late, points will be deducted.

**H. Cheating & Plagiarism** will lead to severe consequences. Copying your friend's work during a test, assignment or paper is not acceptable. If someone gives you the permission to copy his/her work, this is still considered **cheating** and both individuals will suffer the consequences. **Plagiarism** (it is worth repeating) occurs when a student uses the work of another person (author) without change or with minor changes without recognizing this fact.

*In the event of illness or emergency, contact your instructor IN ADVANCE to determine whether special arrangements are possible.*

*The University's rules on academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the STUDENT HONOUR CODE, or ask your instructor for clarification*

**Criteria for determination of GRADE**

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| <b>Participation</b>    | 10% |
| <b>Bi-Weekly papers</b> | 20% |
| <b>Exam (1)</b>         | 20% |
| <b>Presentation</b>     | 20% |
| <b>Final Exam</b>       | 30% |

**Grading Scale**

|             |                 |                 |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Grad. Scale | <b>96-100 A</b> | <b>90-95 A-</b> | <b>87-89 B+</b> |
|             | <b>83-86 B</b>  | <b>80-82 B-</b> | <b>77-79 C+</b> |
|             | <b>73-76 C</b>  | <b>70-72 C-</b> | <b>67-69 D+</b> |
|             | <b>63-66 D</b>  | <b>60-62 D-</b> | <b>0-59 F</b>   |

### Guidelines for writing the paper

As mentioned above, the paper will be graded on a 100-point scale as it follows:

- 10 points** - Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar
- 10 points** - Is clearly written and easy to follow
- 15 points** - The defense of your position.
- 20 points** - At least four references (2 foreign + 2 Albanian)
- 20 points** - Demonstration of critical thinking.
- 25 points** - Mastery of course material.

**NOTE: Course assignments/papers will not be accepted by email. If the paper is late, you will receive 10 points deduction; Papers can be accepted until 1 week after the DUE DATE.**

- **I strongly advise you to consult with your English professor for writing assistance, or visit the Writing Center.**

Papers must be prepared according to APA Style. Be sure to proofread your work to assure that there are no incomplete sentences, nor spelling or grammatical errors.

- *I am always willing to review draft papers before they are submitted. I am not responsible for computer problems or your inability to complete papers in a timely fashion.*
- A successful paper will follow the basic format:

1-Introduce your topic - What is the topic and Why you have selected it? This section should be 1 -2 paragraphs.

2- Describe what you found out from the literature review. This section should include at least 4 paragraphs (findings about phenomenon in the world and/or the phenomenon in Albania)

3-Discuss the findings, by comparing them with text material. Define and explain your own opinion. Make sure to strongly support your arguments. Be sure you tie it into what you have discussed in the previous paragraphs. This section is the MAIN part of your paper and should be at least 3 paragraphs.

4-Provide one-paragraph conclusion of the study of your topic.