

## Lab Syllabus: Social Psychology 4200 - Spring Semester 2008

Lab Instructor: Ted Cascio  
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Class: Room 243 Psyc. Bldg.  
Time: T 3:30pm-4:45pm  
Office Hours: By Appointment

Welcome to Social Psychology 4200 lab! If you have any questions during the course of the semester please do not hesitate to ask them in class, get in contact with me via email, or set up an appointment to see me. I am here to help you!

### **Lab Objectives:**

The primary objective of this lab is to help you develop the tools needed to design, write up, and present an *original* social psychology experiment. Your participation will take the form of developing a hypothesis to test, explication of how you will test your hypothesis, collecting the relevant data, and presenting your findings in the form of a paper. I hope to show you at a glance the process of social psychology research and that you leave this lab with a greater understanding of a topic of interest.

### **Lab Responsibilities:**

Part of the lab will be lecture format. These lectures will be brief and will cover information important for constructing the paper, as well as some methodological and real-world issues.

Your final lab grade will consist of attendance, homework assignments, group project assignments, and your final group paper. Attendance will be taken every day and your grade will suffer for every unexcused absence. For success in this lab, it is important that you are present. Your grade may also be influenced by group member evaluations. Much of your grade is based on group work, and it is important that everyone contribute equally. Therefore, if your fellow group members do not feel that you have contributed adequately, your final lab grade will be commensurately reduced. I will explain the process in more detail later in the semester. In general, if you complete the assignments on time, show effort, and contribute to the group project, you will do well.

**NOTE: All assignments must be *typed* and submitted (electronically or otherwise) by 11:59pm on the day they are due in order to be considered for full credit, unless I tell you something else. If you plan on missing lab, you must turn in the due assignment early to receive credit. If you miss lab unexpectedly, you need to get in contact with me immediately and with your fellow group members. You will also need to present documentation in order to be excused.**

For your research project, you are responsible for developing a testable idea, producing any materials needed to test your idea, collecting relevant data, and writing up your findings. You and approximately 4 other students will be responsible for the development and completion of a paper presenting your experiment and its results (1 paper per group).

Shortly after the first lab meeting, I will create research groups based on shared interests. Although it is not foreseen that you and your other group members will share *exactly* the same interests, I will be forming groups according to feedback you provide regarding your preferred social psychological topics. All ideas must relate to social psychology. I do not believe, however, that this will be difficult to do because social psychology is such a broad field.

### **Grade Breakdown: 200 Total Points**

Attendance	10 pts.	Proposal	15 pts.
Topic Exploration	5 pts.	Introduction Draft	15 pts.
In-Class Activities	10 pts.	Methods/Results Draft	15pts./15pts.
Article Review 1	10 pts.	Discussion Draft	15 pts.
Article Review 2	15 pts.	Group Paper	75 pts.

\*Group Evaluations may also influence your grade.

### **Tentative Schedule of Topics to be covered:**

(In bold are the assignments for that date, and the date they are due.)

*The lab syllabus is a general plan for the lab; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

Jan 8<sup>th</sup>: Introduction/Syllabus Overview

Jan 15<sup>th</sup>: Why Do Research? Choosing a Research Topic and Topic Selection

**Topic Exploration Assignment Due Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>: Group Formation; **Article Review 1 Due Jan 29<sup>th</sup>**

Jan 29<sup>th</sup>: **(No Lab)**

Feb 5<sup>th</sup>: Article Presentation; **Article Review 2 Due Feb 12<sup>th</sup> & Proposal Due Feb 19<sup>th</sup>**

Feb 12<sup>th</sup>: Lecture: Writing the Intro. & Methods Section; Choosing an Experiment

**Introduction Due Mar 25<sup>th</sup> & Method Due Mar 25<sup>th</sup>**

Feb 19<sup>th</sup>: Optional Meetings by Appointment (RM 431)

Feb 26<sup>th</sup>: Groups Meet With Instructor: Study Finalized

Mar 4<sup>th</sup>: Groups Meet With Instructor: Study Finalized

Mar 11<sup>th</sup>: **SPRING BREAK**

Mar 18<sup>th</sup>: In-Class Data Collection

Mar 25<sup>th</sup>: In-Class Data Collection

Apr 1<sup>st</sup>: Classroom Lecture: Writing the Abstract, Discussion, and Results Sections

**Results Due Apr 15<sup>th</sup> & Discussion Due Apr 15<sup>th</sup>**

Apr 8<sup>th</sup>: Optional Data Analysis Meetings by Appointment (RM 431)

Apr 15<sup>th</sup>: Optional Data Analysis Meetings by Appointment (RM 431)

Apr 22<sup>nd</sup>: **(No Lab) Final Paper Due** (In My Office by 5pm)

### **UNIVERSITY POLICY**

\*All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

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