SOP 5058 (U01): Proseminar in Social Psychology  
Fall 2014

1. Basic Information

Instructor: Asia A. Eaton, Ph.D.  
Email: aeaton@fiu.edu  
http://faculty.fiu.edu/~aeaton  
Class: DM 144, Wednesdays, 1:00-3:45pm  
Office: DM 208, Tel: 305-348-0229  
Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 Wednesdays

2. Course Description

Welcome to Proseminar in Social Psychology at FIU! The area of social psychology focuses on the psychological processes involved with how individuals perceive, judge, remember, reason about, feel, and behave toward other people and among other people. This course provides an in-depth review of some of social psychology’s foundational themes and research literatures. We will review key theories, concepts, and findings using classic and contemporary papers as well as review chapters. As an advanced graduate seminar, the success of this course depends on your thorough and conscientious participation. You must read assigned material closely enough to engage course topics with your peers/colleagues in an empirically grounded and theoretically sophisticated manner.

3. Learning Objectives

My goal is for each of you to develop:

1) familiarity with classic and current issues in social psychology
2) an understanding of major theories driving social psychological research
3) appreciation for the principal methods in social psychology
4) the ability to use social psychological methods and theories to answer questions across various fields of psychology and in the real world
5) critical thinking skills regarding research, theory, methods, and social problems

3. Course Materials

All course materials will be available electronically in PDF format through Dropbox links.

4. Assignments and Grades

Grades will be based on your Critique Papers (50%), your Group Presentation (20%), your Final Paper (20%), and Class Participation (10%).

All written assignments (the Critique Papers and Final Paper) should be submitted through Turnitin.com using the Class ID: 8100432 and Password: SOP5058 (the class name is “SOP 5058: Proseminar in Social Psychology FALL 2014”).

Critique Papers

To assist you in preparing for weekly discussions, each week you will write a brief paper (roughly 2 pages) critiquing and analyzing the assigned readings. You must complete 8/13 of these papers.

Specifically, your Critique Papers should include the following elements:

1) A thorough critique of one of the assigned articles (including theoretical, logical/inferential, methodological, and analytic/statistical strengths & weaknesses, where applicable); the critique should be of an empirical article unless all articles for that week are review papers (e.g., for the week on theories)
2) A discussion question for class from each of the assigned readings (all readings- empirical and review)

In your critique of the journal article it is crucial that you mention both strengths and weaknesses, and that any criticisms are fully explained. Saying that the sample size in a study was “too small,” for example, is meaningless without an explanation of what it was too small to accomplish and why that limitation is important. You must also
offer a discussion question from each reading, including the reading that you critiqued. Discussion questions may arise directly from each reading, or they may be broader questions that link the issues raised in a particular readings to other topics already considered in the course, to other research domains within psychology, or to real-world phenomena (e.g., politics, legal proceedings, public health). Critique Papers must be submitted via Turnitin in a Word or PDF document no later than midnight on the Monday preceding the Wednesday class where we will discuss the readings. Scores on Critique Papers will constitute 50% of your final grade. When students begin group presentations (see below for details) you will be required to submit your discussion questions directly to that week’s group by that Monday at midnight in addition to putting those questions in your Critique Paper that is submitted via Turnitin.

**Group Presentation**

Once during weeks 8-13, small groups of students (approximately 3) will be responsible for presenting the assigned readings and for leading class discussion on those readings. You will sign up for a presentation group and topic the second week of class. All students in a group will receive the same grade for their presentation and discussion facilitation, and this assignment will constitute 20% of your final grade.

In your group presentation you will need to engage your classmates with interesting questions, you will need to identify weaknesses and strengths in the readings, and you will need to make conceptual, factual, and theoretical links between the assigned readings for that week and class readings and discussions from previous weeks. The presentation and discussion facilitation should last the entire class period. Your group may present in any format you like—with handouts, with PowerPoint slides, by writing on the board, using class exercises, etc.

Your presentation should cover, in the very least, the following points:

1) What did the readings inquire about (i.e., main questions or themes)?
2) What evidence is offered as an answer to these questions or in support of the author’s claims?
3) Is the evidence offered sufficient? What else might be useful to know? Could alternative accounts explain the results?
4) How does the paper relate to other readings and class lectures/discussions?
5) What do these readings suggest about the future of research in this area?

Those students who are writing Critique Papers on the day of a Group Presentation will submit their discussion questions to the presenting group by Monday at midnight, as well as including those questions in their Critique Paper to be submitted to Turnitin by Monday at midnight.

**Final Paper**

You will submit a Final Paper to Turnitin that proposes and “tests” a research question related to one or more of the class topics by Wednesday, December 10th at midnight. The paper should be roughly 10-12 pages (not counting references) and will include a review of the relevant psychological literature from refereed psychology journals, the development of clear and testable research hypotheses and/or a model(s), proposed analyses, a description of data collection and findings (which you can make up), and a discussion of the theoretical and practical implications of your proposed research. Tables, graphs, or time-consuming descriptions of data and findings are not needed.

The paper must be in APA style and must fully describe your study. Prior to writing the paper, you will have to briefly present your idea in front of the class by or on November 12th (this informal presentation will not be graded). Your Final Paper will comprise 20% of your final grade.

I will permit students to use existing in-progress proposals or ideas (not completed projects) for the final paper only if social psychology is included as a prominent piece of the proposal submitted for this class. Social psych theory, concepts, and findings must be used to support your project predictions and design. Even if this means modifying your existing idea in a way you will not ultimately use, it is critically important to incorporate and highlight the utility of social psychology in the proposal for this class.
Class Participation
Please come to class prepared for a productive discussion. In addition to reading material closely, you will need to spend time contemplating the material, integrating or contrasting it with other material covered in the course or elsewhere in your graduate training. Come prepared with questions or observations intended to stimulate discussion. Coming to class and conscientiously participating in discussions constitutes 10% of your final grade.

