

## Syllabus for: Social Basis of Behavior (Linked to English 1A) Psych. 30

<b>Semester &amp; Year:</b>	Fall 2014
<b>Course ID and Section Number:</b>	E5944- O5944
<b>Number of Credits/Units:</b>	3
<b>Day/Time:</b>	M-W 10:05-11:30
<b>Location:</b>	CA 109
<b>Instructor's Name:</b>	Deanna Herrera-Thomas
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Office location and hours: CA 133 Phone:476-4307 Email:Deanna-Herrerathomas@redwoods.edu

### Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline):

#### Course Description

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) :

#### Student Learning Outcomes:

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://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf>

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.

# **Social Basis of Behavior: Psychology 30 Linked to Eng. 1A**

**Fall 2014 MW 10:05-11:30**

Dr. Deanna Herrera-Thomas

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**CA 109**

Text: Gilovich, Keltner, Chen and Nisbett (2013). *Social Psychology* 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. *Norton & Company*

**Important Dates: If you would like to drop then drop before or on Sep.8. All college holidays Sep. 1, Nov. 10, 27<sup>h</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Final exams begin Dec.8th**

## **Course Description**

**This course requires that you re co-enrolled in English 1A with Sean Herrera-Thomas.**

Social psychology is the scientific study of how our 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. This course will give students the opportunity to apply social psychological theory to actual classroom and life experiences that exemplify social influences on behavior.

## **Course Objectives**

This course provides an introduction to the exciting field of social psychology. The primary goal of this course is to familiarize you with the fundamental research-based principles of social psychology. Although this may not always be an easy task, we will try to enjoy accomplishing this goal (as far as I know no student has ever died as a result of taking this course). Learning is usually a good deal of fun in this course, and mutual participation in activities and discussions will enhance the experience and deepen your understanding of the material. Additional outside of class group work will be required in order to provide opportunities to build skills by working together to successfully complete tasks and to apply your learning to real world situations. Your English professor and I are thrilled to be offering our linked courses to provide our students with a progressive format to learn about concepts and develop new skills. We will be exploring the notions of good, evil, and ambiguous behaviors that are impacted by situational factors.

*Student Learning Outcomes*

4. **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.**
5. **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.**
6. **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.**

#### IMPORTANT NOTES

- The schedule is a tentative general outline of how we will cover the chapters but may not be adhered to depending upon the timing of class events, discussion and presentations.
- It is critical that you read the chapters before the lecture about them.
- You will be responsible for reading all of the assigned sections in the text. Material related to the chapters will be discussed in class in order to reinforce your understanding of the concepts, but lectures will not serve to review the contents of the textbook.
- It is strongly recommended that students with limited writing experience enroll in Eng. 152 (Writing Lab) for additional tutoring and support with writing papers.

#### EXTREMELY IMPORTANT NOTE

- **This course includes group work and assignments and therefore will require of the student the necessary communication skills to function within a group successfully.**

**\*\*Disruptive Behavior\*\***

Students are expected to participate in class discourse, not private discussions during class time. It is essential that students do not interrupt each other's speech (or the instructor's), yell, call each other (or the instructor names) or engage in disorderly behavior. A student attending the class under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave. Any student disrupting class will be asked to leave and administrative follow-up will result.

**Social Psychology addresses current events and sometimes controversial issues. The course will address racism, genocide, war, human degradation, attraction, aggression and other issues that at times spark lively debate. Current events are a main source of topical inquiry in the course, as is in keeping with the tradition of social psychological inquiry. You will not be graded on your political views and whether or not they are consistent with the views of the instructor (which are based in social psychological theory and practices). You will be graded on your ability to participate and contribute to a collaborative learning environment and your ability to analyze and communicate your learning in a variety of ways outlined by the syllabus. It is your responsibility to express opinions in a respectful and non-threatening manner. If your behavior interferes with the learning of other students you will be asked to leave the class for two class periods with administrative follow-up.**

**Electronic devices and communications are prohibited. If you require electronic accommodations please inform the instructor. My policy on this is to offer one verbal warning and then one written warning if behavior is repeated. If student persists in using devices then he or she will be asked to leave the class for two class periods with administrative follow-up.**

**Instructor reserves the right to drop students who have not completed sufficient activities to pass the class. Instructor also reserves the right to grade students independently of other students for the group project requirement if there is inconsistency in participation between members.**

### **Grading and Requirements**

- *Exams: Worth a total of 200 points*

There will be two multiple-choice exams in addition to a final exam. Both consist of 50 multiple-choice items. The first exam will be a take-home study exam and will be designed to help you to keep up with your reading. The second test is designed to test your understanding of concepts rather than your ability to simply read the material. This second exam will be taken in the classroom and will be based on material covered in the book, lectures and video segments shown in class.

