Social Psychology 340W-01
Spring 2015 – Dr. Suzanne Barnard

Day/Time: Tu/Th 10:50 – 12:05
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Office: 213 Rockwell Hall
Office Hours: Tu/Th 1:00 – 2:00

Required Texts: Course Readings packet

Course Goals: Critics of psychology suggest that if psychology has any justification for
existence as a discipline in its own right, it is only as a truly social psychology. Since
social psychology has traditionally been conceived of as the study of how group
membership affects individual behavior and how individual attributes affect group
behavior, reconceptualizing social psychology as social requires that we begin by
exploring the social origins of psychological phenomena—phenomena traditionally
understood as essential and defining properties of both individual subjects and
collectives. The phenomena we will explore in this course can be organized around the
broad social psychological domains of gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class,
mental health status, sexuality and embodiment at their points of intersection with
traditionally-defined social psychological research domains of conformity, persuasion,
obedience to authority, social identity formation, and social discrimination. We will
focus on the mutual articulation of the social and the psychological in our
exploration of important contemporary issues within the aforementioned domains, for
e.g., in our analysis of identity, embodiment, and surveillance technologies,
historical and contemporary developments in anti-psychiatry, and manifestations of
ethnocentrism, sexism, and racism in relation to effects of globalization. We will read
texts by a number of different authors, among them Michel Foucault, Stuart Hall, Philip
Zimbardo, Stanley Milgram, Elaine Showalter and Winfried Pauleit. We will also read
the graphic novel Kabuki: The Alchemy by David Mack, and incorporate important
elements from this book into our discussions of the other readings, into the writing
project, and into the participation assignments and exams. In addition the course will use
films as texts, as we will screen clips from a number of important films. Finally, the
course aims to provide students the opportunity to develop professional skills of
presentation, reading and writing literacy, critical skills of visual analysis, and group
collaboration.

Assessments of Goals Achievement: Students’ achievement of the course goals will be
assessed in multiple ways. Students’ knowledge of theoretical concepts, philosophical
arguments, social psychology research findings, and their relevant historical, political,
and sociocultural contexts will be assessed through class discussion, writing assignments,
participation assignments, and multiple choice, fill-ins, and short essay questions on the
midterm and final exams. Students will be evaluated on the depth and comprehensiveness
of their understanding of the material they are assigned to read through their responses to
exam questions, short participation assignments, and formal writing assignments.
Finally, assessment of skills of reading and writing literacy, critical skills of visual
analysis, and group collaboration will be assessed through class discussion of texts and film clips, writing and participation assignments, and questions on the exams.

Your class participation grade will be assessed by how often you contribute meaningfully and respectfully to in-class discussion, your demonstration of having read the assignment prior to its discussion in class, performance on participation assignments, and your attendance. Consistent attendance is necessary both for individual success and for a successful course overall. Thus, after one "free" absence, each successive unexcused absence will result in the deduction of 3 percentage points from your final grade. Appropriate documentation must be provided in order for me to consider excusing an absence. In addition, I expect you to turn off your cell phone and other electronic devices before class starts and to put them away. Your participation grade will suffer enormously if you are using your cell phone or other electronic device during class, with the exception of using a laptop to take class notes over the material.

Course Requirements: Your grade will be determined by the following:

1) midterm exam, (30%)

2) final exam (non-cumulative) (30%)

3) course writing project (20%) Your writing project will have two parts, each worth 10% of your final grade. The first installment of the writing project will involve your development of themes from our theoretical readings (course packet) in relation to ideas presented in our book, Kabuki: The Alchemy. You will then apply the ideas developed in the first installment of the project (integrating concepts and themes from the course packet readings and from Kabuki) toward an understanding of your own identity-in-transformation. Thus, in the second installment of your project, you will bring together ideas from the first paper and provide an analysis of how these themes/ideas are relevant to understanding your identity now.

