

## Psychology 367.01: Introduction to Social Psychology

Spring 2009 | MW 3:30-5:20pm | JE 0160

**Instructor:** Dr. Jay J. Van Bavel

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**Phone:** 614-264-3011 (cell – emergencies only)

**Office Hours:** Monday from 1:30-3:20pm (or by appointment)

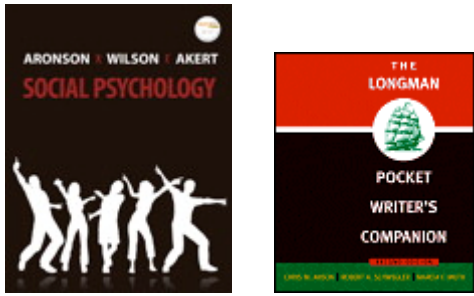
**Office Hours Location:** Lazenby Hall, First Floor, Room 140H (1827 Neil Ave)

**Course Website:** <http://carmen.osu.edu> (log in and you should see this course)

### Required Texts

Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. (2007). *Social psychology* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Garden City, NJ: Prentice Hall. (ISBN: 978-0132382458)

Anson, C. M., Schwegler, R. A., & Muth, M. F. (2008). *The Longman Pocket Writer's Companion*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New York: Longman Publishers. (ISBN: 978-0-205-59142-8)



### Course Description

Students taking Psychology 367.01 should acquire knowledge of scientific theory and research in the major topic areas of social psychology. With the aid of homework assignments, students should discover the relevance of the course material to situations of everyday life. Further, they should gain an understanding of the strong (but usually unrecognized) social forces that influence others' and their own behavior in such settings as home, school, and work. The practice in written expression provided by in-class writing and short-essay homework assignments, together with written feedback from the instructor on both content and style, is intended to help in the development of writing skills.

### Grading

Psychology 367.01 is a second-level writing course. As such, it requires substantial written work from students. Grades in this class will be based on a combination of exams and paper assignments. There will be two midterm exams and a cumulative final exam. All exams will be essay format. There will be 6 paper assignments. One of these paper assignments will be a revision of a previous paper.

To pass this class, you are **required** to turn in all 6 papers and complete at least one midterm and the final exam. Failure to complete any one of the papers constitutes failure to meet university standards concerning this course. Therefore, a student who fails to complete any paper cannot receive credit for this course.

Participation is strongly encouraged. Not only are you graded on participation, but you will get more out of the course if you are an active member of the class. If you truly feel uncomfortable participating in class, I encourage you post on the discussion board on the website (see below for more details) or to visit my office hours to discuss course topics or ask any questions you might have about the course.

Some of the material covered on tests will be from your assigned readings, and other material will come from lectures (not in your reading). So attending regularly is important in order to do well in the course. Although lecture slides for each week's lectures will be posted on the class website, these are for review purposes only and *will not substitute for regular attendance at class sessions* in terms of preparation for exams.

6 papers (15 points each)	90 points
2 midterms (25 points each)	50 points
Final exam	35 points
<u>Participation</u>	<u>15 points</u>
Total	190 points

If you have questions or concerns about your grades you should meet with me during office hours (or by appointment) to discuss them. I will not debate grading concerns during or immediately after class (unless I made a simple adding error). However, I will re-grade any assignment or test. To have your assignment or test re-graded you need to submit a brief one-page description of your concerns and why you deserve a better mark. I will re-grade the entire assignment and your grade on any part can go up or down. I use this policy for two reasons: (1) Since you are marked on a curve relative to your peers, this policy keeps it fair for students who don't ask for a new grade. (2) Most students only want to cherry-pick certain questions to be re-graded, but there are often questions where I was more than generous. This policy usually means that only students who truly deserve a better grade will usually ask to be re-graded. **Please know that I will be happy to meet with you to discuss your exam and why you received any grade.** This policy only applies if you want me to **re-grade** your assignment or test.

**Course website:** <http://telr.osu.edu/carmen/>

Log in and you should see this course. If you don't, please let me know. Grades, assignments and handouts will be posted online. I will post lecture slides at least 24 hours **following** each class. However, I will aim to post them by midnight the night **before** each lecture. I reserve the right to make changes to lecture notes after they are posted. But anything posted before the class will be similar to what is presented in class (and the updated version will be posted after class). You may choose to print out the slides and bring them to class, but if you do so, I encourage you to take additional notes while in class.

There is also a discussion board for questions. If you have a question you can email me, or post it online. If several people email me a similar question I will post it on the website. This discussion board can be an amazing resource if we all use it and support one another. Please treat it as a collective resource to ask questions of common interest and share ideas with one another. **Great questions or comments are an easy way to increase your participation grade!** If you have a problem with someone, please email me directly and do not try to deal with it on the course website.

### **Class Policies**

**Deadlines:** Late papers will not be accepted, and make-up exams will not be given. In rare circumstances, an exception may be granted to a student who provides a validated excuse to the instructor prior to the paper due date or exam date. If you foresee being unable to turn in a paper or take an exam on the assigned date, contact the instructor immediately to request an extension. Excused absences for University sponsored events (field trips, athletic trips) and medical / personal emergencies must be documented.

**Paper Assignments:** For full credit, each paper assignment must be turned in on or before the date it is due. Turn in both a printed hard copy and an electronic copy of your paper. The electronic copy must be uploaded to Carmen, using the “Dropbox” link. Assignments must also be submitted in person, either in class or during office hours. No papers sent by e-mail or left in mailboxes will be accepted. Make sure to turn in both versions of the paper by the due date.

**Psychology 367.01: Introduction to Social Psychology  
Topic and Assignment Schedule**

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading	Assignments Due
1	March 30	Introduction	Chapter 1	
	April 1	Research Methods / Writing	Chapter 2	
2	April 6	Research Methods / Writing	L: 2-13, 145-172, 173-232, 99-121	
	April 8	Social Cognition	Chapter 3	
3	April 13	Social Perception	Chapter 4	
	April 15	The Self	Chapter 5	Paper #1
4	April 20	Social Identity and Groups	Chapter 9	
	April 22	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 1</b>		
5	April 27	Dissonance	Chapter 6	Paper #2
	April 29	Attitudes	Chapter 7	Review Comments
6	May 4	Persuasion & Social Influence	Chapter 7	
	May 6	Conformity and Obedience	Chapter 8	Paper #3 (revision of paper #2)
7	May 11	Prejudice & Stereotyping	Chapter 13	
	May 13	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 2</b>		
8	May 18	Aggression	Chapter 12	Paper #4
	May 20	Pro-social Behavior	Chapter 11	
9	May 25	MEMORIAL DAY – NO CLASS		
	May 27	Attraction	Chapter 10	Paper #5
10	June 1	Applied Social Psychology	TBD by vote	
	June 3	Review Session		Paper #6
***	June 8-11	<b>FINAL EXAM WEEK</b>		

L = Longman Pocket Writer's Companion

All other chapters from Aronson, Wilson, & Akert (2007). Social Psychology (6<sup>th</sup> ed.).

The topic and assigned reading for the lecture on **Applied Social Psychology** will be determined by a vote. It can include the content from chapter 14, 15 or 16.