**Course Description:**
This course is designed to introduce students to the classic and contemporary literature and research in the field of Social Psychology. Social Psychologists focus on the impact of self and how one relates to others in society. In other words, Social Psychology is the study of interaction between 2 or more people in a social situation. In this course, we will examine how our thoughts, feelings, experiences, and behaviors influence our social environment and the people we interact with. Area of focus in this course will consist of: Social Psychology History and Research; the Social Self e.g. self-concept, self-esteem, self-presentation; Perceptions of Others - impression formation, perceptions of groups, the development of stereotypes, prejudice, racism, and other forms of oppression; attitudes, and persuasion; Conformity; Attraction, and Love; Aggression, Hurting and Helping others.

**Course Objectives:**
1). To develop an understanding of the areas that comprise the field of Social Psychology.

2). To understand the methods used in Social Psychology Research

3). To become familiar with the concept of “Self” in a social context. How we present ourselves in the world and how we impact our relationship with others.

4). To analyze and explore the theoretical approaches to social behavior and identify development on one’s psychology and sense of self.

5). To develop and understanding of the Social Psychology research and literature, and how to apply the literature to social and personal issues.

6). To understand, examine, and apply the theories of Social Psychology in a diverse multicultural society.

**Evaluation of Student Learning:**
1. **Class attendance & Participation is CRITICAL** - 25% of Final Grade - Class discussions, experiential exercises, and multimedia presentations are an essential part of the learning process in this course. Students are expected to attend class sessions as
scheduled and participate in class discussions. In the unlikely event of a student absence, students will be expected to inform the professor prior to the missed class. Students are also expected to obtain the class material and/or notes from the missed-class from another peer in class. Please do not ask the professor to summarize the material due to your absence. Participation in class discussions and exercises based on the assigned readings is expected from ALL students. **Students are EXPECTED** to read the chapters assigned for each class period especially for comprehensive class discussions. **Personal self-disclosure is appropriate and ENCOURAGED:** however, the instructor will take into account the fact that students vary in their ease and ability to initiate or participate in such discussions. Since we will discuss developmental theories and theories regarding our interpretations of others, it will be important for students to share their personal perspectives regarding the theories as they relate to development throughout the lifespan and appropriate for one’s gender, race, ethnicity, and culture(s).

2. **Examination(s) of Student Learning** - 75% of Final Grade - Students are required to take two examinations throughout the course and a comprehensive Final Examination (TBA) for this course. Exams are worth 20% of the final grade with the Final Examination worth 30% for a total of 75% of the students final grade. Students are NOT allowed to make up missed exams unless the absence has been cleared by the professor or the student is provided with an appropriate doctors note. Each examinations will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and/or essay format. Please bring a #2 pencil and Scantron to class on the days of exams.

3. **Extra Credit** - 10-20% of final grade - TBA - Students will have the opportunity to watch media-presentations congruent with the course content. The media presentations are designed to help students develop a deeper understanding of the concepts and provide and opportunity to discuss the application of Social Psychology literature. If a student is absent on the day of the media-presentation, they will NOT be able to make up the assignment for credit unless approved by the instructor. It is NOT the obligation of the instructor to lend out video materials to students if they missed the media-presentation.

**Department Writing Standards:**
All submitted written assignments must adhere to the Psychology Department writing standards. These standards are:

1. Conformity to the American Psychological Association (APA) standards for scholarly writing. Minimum standards include:
   a. Consistent use of complete sentences
   b. Correct use of grammatical constructions, punctuation, sequencing (paragraphing), referencing, hyphenation, spelling, headings, capitalization, pagination, abbreviations, margins.
   c. Appropriate content, clarity, conciseness, and style
   d. Neat appearance

Resources for these standards include:
b. The online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University at: Owl.English.purdue.edu/owl/resources/560/01/

2. 20% of the grade of each written assignment will be based solely on writing.

3. Each written assignment must contain no more than five novel grammatical errors and/or five novel APA errors (e.g., reference citation in text, reference list).

4. When a paper is submitted that does not meet departmental standards, it will be returned (ungraded) to the student(s) for revision. The student(s) will have 7 calendar days to revise and re-submit the paper.

5. Any paper that is submitted that is returned to student(s) for revision will have an automatic 10% deduction in the total grade of the assignment.

6. Upon resubmission, if a paper still does not meet departmental standards, the student(s) will be given a zero for the written portion of the total paper grade and will be graded only for the required content.

Using Desire2Learn:

Dear Student,

Our course, American Identity, will be using San Jose State’s new online learning management system Desire2Learn for the upcoming semester. SJSU will no longer be using Blackboard CE 8, you will log in and participate in this course through Desire2Learn. This is a great opportunity to explore a new tool for online learning. IMPORTANT: Enrolled students will be able to log in and see your course list links in Desire2Learn about 7 days prior to the start of the course—**but the links will not be active until midnight of the start date of the class 9/25/2010.**

**Login URL:** http://sjsu.desire2learn.com

Please note that it should NOT have the “www” at the start of the URL like many other websites.

**Username:** about 7 days prior to the start of the course, your Desire2Learn username can be found by logging into your mySJSU account, clicking on Self Service > Campus Personal Information > Names, and locating your Desire2Learn name (look for Name Type called D2L) from the list. Usernames will generally be in the form of **firstname.lastname**, but may have an appended number (e.g., **firstname.lastname#**) if there is more than one person with that name at SJSU. The mySJSU look-up will also be helpful for persons using middle names, hyphens, apostrophes, etc.