Critique Papers = 120 points max (for the best 8 papers) = 50% of your final grade
Group Presentation = 48 points max = 20% of your final grade
Final Paper = 48 points max = 20% of your final grade
Class Participation = 24 points max = 10% of your final grade

• 90% or above = A range
• 80-89% = B range
• 70-79% = C range
• 60-69% = D range
• 59% and below = F

5. Scholarly Conduct and Academic Integrity

Scholarly Conduct: Students are expected to treat each other with respect and courtesy in order to create an environment that is conducive to learning. It should be noted that arriving in class late or leaving early is disruptive, and therefore strongly discouraged. Additionally, students should refrain from using electronic devices that disrupt class. This includes making or receiving phone calls, texting, e-mailing, online chatting or browsing during class.

Academic Integrity: All University Policies regarding academic honesty will be strictly enforced. Cheating is defined as the “unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments… examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not” (FIU Student Handbook, p. 103-104). Plagiarism is included in the definition of cheating. Any student found cheating will receive an F on that assignment (and possibly an F for the course) and the incident will be reported to the appropriate Florida International University authorities. Any student who is confused about the definitions of cheating or plagiarism should consult: http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm

Specific Accommodations: Students who need accommodations for their disabilities should contact me privately to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. If you have a disability or need information on eligibility and enrollment with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), refer to http://drc.fiu.edu. Please contact DRC prior to making an appointment to see me. Students should contact me as soon as possible.

6. Course Outline
This calendar is a tentative schedule of what we will be covering in each class. The exact schedule may change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Dates (Wednesdays)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: August 27</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: September 3</td>
<td>Some Overarching Theories in Social Psychology</td>
<td><strong>Critique Paper 1 due Monday September 1, midnight</strong></td>
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<td>Week 3: September 10</td>
<td>Methodological Challenges</td>
<td><strong>Critique Paper 2 due Monday September 8, midnight</strong></td>
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<td>Week 4: September 17</td>
<td>Automaticity and Control</td>
<td><strong>Critique Paper 3 due Monday September 15, midnight</strong></td>
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<td>Week 5: September 24</td>
<td>Attitudes and Persuasion</td>
<td>Critique Paper 4 due Monday September 22, midnight</td>
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<td>Week 6: October 1</td>
<td>Belonging and Rejection</td>
<td>Critique Paper 5 due Monday September 29, midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7: October 8</td>
<td>Social Cognition</td>
<td>Critique Paper 6 due Monday October 6, midnight</td>
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<td>Week 8: October 15</td>
<td>Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination</td>
<td>Critique Paper 7 due Monday October 13, midnight Group Presentation 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9: October 22</td>
<td>Goal Pursuit and Self-Regulation</td>
<td>Critique Paper 8 due Monday October 20, midnight Group Presentation 2</td>
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<td>Week 10: October 29</td>
<td>The Self</td>
<td>Critique Paper 9 due Monday October 27, midnight Group Presentation 2</td>
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<td>Week 11: November 5</td>
<td>Intimate Relationships</td>
<td>Critique Paper 10 due Monday November 3, midnight Group Presentation 4</td>
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<td>Week 12: November 12</td>
<td>Social Power</td>
<td>Critique Paper 11 due Monday November 10, midnight Group Presentation 5</td>
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<td>Week 13: November 19</td>
<td>Group behavior</td>
<td>Critique Paper 12 due Monday November 17, midnight Group Presentation 6</td>
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<td>Week 14: November 26</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Week 15: December 3</td>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>Critique Paper 13 due Monday December 1, midnight</td>
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<td>December 10</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>Final Paper due Wednesday, December 10, midnight</td>
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7. Readings

Week 2: Some Overarching Theories in Social Psychology (N=4)


Optional Article

Week 3: **Methodological Challenges** (N=5)

**Classic/Seminal Articles**

**Contemporary Articles**

**Optional Chapter**

Week 4: **Automaticity and Control** (N=3)

**Classic/Seminal Articles**

**Contemporary Articles**

**Optional Chapter**

Week 5: **Attitudes and Persuasion** (N=4)

**Classic/Seminal Articles**

**Contemporary Articles**

**Optional Chapter**

Week 6: **Belonging and Rejection** (N=3)

**Classic/Seminal Articles**

**Contemporary articles**


**Optional Chapter**


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**Week 7: Social Cognition (N=3)**

**Classic/Seminal Articles**


**Contemporary articles**


**Optional Chapter**


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**Week 8: Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination (N=4)**

**Classic/Seminal Articles**


**Contemporary articles**


**Optional Chapter**


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**Week 9: Goal Pursuit and Self-Regulation (N=3)**

**Classic/Seminal Articles**


**Contemporary articles**

**Optional Chapter**


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**Week 10: The Self (N=3)**

**Classic/Seminal Articles**


**Contemporary articles**


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**Week 11: Intimate Relationships (N=4)**

**Classic/Seminal Articles**


**Contemporary articles**


**Optional Chapter**


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**Week 12: Social Power (N=4)**

**Classic/Seminal Articles**


**Contemporary articles**


**Optional Chapter**

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**Week 13: Group Behavior (N=3)**

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**Classic/Seminal Articles**


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**Contemporary articles**


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**Optional Chapter**


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**Week 14: NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING**

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**Week 15: Culture (N=3)**

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**Classic/Seminal Articles**


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**Contemporary articles**


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**Optional Chapter**