

**Westfield State University**  
**Psychology 0304: Social Psychology - Online**  
**Summer Session II: July 1 – August 9, 2013**

**Professor:** Summer Williams, Ph.D.  
**Email:** [SWilliams@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:SWilliams@westfield.ma.edu)  
**Office Hours:** by appointment

*Note: Students must log onto the PLATO Course Website and e-mail the instructor to confirm their enrollment in the course no later than Wednesday of Week #1.*

**Course Description:** In this course you will learn about how humans process information about their social environments and situations by examining relevant perspectives on learning, such as the cognitive perspective, social learning perspective, and the socio-cultural perspective; the latter emphasizing how our social thoughts and behaviors are encompassed within the larger context of societies we live in. The goals of this class are to examine human social behavior from the viewpoint of the person: traits, motivations, and moods; the situation: threats, cultural norms, pressures, and influences; and the interaction of the person-situation.

In addition to the main text for the course, we will also use scholarly articles, which appear in professional journals and provide the backbone of social psychological research in the field, and “popular” articles, which appear in other nonprofessional sources such as magazines and newspapers, geared toward the general public. These articles will provide the basis for fueling online discussion.

**Required Texts:**

Baron, R. A. & Branscombe, N. R. (2012). *Social Psychology 13<sup>th</sup> edition*. Boston: Pearson. ISBN 0-205-24667-2 (Includes online access to Pearson’s MyPsycLab with an Access Code Card.) Note: If you choose to purchase the e-book for this course through an outside source that is fine too. Make sure you are buying the correct book and correct edition, there are other books by Baron & Branscombe so be careful, especially if you are purchasing through an outside source other than the WSU bookstore (some online sites do not allow you to return your book).

\*Additional readings will be required throughout the semester via PDF articles that you can access through Socrates for the course in the folder labeled *Supplemental Readings*. These are the article readings that will be used for your weekly discussion board posts.

The Socrates course website contains the syllabus, instructor announcements, discussion board, instructor lecture notes by chapter, videos, and additional readings. Students are expected to consult Socrates several times each week for updated information and announcements, as well as to contribute to the weekly discussion threads and comment on others’ posts. The readings on Socrates will keep you up to date on important themes in the course and are considered part of the essential readings for the course.

## Performance Evaluation Overview:

You will be evaluated in this course on the basis of the following 3 elements:

1. Exams: there will be an exam each week covering 2 chapters on each exam for a total of 6 exams over the course. Exams will be posted no later than noon on Monday of each week and you will have until noon the following day, Tuesday to complete the exam. Each exam will count for 10% of your grade for a total of 60% of your grade coming from exams.
2. Reflection Paper: You will have one reflection paper based on the topic of prejudice & racism and it will be linked to the video *Crash* which you will be responsible for watching and integrating into your paper. You will be asked to write critical responses to questions I provide. Reflection paper guidelines will be posted to Socrates. You will have ONE week to complete your paper. Your reflection paper is my way of evaluating your written thoughts and ideas and to gauge your understanding and integration of the material as it relates to important social psychological concepts I want you to know. Your paper will be worth 10% of your grade.
3. Discussion Board: Your participation in this course is vital to the lively discussions that can ensue just from the challenging and poignant topics we will be covering! In this manner I gauge your participation in the course through your weekly responses to questions I pose on the course discussion board, as well as your responses/comments on other students' posts. You may be asked to respond to a question I pose regarding one of the additional readings you are assigned or a video that you are asked to watch. Each weekly discussion board response and post (there will be 6 weeks of posts/responses) will be worth 5% each for a total of 30% of your grade coming from discussion board activity.

## Social Psychology Tentative Course Schedule ~ Summer II 2013

Week	Topic for the week
Week 1	Intro to Social Psych Social Cognition
Week 2	Social Perception The Self
Week 3	Attitudes Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination
Week 4	Interpersonal Attraction, Close Relationships & Love Social Influence
Week 5	Prosocial Behavior Aggression
Week 6	Groups & Individuals Adversity & Happiness