

Self and Society (Soc 2)

SPRING 2005

Tuesday and Thursday 12:10 – 1:30 pm CHEM 179

Instructor: Dr. Brian Paciotti (bmpaciotti@ucdavis.edu)

Office hours: 3138 Wickson Hall; Tues. and Thurs. 1:45-2:45 pm, and by appointment).

Teaching Assistants:

Elizabeth Benner: SECTIONS [Friday 11:00-11:50 (B05); Friday 12:10-1:00 (B06)]

OFFICE HOURS: Thursday from 2:00-4:00 pm (284 SSH). ejbenner@ucdavis.edu

Vicken Hillis: SECTIONS [Fri 9-10 (B03); Fri 10-11 (B04)]

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 1:30 - 3:30pm (Hart 1328) avhillis@ucdavis.edu

Naomi Morones: SECTIONS [Tuesday 6-7: 11-12 (B01); Thursday: 6-7 (B02)]

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 11:30-1:30 (292 SSH) nmmorones@ucdavis.edu

I. Course Overview

This course introduces the theory, methods and research findings in the area of “self and society,” or more broadly, the area of social psychology. Social psychologists are concerned with the ways individuals reside within society and also with the processes by which society affects the individual. Thus, our focus in this course will be on the reciprocal relationship between the self and society, stressing the part social interaction plays within human life. We will examine socialization, identity, perceptions, cognition, and attitudes, as well as several types of interpersonal social behavior, such as aggression, prejudice and interpersonal attraction.

II. Required Reading

(Books will be put on 2-hour reserve in the Library)

- 1.) Kenrick, Neuberg & Cialdini SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY: UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY, 3rd Edition
- 2.) Reader (photocopies of short articles) available at Navins Copy Shop, 231 3rd Street. [\$5.75]

III. Lectures

Lecture slides will be posted on my webpage in PDF format (use Adobe reader to open). Go to <http://www.brianpaciotti.com> and click on “Soc 2.” You can go to the site and download and print the lectures. I recommend that you use a computer with a fast internet connection because some of the files are large. To save money, you may want to consider printing these on campus. You are allowed to print a substantial number of free pages in campus computer labs. You may find it useful to print out the lecture slides before coming to class to help guide you through the lecture *Be warned, however, that students who do not come to class usually do not do very well in the course because the slides are only an outline of what we discuss.*

IV. Exams, Essays, and Grading

The grading for this class will be determined by three equally weighted exams (65% total), one short essay assignment (5%), one longer 4-6 page essay (15%), participation in experiments (5%), and discussion section attendance (5%) and participation (5%).

Midterms and Final Exam: These exams will be comprised of both multiple-choice and *three of four* short answer questions. Questions will be designed to test knowledge of both conceptual and factual material presented in the lectures and readings. Short answer questions will involve writing about various definitions, concepts, and theories presented throughout the course. The final exam will cover the last section of the course since the second midterm (about 1/3). However, about 2/3 of the exam will cover the main concepts covered in the entire course. You may want to do a few practice tests at: Kenrick, Neuberg & Cialdini SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY: UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY, 3rd Edition www.ablongman.com/kenrick

Paper Assignments: The first paper is a short 1-2 page assignment where we will ask you break a social rule (norm) and describe what happened. The second assignment will require you to observe a social situation involving a group of people (e.g., a fraternity event on-campus). Later, using concepts and theories presented in lecture and the book, we will expect you to write a clear 5-page (double spaced) paper that analyzes what you observed. *Late papers are accepted, but you will lose one half of a letter grade (5%) for each day the paper is late.*

Participation in Psychology Experiments: To help you learn about how experiments are conducted, we are encouraging you to participate in experiments offered by the psychology department. If you choose not to participate, you have the option to write three 1-2 page essays about research methods. **Each paper is worth 2 points.** Thus, you need to complete 3 papers to earn the complete 5% for this assignment. See details on my webpage. *The last day to participate in experiments is usually the last day of classes.* Go to www.brianpaciotti.com and click on “Experiment Participation” to learn more.

Policy on Make-Up Exams: Make-up tests for those who miss an examination will not be allowed unless the student has received permission from the instructor to miss the exam before the test is given. Make-up tests will be in essay format.

Discussion Sections: During lectures, I strongly encourage questions and comments. However, the majority of discussion will take place in discussion sections. Your discussion section grade will be based on the number of times you are physically present in discussions (5%), and the quality of your contribution to the discussions (5%). Discussion section participation is not simply based on how much you say, or how often you speak, but by your general contribution to the group.

V. Lecture Outline and Important Dates

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Lecture 1 | Mar. 31 | Course Introduction |
| Lecture 2 | April 5 | Theory, Methods (Chapter 1) |
| Lecture 3 | April 7 | The Person (Chapter 2) |
| Lecture 4 | April 12 | The Situation (Culture) (Chapter 2) |
| Lecture 5 | April 14 | Social Cognition (Chapter 3) |
| Lecture 6 | April 19 | Social Cognition (Attribution) (Chapter 3) PAPER 1 DUE |
| Lecture 7 | April 21 | Self Presentation/Symbolic Interactionism (Chapter 4; Reader) |
| | April 26 | Exam 1 |
| Lecture 8 | April 28 | Attitudes (Chapter 5) |
| Lecture 9 | May 3 | Gender (Reader) |
| Lecture 10 | May 5 | Social Influence (Chapter 6) |
| Lecture 11 | May 10 | Relationships (Chapter 8; we will SKIP Chapter 7) |
| Lecture 12 | May 12 | Prosocial Behavior (Chapter 9) |
| Lecture 13 | May 17 | Aggression (Chapter 10) |
| | May 19 | Exam 2 |
| Lecture 14 | May 24 | Aggression (Chapter 10) |
| Lecture 15 | May 26 | Prejudice (Chapter 11) |
| Lecture 16 | May 31 | Social Dilemmas (Chapter 13) PAPER 2 DUE |
| Lecture 17 | June 2 | Groups (Chapter 12) VIDEO: Stanford Prison Experiment |
| Lecture 18 | June 7 | Sungusungu of Tanzania, Integrating Social Psychology, Conclusions (Chapter 14) |
| Final Exam | Tuesday June 14 8:00 am | Experiments or papers are DUE |