

# Psychology 240: Introduction to Social Psychology

## Purdue University-Spring, 2007

**Instructor:** Professor Kipling D. Williams, PSYC 2166, 494-0845  
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Webpage: <http://www2.psych.purdue.edu/~kip/>  
Course Webpage: <http://www2.psych.purdue.edu/~kip/240/index.htm>

**Class times:** *Lecture:* Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:30am – 12:20pm; MATH 175  
*Recitations:*

01	M	1:30 – 2:20am	REC 309	Eric Wesselmann
02	T	7:30 – 8:20am	REC 309	Adrienne Carter-Sowell
03	T	8:30 – 9:20am	REC 309	Adrienne Carter-Sowell
04	T	9:30 – 10:20am	REC 309	Steven Arthur
05	W	7:30 – 8:20am	REC 309	Eric Wesselmann
06	W	8:30 – 9:20am	REC 309	Steven Arthur

**Office hours:** Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon, or by appointment.

**Text:** Myers, D. (2007). *Social psychology* 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. NY: McGraw-Hill. *A limited number of study guides are available from the bookstore; buy one if you think you might need it.*

**TAs:**

Steven Arthur	<a href="mailto:sarthur@psych.purdue.edu">sarthur@psych.purdue.edu</a>	494-6892	PSYC 2114	Off. hrs: Th 11am-12pm
Adrienne Carter-Sowell	<a href="mailto:arcarter@psych.purdue.edu">arcarter@psych.purdue.edu</a>	494-6892	PSYC 2180	Off. hrs: T 9:30-10:30am
Eric Wesselmann	<a href="mailto:edwesse@psych.purdue.edu">edwesse@psych.purdue.edu</a>	494-6892	PSYC 2186	Off. hrs: W 1pm-2pm

**Course Objectives:** The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the field of social psychology. There are three major sub-goals: (1) To explain how social psychologists think about and study human behavior. (2) To introduce you to the body of knowledge and underlying principles that currently exist in the field. (3) To encourage reflection about the implications of social psychological research for the situations we encounter in everyday life.

**Class Format:** This class involves two lectures and a recitation each week. The 50-minute lectures will cover the topics listed on this syllabus. The text covers these same topics, but lectures and text overlap only about 50%. Consequently you will both need to attend lecture and read the text to learn all of the examinable material.

**Recitations:** You will also be assigned to a recitation section that will meet once each week. In recitation, you will take part in a variety of activities meant to build on and extend lecture material. Such activities will include discussions of readings, demonstrations of classic social psychological phenomena, and a major project. Recitation is designed to give you greater insight into the research process and to provide opportunities to discuss course material in smaller groups. The TAs leading recitations are advanced social psychology graduate students.

**Grading.** Course grades will be based on three non-cumulative midterm exams (each worth 25%), and recitation participation, assignments and projects (25%). Make-ups will only be granted with a valid medical excuse, and will be taken at a time convenient for your TA. The grades will follow the following breakdown. The percentages are based on the *top score* achieved in the class.

100 – 90%	=	A
89 - 80%	=	B
79 - 70%	=	C
69 - 60%	=	D
< 60%	=	F

**No Extra Credit:** There are no extra credit opportunities.

**Purdue Student Code of Honor:** Know it and follow it. For your own sake, do your own work. Plagiarism is a serious offense, and is easily detectable with the advent of search engines. It does not matter if you plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally—either way it is plagiarism. Here is a useful website to understand the definition and issues surrounding plagiarism: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html)

## Schedule of Topics and Readings for Lecture

This schedule is only an approximation. The instructor may extend, shorten, or even re-arrange the lectures. All students are responsible for any changes mentioned in class, including changes in test dates. PLEASE ROUTINELY CHECK THE COURSE WEBPAGE FOR UPDATES, CHANGES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: <http://www2.psych.purdue.edu/~kip/240/index.htm>

Date	Topic	Reading
Jan 8, Mon	Introduction—Go over syllabus; answer questions	Chapter 1
Jan 10, Wed	Introduction <i>continued</i>	
<b>Jan 15, Mon</b>	<b>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY</b>	
Jan 17, Wed	Research Methods	
Jan 22, Mon	Research Methods <i>continued</i>	
Jan 24, Wed	Research Methods <i>continued</i>	
Jan 29, Mon	The Self	Chapter 2
Jan 31, Wed	The Self <i>continued</i>	
Feb 5*, Mon	Social Beliefs and Judgments	Chapter 3
Feb 7, Wed	Social Beliefs and Judgments <i>continued</i>	
Feb 12, Mon	Behavior and Attitudes	Chapter 4
Feb 14, Wed	Behavior and Attitudes <i>continued</i>	
Feb 19, Mon	<b>****EXAM 1****</b>	
Feb 21, Wed	Persuasion	Chapter 7
Feb 26, Mon	Persuasion <i>continued</i>	
Feb 28, Wed	Conformity	Chapter 6
Mar 5, Mon	Obedience & Compliance	
Mar 7, Wed	Compliance <i>continued</i>	
<b>Mar 12, Mon</b>	<b>SPRING VACATION</b>	
<b>Mar 14, Wed</b>	<b>SPRING VACATION</b>	
Mar 19, Mon	Group Influence - Ostracism	Chapter 8
Mar 21, Wed	Group Influence – Social Facilitation	
Mar 26, Mon	Group Influence –Social Loafing	
Mar 28, Wed	<b>****EXAM 2****</b>	
Apr 2, Mon	Prejudice ( <i>guest speaker</i> )	Chapter 9
Apr 4, Wed	Prejudice <i>continued</i>	
Apr 9, Mon	Attraction and Intimacy	Chapter 11
Apr 11, Wed	Attraction and Intimacy ( <i>continued</i> )	
Apr 16, Mon	Aggression	Chapter 10
Apr 18, Wed	Aggression <i>continued</i>	
Apr 23, Wed	Pro-Social Behavior	Chapter 12
Apr 25, Wed	Pro-Social Behavior <i>continued</i>	
Final Exam Day	<b>****EXAM 3****</b>	

\*Last day to cancel a course assignment without a grade, for course additions, change of level or change of pass/not-pass option.