

## **Psychology 2310, Social Psychology Fall 2017 SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Dr. Ken Sheldon. *My Office:* 112 McAlester. *My Phone #:* 884-1547. *My Email:* SheldonK@missouri.edu. *My Office Hours:* Tu/Th, 3-4 or by appointment. *My Mailbox:* in room 217 McAlester. *Course Meeting Place/Time:* Geo Sci Auditorium, 12:30-1:45 Tu/Th

Teaching Assistant:

Course description: This course will introduce you to the field of Social Psychology: the study of the way people think about, influence, and relate to each other. We will cover the basic findings and concepts of the field, and attempt to apply them to the lives of real people – YOU! By December you will understand the main issues and ideas of this fascinating area of study.

Course format and Tophat: This is a large class, traditionally taught with a lecture format. However we will do a number of pair or small group discussion exercises, to make things more concrete. I will also give lots of opinion polls using the “Top Hat” system ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)), to find out what your “Collective Group Mind” thinks about various questions and issues! You will be able to submit answers to in-class opinion questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. As an added bonus, there are extra credit points available for buying and using Tophat! See below for more information.

Course Readings: Social Psychology, 12th Edition, by Meyers & Twenge. Available through AutoAccess (\$66.99); you have until Aug 28 to refuse this charge. Or you can get a hard copy on your own.

Grading:

1. Exams: There will be 4 in-class exams, worth 40 points each. Each exam will cover only material since the last exam. These exams will test your understanding of basic definitions, and also test your ability to *think with* and *apply* course concepts. Exams will consist of 40 multiple choice questions.

There will also be a fifth exam: a cumulative final, given on Thursday, December 14, at 7:30 a.m. in Geo Sci Auditorium. The final exam is optional, in that we will base your total class score on your best 4 (out of 4 or 5) exam scores. You need only take the final if you want to try to improve on a prior in-class exam score, or make up for a missing score. Taking the final cannot hurt you, and may well help you. NOTE: Because there is an “extra” exam you can take and because of the size of the course, there will be no make-up exams, regardless of the reason (i.e., deaths in family, weddings, your illness).

2. Extra Credit (EC) Points: In order to learn more about “psychology from the inside,” and also to enhance your grade, you may choose to participate in some extra-credit (EC) studies which we will be conducting during the semester. The first study will involve one in-class questionnaire (on September 7), which will take up the whole class session on that day, and two on-line

questionnaires (which must be completed by the end of the day on October 5 and November 28). These questionnaires are worth 2 points each (so, you can gain 6 extra points).

You can also participate in a second, out-of-class study worth 3 more points. Thus, the maximum EC points you can get is 9. We will give more info about the out-of-class study later.

NOTE: If you want EC but prefer not to participate in the studies, you will have the option of writing a short term-paper on a topic that you and the TA agree upon. Please contact the TA if you want to discuss this option.

3. Tophat Points: You can also get points by buying and using Tophat. Specifically, Tophat will be used to track attendance. If you attend 0-33% of the classes in which Tophat is used, you will receive 1 point. If you attend 34-66% of classes, you'll get 2 points. 67% + of classes = 3 points.

How do you get Tophat?\_An email invitation should be sent to you, but if don't get it, you can register by going to: <https://app.tophat.com/e/438044>, Join Code = 438044. Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: [www.tophat.com/pricing](http://www.tophat.com/pricing). Tophat can be reached at [support@tophat.com](mailto:support@tophat.com) or at 1-888-663-5491.

4. Grade computation: Grades will be based on 160 points, the maximum possible for four 40 point exams. Although really you can get 172 points, max, if you do all the EC and Tophat. The scale is: 153+ = A+; 146-152 = A; 140-145 = A-; 133-139 = B+; 126-132 = B; 120-125 = B-; 113-119 = C+; 106-112 = C; 100-105 = C-; 93-99 = D+; 86-92 = D; 80-85 = D-.

Lecture outlines and exam review sheets: My lecture Powerpoint shows are on Blackboard. I *strongly recommend that you print these and bring them to class* to use as a basis for note-taking, as this will save you writing down "the basics." Also, study guides for each exam will be posted.

Ethics: Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: looking at someone's exam during a test, looking at notes during the test, turning in someone else's work as your own, plagiarizing from a printed article. Instructors at this university are required to report any suspicious behavior to the vice-provost's office. If you are in doubt about a behavior, talk to me before you do it.

Disabilities: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible. If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Disability Center (<http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Aug 22	Introduction	Chpt. 1
Aug 24	Research Methods	Chpt. 1
Aug 29	Social Beliefs/Judgments	Chpt. 3
Aug 31	Social Beliefs/Judgments	Chpt. 3
Sept 5	The Self	Chpt. 2
Sept. 7	<b>First Extra Credit – In-class session. Be here!</b>	
Sept 12	Social Behavior/Attitudes	Chpt. 4
Sept 14	Social Behavior/Attitudes	Chpt. 4
Sept 19	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
Sept 21	Conformity	Chpt. 6
Sept 26	Conformity	Chpt. 6
Sept 28	Persuasion	Chpt. 7
Oct 3	Persuasion	Chpt. 7
Oct 5	Prejudice ( <b>Second extra credit, an on-line survey, due today</b> )	Chpt. 9
Oct 10	Prejudice	Chpt. 9
Oct 12	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
Oct 17	Group Dynamics	Chpt. 8
Oct 19	Aggression	Chpt. 10
Oct 24	Aggression (Guest Lecture!)	Chpt. 10
Oct 26	Attraction/Intimacy	Chpt. 11
Oct 31	Attraction/Intimacy	Chpt. 11
Nov 2	<b>EXAM 3</b>	
Nov 7	Gender, Genes, Culture	Chpt. 5
Nov 9	Helping	Chpt. 12
Nov 14	Conflict & Peacemaking	Chpt. 13
Nov 16	Terror Management Theory	
<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>		
Nov 28	Social Psychology in the Courts ( <b>Third on-line extra credit due today</b> )	Chpt. 15
Nov 30	Social Psychology and Sustainability	Chpt. 16
Dec 5	<b>EXAM 4</b>	
Dec 7	<b>FINAL EXAM REVIEW (optional)</b>	
Dec 14	<b>OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM</b>	7:30 a.m., Geo Sci