The final exam will include one essay question chosen out of ten possible questions of which you have prepared to answer. The final will be worth 100 points.

**No late quizzes, No late tests and No late papers accepted unless the instructor delays turn-in dates for the entire class. No exceptions!! If you are not in class to turn in or pick-up a quiz you can not receive points for the test. You may not turn a quiz into my box in lieu of class attendance.**

#### *Expository Paper: Worth 50 points*

Each student is required to write a 3-5-page reaction paper. This is an also an assignment in your English 1A course. The assignment involves selecting a theory from the text or a topic discussed in lecture that you find particularly interesting, relating the concepts to an event you believe to be important in your own social experience or to a new form (a movie for instance). A listing of topics will be provided in a hand out. The title page must be on a separate sheet of paper in APA style and stapled at the upper left-hand corner. References are to be provided on an APA style reference page if they are needed. These pages (the title and reference) are not included in the count for pages of your paper. The paper is short as I am looking for quality and not for quantity.

Do not hand in a rough draft; all submitted material should be free of spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors. The reaction paper will be evaluated on the following criteria: 1) content organization; 2) your ability to write in a clear and concise manner; 3) evidence suggesting you have thought deeply about the concept(s) and their implications. Because this paper is an expository analysis it is acceptable to use personal pronouns, as opposed to the “passive” voice which will be required for the group project research paper.

- *Group Research Paper, Presentation and Focus Groups: Worth a total of 120 points*

Each student will be assigned to an 8-10 person focus group in which you will be given the opportunity to discuss topics and to engage in classroom activities based upon the material presented in class. The group will generate one research paper that will be 3 pages in length not including the APA title and reference pages. Each group will choose a topic from one student’s research paper from English 1A, or a combination of papers if on the same topic. This must be a different paper than the one required for English 1A, but the topics can be the same. This research paper will be presented in class. The paper and presentation are worth 130 points.

- *Attendance and Participation: 30 points*

Students are required to attend class and are expected to participate in class discussions and activities. Students will lose 5 points for every missed class.

- *Bonus points: 10pts.*

Bonus points are given for in-class assignments when designated. You cannot make them up and they are utilized as a form of extra credit.

**Grading Scale**

372-400=A (93%+)	332-345=B(83-86%)	280-307=C(70-76%)
360-371=A-(90-92%)	320-331=B-(80-82%)	240-277=D(60-69%)
348-359=B+(87-89%)	308-319=C+(77-79%)	236and below=F(59%-??)

**Tentative Course Calendar**

Week	Date	Topics	Reading	Tests/Assignments
Week 1	8/25	Introduction	Chapter 1	

	8/27	Introduction	Chapter 1	
Week 2	9/1	Research Methods	Chapter 2	<b>NO class today</b>
	9/8	Research Methods	Chapter 2	
Week 3	9/10	Research Methods	Chapter 2	<b>Pick up Quiz 1</b> 1,2,9,5,11,8
	9/15	Social Influence/Obedience	Chapter 9	
Week 4	9/17	Social Influence/Obedience	Chapter 9	
	9/22	Social Cognition	Chapter 5	
Week 5	9/29	Social Cognition	Chapter 5	
	10/1	Prejudice	Chapter 11	
Week 6	10/6	Prejudice	Chapter 11	
	10/8	Persuasion	Chapter 8	<b>Expository Paper Due</b>
Week 7	10/13	Persuasion	Chapter 8	<b>Return Quiz 1</b>
	10/15	Groups Assigned	Chapter 7	
Week 8	10/20	Cognitive Dissonance	Chapter 7	<b>Pick up Quiz II</b> 7,13,3,14
	10/22 10/27	Cognitive Dissonance	Chapter 13	
Week 9	10/29	Aggression Aggression	Chapter 13	
	11/3	Aggression	Chapter 3	
Week 10	11/5	Self-Concept	Chapter 3	

	11/10	Self-Concept	Chapter 14	<b>NO class</b>
Week 11	11/12	Altruism	Chapter 14	
	11/17	Altruism	Chapter 14	
Week 12	11/19	Altruism	Chapter 14	<b>Return Quiz 2</b>
	11/24	Altruism		<b>Final Group Paper Due</b>
Week 13	11/26			
	12/1	<b>Presentations</b>		
Week 14	12/3	<b>Presentations</b>		
Week 15	12/8			<b>Final Exam</b>
		<b>Final Exam Week</b>		

### **Final Day and Time TBA**

You will note that assignments in English 1A will dovetail with assignments and readings in this class. However, there may be times when your work in this class does not coincide exactly with topics presented in your English 1A course. Sean and I will do our best to make sure that, for the most part, each course presents content that is consistent with content presented in the companion course, but this will not always be the case. Our goal is to provide a dynamic learning experience for you and your fellow students and to create a positive climate of mutual support where learning will occur.