(If you are a psychology major and you have already taken PSYC 102 – Orientation to the Psychology Major, you must upload your writing assignment to your Blackboard portfolio. You may do this at anytime during the semester, but it must be done by the end of finals week. You cannot receive your grade from this class until after you have done this.)

4) class participation (discussion, assignments, attendance) (20%)

You will be responsible for reading all assigned materials prior to class. In-class discussion of the readings is a significant part of your participation grade. The midterm and final exams are meant to test your understanding of the basic concepts presented in the readings, lectures, and discussions; the exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-ins, and short answer questions. The exams will be given on the dates listed in the syllabus. There will be NO MAKE-UP EXAMS unless you have a very serious
extenuating circumstance. **Academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams and plagiarism, will not be tolerated**, and will be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary sanctions outlined in the Duquesne University Code of Student’s Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct.

The grading scale is as follows:

- 93-100% = A
- 90-92% = A-
- 87-89% = B+
- 83-86% = B
- 80-82% = B-
- 77-79% = C+
- 70-76% = C
- 63-69% = D
- 62% and below = F

**Midterm:** Tuesday, February 24, in class

**Final:** Friday, May 1, 1:30 – 3:30

Note: If you’re working with a physical and/or learning disability, please let me know at the beginning of the semester and I’ll work with you to make the proper accommodations. If you need accommodations, please contact the Office of Freshman Development and Special Student Services in 309 Union (412.396.6657) asap. I can’t grant you accommodations retrospectively.

**Guidelines for maximizing your participation grade:**

1) **Consistent attendance** is extremely important. (Please see details of attendance requirements on previous pages of syllabus.)

2) Being on time to class is also important.

3) Reading assigned materials prior to class and coming to class prepared with questions and/or informed commentary on the readings, examples from popular culture, current events, etc. that relate to readings

4) Striking a balance between speaking and actively listening/allowing others to speak

5) Working collaboratively in small group assignments

6) Interacting with others in the classroom in a respectful manner is expected; disrespect toward others will not be tolerated.

7) Class disruptions (e. g., chit-chat during class, using phone or other mobile device, sleeping) will negatively affect your participation grade; you may be asked to leave class if you are disruptive.
COURSE READINGS AND DATES

Week One  Review Syllabus, Intro: Postmodern Subjectivity & Visual Culture (film clips—"Bladerunner," "Gattaca")

Week Two  "On Seeing, Science Fiction, & Cities" from Intro to Bladerunner by Bukatman, Modernism & Postmodernism (handout),

"Video Surveillance & Postmodern Subjects" (Pauleit)

Week Three  "Video Surveillance & Postmodern Subjects" (Pauleit)
(film — Auf der Strecke!"On the Line")

Splitting (from Pauleit readings), Cognitive Dissonance, Self-Perception Theory (from Meyers reading)

Week Four  Kabuki: The Alchemy, Parts 1 & 2 (Mack)

Week Five  Writing Workshop I

Mack, Parts 3 & 4

Week Six  Stereotyping and Stereotype Threat (Hall, Steele, film clips —"The 25th Hour," "Bamboozled")

Week Seven  Hysteria, Visuality, Identity as Performance (Hall & Showalter, film clip "Coffee & Cigarettes: Cousins"), "On Being Sane in Insane Places" (Rosenhan)

Week Eight  Midterm

Mack, Parts 5 & 6

Week Nine  Beyond Stereotyping: "A Broader View of Identity" (Steele)

Week Ten  Mack, Parts 7 & 8

Week Eleven  Milgram: Obedience to Authority (from "On Destroying the Innocent with a Clear Conscience: A Sociopsychology of the Holocaust" by Sabini & Silver)

Week Twelve  Zimbardo: Social Roles and Aggression (Sabini & Silver)

Asch & Sherif: Conformity (Sabini & Silver)

Week Thirteen  Writing Workshop II

Week Fourteen  Mack, Part 9

Week Fifteen  Integration and Review
READING LIST