**Password:** Your initial Desire2Learn password is your 9 digit SJSU ID number.

Courses: Once logged in to Desire2Learn you should see your course or courses listed in the My Courses widget. Click on the course name and you will be entered into the
course’s home page, but remember that link will not be active until midnight of the start date of that course.

It is strongly recommended that you visit the eCampus website at www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/students/. Desire2Learn looks and functions differently than Blackboard CE 8, so even experienced online students will benefit from spending some time familiarizing themselves with Desire2Learn to be successful in this course. This website also offers a number of Quick Start Learning Guides to help you navigate Desire2Learn tools.

For questions regarding the course or course materials, please contact me, the instructor. For log in, password issues, and technical issues related to Desire2Learn, please contact the University Help Desk. The Help Desk can give technical support for password reset, browser problems, and other issues encountered in D2L Courses.

- Phone: (408) 924-2377
- Submit a help ticket using the University Help Desk Submit Ticket page

Required Reading:
*** Additional readings will be announced***

Meeting with the Instructor:
Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor should they wish. While I hope that students would feel comfortable addressing many questions, concerns, and issues in class discussions, nonetheless, I know some students may wish to have the opportunity to meet with me in private. I would be pleased to meet with you at an arranged meeting space on campus by appointment or feel free to make an appointment via e-mail.
Russell A. Arias, Ph.D.
Office: DMH 232 Office Phone: 408-924-5658
Email: Russell.Arias@sjsu.edu

Academic Integrity:
Essential to the integrity of Sam Jose State University, students are expected to perform their own work (except when collaboration is granted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Your own personal commitment to learning requires you to be honest in all of your academic work. Be aware that faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. It is also the discretion of the instructor to report any/all offender to the department chair and the students academic advisor.

Cheating:
Cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. DO NOT DO IT!!! Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to: Copying in part or in whole from another person’s text, test, completed academic assignments or other evaluation/academic instruments applicable to the field of psychology or any other discipline; submitting work previously
evaluated and graded in another course (unless this has been approved by the course instructor or department policy); altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; sitting for an examination or turning in academic work by a person other than the enrolled student; or any other act committed by a student in the course of his/her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents the enrolled student. Students found guilty of cheating will be referred for academic discipline, and at worst, expelled from SJSU and possibly other State Universities. DO NOT CHEAT!!!!

**Plagiarism:**
The act of representing the work of another as one’s own, without giving appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitted is to fulfill academic requirements is considered Plagiarism. Plagiarism includes: 1). The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another’s work without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one’s own work; 2). Representing another’s artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, essays, research, dissertations, student projects, computer programs, photograph projects, paintings, or any other projects produced by a student that is not currently enrolled in the course of reference. Should a student be suspected or caught regarding the act or suspicion of Plagiarism, the student will be referred for academic discipline.

San Jose State University
Social Psychology - #154
Spring, 2011
Russell A. Arias, Ph.D.

**Weekly Class Schedule**


Wednesday, February 9, 2011: Chapter 11: Attraction and Liking

Monday, February 14, 2011: Chapter 11: Defining LOVE

Wednesday, February 16, 2011: Chapter 3: Social Beliefs & Judgments

Monday, February 21, 2011: Chapter 3: Social Beliefs & Judgments

Wednesday, February 23, 2011: Chapter 4: Behavior & Attitudes

Monday, February 28, 2011: Chapter 4: Behavior & Attitudes
Wednesday, March 2, 2011: Review for Examination #1 - Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 11

Monday, March 7, 2011: Examination #1: Chpts. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 11

Wednesday, March 9, 2011: Chapter 5: Genes, Culture, and Gender

Monday, March 14, 2011: Additional Readings on Gender and Ethnic Development

Wednesday, March 16, 2011: Chapter 5: Genes, Culture, and Gender

Monday, March 21, 2011: Chapter 6: Conformity & Obedience

Wednesday, March 23, 2011: Chapter 6: Conformity & Obedience

Monday, March 28, 2011: Spring Break - No Class - Have a safe break!!!

Wednesday, March 30, 2011: Spring Break - No Class - Have a safe break!!!

Monday, April 4, 2011: Chapter 7: Persuasion

Wednesday, April 6, 2011: Chapter 8: Group Influence

Monday, April 11, 2011: Chapter 9: Prejudice: Disliking Others

Wednesday, April 13, 2011: Chapter 9: Prejudice: Disliking Others

Monday, April 18, 2011: TBA: Additional Readings on Prejudice/Racism Development

Wednesday, April 20, 2011: Review for Examination #2 - Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 8

Monday, April 25, 2011: Examination #2: 5, 6, 7, & 8

Wednesday, April 27, 2011: Chapter 10: Aggression: Hurting Others

Monday, May 2, 2011: Chapter 12: Helping Others

Wednesday, May 4, 2011: Chapter 13: Conflict & Peace Making

Monday, May 9, 2011: Chapter 14: Social Psychology in the Clinic

Wednesday, May 11, 2011: Review for Final Examination - Chapters 9, 10, 12, 13, & 14