

## Syllabus for Psychology 30: Social Psychology

<b>Semester &amp; Year:</b>	Spring 2013
<b>Course ID and Section Number:</b>	PSYCH 30 – M2784 (#032784)
<b>Number of Credits/Units:</b>	3
<b>Day/Time:</b>	Wednesday, 6:00 pm – 9:10 pm
<b>Location:</b>	Room 111
<b>Instructor's Name:</b>	Steven Siler
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Office location and hours: available by appointment Phone: 707 937-1316 Email: <a href="mailto:silermfc@mcn.org">silermfc@mcn.org</a> & <a href="mailto:steve-siler@redwoods.edu">steve-siler@redwoods.edu</a>

**Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline):** The scientific study of how thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. Relevant research, theory, and practical applications will be covered. This course addresses social issues using current events to illustrate social-psychological constructs. Students will be given the opportunity to apply social psychological concepts to actual classroom experiences that demonstrate the social influences at play on behaviors and on internal cognitive events. The course canvasses the history of the field of social psychology. This is a college level course, and students will be expected to read and write at the college level.

### **Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline):**

1. Demonstrate the ability to identify and differentiate central processes of social cognition and their role in at least one of the following: the construction of self and identity, the experience of emotion, intimacy and attraction, group process, social influence, attitude formation and change, prosocial and aggressive behavior, and intergroup relations.
2. Analyze the impact of society and culture on human diversity, especially as it relates to gender, self and identity, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexuality, worldview, collective behavior, and/or values.
3. Demonstrate a familiarity with at least one of the findings from research in social psychology and the ability apply them to hypothetical and/or real life situations found in a variety of contexts.

**Special accommodations:** College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.

**Academic Misconduct:** Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an "F" in the course.

The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at:

<http://redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/AP%205500%20Conduct%20Code%20final%2002-07-2012.pdf>

Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the college catalog and on the College of the Redwoods homepage.

College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.

Psyc 30 Social Psychology  
Wednesdays, 6:00 - 9:10 pm  
Spring Term 2012 - 13  
College of the Redwoods, Mendocino Coast Campus

## Syllabus

### Contact Information

Instructor: Steven Siler, adjunct faculty

e-mail: silermfc@mcn.org

off campus office number: (707) 937-1316

office hours: available throughout the week by appointment; please arrange in advance

### Textbook Information

The course textbook is available in the bookstore and on reserve in the library:

Aronson, Elliot, et al, Social Psychology, Prentice Hall, 2010, or newer (8th) edition

in addition, there may also be reading assignments handed out in class, assigned on-line website articles, and open research assignments.

### Course Overview

The course is essentially a study of how thoughts, feelings and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. This course will explore the foundational aspects of the field including relevant research, theory, and practical application. In addition, this course addresses social issues such as prejudice, war, criminality and violence using current events to illustrate specific social-psychological constructs. Students will be given the opportunity to translate social psychological theory to actual classroom experiences that exemplify social influences on behavior.

Because of the cross-disciplinary nature of this course, you will be required to exercise your critical thinking skills as you evaluate competing theories, integrate complex applications and assess the personal and social impact that social psychology dynamics have on yourself and others.

### Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify appropriate psychosocial and biological principles that influence behavior and cognition, given a particular context or situation.
2. Describe the impact of society and culture on human diversity, especially as it relates to gender, ethnicity and socioeconomic status.
3. Have knowledge of psychological principles, concepts, and theories and be able to communicate and present them clearly and effectively, both in oral and written form.
4. Synthesize social psychological theory and relevant research.
5. Apply theoretical research to real life situations.

6. Work productively in a social context with the knowledge of psychological factors that effect ones' social behaviors.
7. Engage in self-directed learning.
8. Present relevant research to the class, either individually or with a group of fellow students.

### Class Guidelines

Expect lectures, group discussions, field study, individual and group exercises, films and exams in class. Additional out-of-class activities will include readings,, field research and personal reflection. Expect to spend 1 - 3 hours per week outside of class on homework assignments.

Please read the text assignment, web assignments and handouts prior to class. Assessment will include both a mid-term and a final essay exam, keeping a personal journal and participation in various classroom activities.

The complexity of our society today requires that we have well developed critical thinking skills which require considered thought and a sensitivity to a wide range of views on important issues. These skills will be fostered in this course as we explore several charged and perhaps controversial issues. You are expected to prepare yourself for discussion, questioning and informed debate on these issues. You are expected to be respectful of other students' opinions even when they are directly opposed to your own views.

The mid-term and final essay exams must be taken at the scheduled time. The only exceptions are illness and personal emergency. If you have such problems, contact me immediately, preferably before the exam. Late work will not be accepted.

I expect you to be present, prompt, prepared and focused on the activities of the class. Many of the class activities involve discussion, and sharing of ideas and insights. Establishing a classroom environment which includes a sense of community is important. Expect to participate and support such a classroom atmosphere. This is not a class in which you can get by just taking lecture notes and completing the exams. If you are habitually late for class, unprepared, or detract from the goals of the class, we'll need to meet privately and reassess your continued enrollment in the course. If you miss 3 classes in a row without contacting me or if you miss more than 4 meetings in the semester, I'll drop you from the class. It is your responsibility to initiate an official withdrawal with the registrar's office. If you don't officially withdraw with the registrar, you may find an "F" on your transcript because you didn't follow up with official procedures to drop the class. Please don't let this happen. If you drop the class, be sure and follow the procedures to have your name removed from the roll.

Finally, a word of counsel. I intend for the course to be personal, challenging and rigorous. The implications of the impact of the key findings of social psychology on our selves and our society is profound. A serious examination of this field requires deep personal reflection, sophisticated insight, mature reasoning and college level communication skills. I expect the material I'll be presenting to challenge your thinking, stimulate exciting discussion, open new lines of consideration and compel you to reconsider your perspectives regarding personal identity, cultural norms and the foundations of who and how we think we are.

## Grading Policy

The grading policy for the class is as follows:

mid term essay exam	30 points
final essay exam	30 points
class participation	20 points
observations, reports & journal	20 points

points earned	course grade
90 - 100	A
80 - 90	B
70 - 80	C
60 - 70	D
below 60	F

It is your responsibility to check your grade regularly and stay in touch with me about your status. I am open to modifying assignments to meet individual needs or interests as long as the integrity of the work is preserved.

## Course Calendar

note I may revise the course calendar at any time during the semester based on class interest, investment or inquiry during the learning process.

January 16	Topic: Introduction to Social Psychology
January 23	Topic: Social Cognition
January 30	Topic: Social Perception
February 6	Topic: The Self
February 13	Topic: Attitudes & the Need to Justify Actions
February 20	Topic: Attitudes and Attitudinal Change
February 27	Topic: Conformity
March 6	Mid-Term Exam
March 13	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
March 20	Topic: Groups

March 27	Topic: Inter-personal Attraction
April 3	Topic: Inter-personal Relationships
April 10	Topic: Pro-Social Behavior
April 17	Topic: Health
April 24	Topic: Aggression
May 1	Topic: Prejudice
May 8	Final Exam - Review of Core Concepts