

Issues in Social and Personality Psychology

Psychology 615, Winter 2007

Mon and Wed 10:00-11:50am Straub 143

Course Page: <http://darkwing/~bfmalle/issues.html>

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Overview

The purpose of this section is to introduce you to the major topics, questions, and approaches of social and personality psychology. The first three class sessions are devoted to basic philosophical and historical issues; the next three are devoted to core research areas; and the last four consist of guest presentations by my colleagues in the social-personality area.

For each class session, there is required reading material that is referenced below and available electronically on the Blackboard course page. In each of the first six class sections, I will introduce the topic and lead up to the readings. We can either weave discussion into the topic introduction or else devote the last third of class to discussing some of the readings in depth. You are expected to read the required articles and prepare questions or comments for our discussion.

This mini-course can only give you a taste of social psychology. For those of you who know little about this area, take a look at my undergraduate course: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~bfmalle/456.html>

Requirements

1. **Participation** (20%). Your participation shows in two ways: Blackboard-posted questions and comments about the readings and discussion contributions during class. Bb postings *before* the relevant session rather than after and discussions/analyses rather than short questions carry greater weight.
2. **Short presentation** (20%). You will give a 10-minute conference-style presentation on one article that goes beyond the required reading — either the article that I propose or one of your own choosing (but talk to me first about such a selection).
3. **Two reaction papers** (30% each; total = 60%). You write two 4-5 page “reaction pieces” in which you engage with topics, questions, or problems raised in class or in the readings. Your reaction should *briefly* summarize the reading or topic to which you respond and *heavily* emphasize your own thinking and analysis. You can critique, compare, integrate, propose a study, sketch a theory, or suggest an application. I value writing a lot, and I will give you feedback on both form and content of your paper.

You may choose to substitute the two short papers with one long paper, ~10 pp. For such a paper, the same guidelines hold as for the shorter papers, but the scope and/or depth must be greater. You may, for example, integrate multiple articles or propose a series of experiments.

Reaction papers are due, respectively, on Friday, **February 26** and Monday, **March 19**, by 4:00 p.m.—either as a hardcopy in my mailbox or (preferably) as an electronic file sent to my email address (bfmalle@uoregon.edu). (The longer paper is due March 19 as well.)

PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

- February 12** **1 Phenomena, Theories, Methodology**
February 14 **2 History and Main Lines of Thinking**
February 19 **3 Multiple Determinants of Social Behavior**

SOCIAL PERCEPTION AND INTERACTION

- February 21** **4 Social Cognition: Understanding the Other Mind**
February 26 **5 The Self Zoo**
February 28 **6 Social influence**

SOCIAL AND PERSONALITY RESEARCH AT OREGON

- Mar 5 Guest speaker
Mar 7 Guest speaker
Mar 12 Guest speaker
Mar 14 Guest speaker

Detailed reading lists, updated weekly, can be found in the file “Readings 07.pdf”