

Middle East Technical University Department of Psychology
PSY 150 UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL BEHAVIOR (Section 1)
2012-2013 FALL Semester Course Syllabus

Course Instructor: Banu Cingöz Ulu

E-mail: cingoz@metu.edu.tr

Instructor Office hours: by appointment

Course Website: <http://ocw.metu.edu.tr/>

Class Time and Location: Wednesdays, 12:40-15:30, G-206

Teaching Assistant: Mehmet Fatih Bükün , B-33, fbukun@metu.edu.tr

Office: Room B44

Tel: 210 3134

Required Text: Taylor, S. E., Peplau, L. A., & Sears, D. O. (2006). *Social Psychology* (12th ed.) Prentice Hall.

Supplemental Text: Franzoi, S. (2006). *Social Psychology* (5th ed.) McGraw Hill.

Course Description:

This course, "Understanding Social Behavior" is designed to present a general introduction to social psychology for university students from various departments as an elective course. Students will be introduced to history, general theories, and methods of social psychology; as well basic concepts and recent research findings. The format of the course will include mostly lectures and discussions; videos or in-class activities will also be incorporated depending on our schedule.

Course Objectives

- To increase the awareness of and knowledge in what the science of social psychology is, what social psychology refers to and what it deals with.
- To provide students with a general overview about social psychology and have students relate the topics and theories to social issues or their area of study.

Course Evaluation

Midterm 1: <i>Nov 3</i>	30%
Midterm 2: <i>Dec 1</i>	30%
Midterm 3: <i>Jan 2</i>	30%
Final (<i>TBA</i>)	30%
Attendance	10%

Exams: You will have 3 midterm exams and a final exam. Exams will be multiple-choice format. I will provide you with example questions before the first exam. Out of the 3 midterm exams, the lowest mark will be dropped. However, if you miss a test, there are no make-ups; hence the extra exam becomes your make-up (i.e., you lose your chance to drop the lowest).

Make up policy: There are **no** make-up exams for the midterm examinations. In order to be eligible to take a make-up for your final, you should have a documented and officially acceptable excuse. If you are eligible, you must report to your course instructor within 3 days after the final. The make-up will include all the topics and it will be essay / short answer type questions (i.e., not multiple choice).

Attendance: I do take attendance and it counts towards 10% of your grade. You need to have attended to at least 70% of the courses in order to be eligible to take the final examination. Otherwise you will not be able to take the final exam and receive a NA for the

course -which, incidentally, will prevent you from taking the resit make-up exam. (The other condition for a NA is failure to attend the midterms and the final.)

PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR A RAISE IN YOUR GRADE. I WILL NOT CHANGE GRADES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

Tentative Course Schedule and Topics

Week 1.	Sep 26	Introduction and overview of the course
Week 2.	Oct 3	Chapter 1: Introducing Social Psychology
Week 3.	Oct 10	Chapter 2: Person Perception
Week 4.	Oct 17	Chapter 3: Social Cognition
Week 5.	Oct 24	<i>No class – Holiday</i>
Week 6.	Oct 31 Nov 3	Chapter 4: The self EXAM 1 @ 10:00 a.m., Chapters 1-4
Week 7.	Nov 7	Chapter 5: Attitudes and Attitude Change
Week 8.	Nov 14	Chapter 6: Prejudice
Week 9.	Nov 21	Chapter 7: Social Influence
Week 10.	Nov 28 ¹ Dec 1	Chapter 8 & 9: Interpersonal Attraction & Personal Relationships EXAM 2 @ 10:00 a.m., Chapters 5-9
Week 11.	Dec 5	Chapter 10: Group Behavior
Week 12.	Dec 12	Chapter 11: Gender
Week 13.	Dec 19	Chapter 12: Helping
Week 14.	Dec 26	Chapter 13: Aggression
Week 15.	Jan 2	EXAM 3 @ CLASS TIME, Chapters 10-13
Finals Week	TBA	FINAL EXAM: All chapters are included.

Other Important Course Related Policies:

- ✓ No enrollment with known class time conflicts.
- ✓ This course “PSY 150” has several sections with different instructors. However, these sections are not coordinated or synchronized. Therefore, it is ultimately important that you know which section you have enrolled in (as well as who your instructor is) and attend to the lectures and exams in that section. It makes a difference since the exams and the material covered are at the discretion of the specific section’s instructor.
- ✓ The classes and discussions are conducted strictly in English. If you are unsure, I strongly encourage you to take this as an opportunity to improve your listening, speaking, and reading skills.
- ✓ **All exams must be done ON YOUR OWN.** Note that academic dishonesty includes not only cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism, but also helping other students commit acts of academic dishonesty by allowing them to obtain copies of your work. Cases of academic dishonesty will be dealt with harshly. If the student is found to be responsible of academic dishonesty, the typical sanction results in a grade of “FF”. More serious instances can result in expulsion from the university.

¹ Last date to withdraw from classes is November 30, 2012 Friday.