



South China Normal University International Summer Session

02C03156: SOCIETY AND THE INDIVIDUAL

Term: July 15th –August 9th, 2019

Instructor: JACOB AVERY, PHD

Home Institution: University of California Irvine

Credit: 4

Course Description

As individuals, we are inherently social beings. In this course, we will explore the complex and dynamic relationship between the individual self and wider society. We will begin by exploring the ancient sociological question: *How is social order possible?* To answer that question, we begin by examining how groups of people form distinctive mechanisms (norms, sanctions) and how these sociological mechanisms exert control over individual group members' everyday behaviors. After thoroughly interrogating the basic relationship between self and society, then we will consider how social forces influence our thought patterns. We will discuss topics such as self-concept (who am I?), self-serving biases, narcissism, and belief systems. From there, we will investigate the ways that we, as individuals, are profoundly influenced by the social worlds in which we take part. In short, we will examine the social influences of our daily behaviors: How does our gender shape our behaviors? How does our culture shape our behaviors? How does the number of people in a social situation affect our behaviors? Finally, we will study how people, individually and collectively, influence and change society.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you should demonstrate a basic command of the following topics and issues:

- You will understand the complex, nuanced relationship between society and the individual
- You will understand how social order is constructed and re-constructed in daily life
- You will understand the processes through which we think in social terms, and how our behaviors are molded by the Other's point of view, emotionality, and social status
- You will understand the competing theoretical paradigms of social psychology, a discipline that is primarily interested in exploring the relationship between self and the wider social world.



Course Readings

David Meyers. (2014). *Exploring Social Psychology, 7th Edition*. McGraw-Hill Education. 560 pages. **ISBN-10:** 0077825454 **ISBN-13:** 978-0077825454

Exams & Assignments

This is an intensive four-week course. Each week on Fridays, we will take an in-class quiz. The quiz will cover the lecture content and reading assigned during the previous four class sessions. In other words, all quizzes are non-cumulative. Each quiz covers the material presented in lecture and readings within the specified dates. The quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions that will evaluate and assess your basic comprehension of course concepts.

Grading

Your final grade in this course will be based on your performance on the quizzes and they will be weighted in the following manner:

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Quiz #1 | 25% |
| Quiz #2 | 25% |
| Quiz #3 | 25% |
| Quiz #4 | 25% |

Grading Scale

| Percentage | Grade |
|------------|-------|
| 90-100 | A |
| 80-89 | B |
| 70-79 | C |
| 60-69 | D |
| <60 | F |

Course Schedules

| Class Date | Content | Chapter | Due |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Day 1/July15 | Introduction, Society and Individual | 1, 2 | |
| Day 2/July 16 | Social Thinking, Self Concept | 3 | |
| Day 3/July 17 | Self Serving Bias | 4 | |
| Day 4/July 18 | Narcissism | 5 | |
| Day 5/July 19 | Fundamental Attribution Error | 6 | Review, Quiz 1 |
| Day 6/July 22 | Powers and Perils of Intuition | 7 | |
| Day 7/July 23 | Reasons for Unreason | 8 | |
| Day 8/July 24 | Behavior and Belief | 9 | |



| | | | |
|----------------|---|------------|----------------|
| Day 9/July 25 | Social Influence, Human Nature and Cultural Diversity | 12 | |
| Day 10/July 26 | Gender, Genes and Culture | 13 | Review, Quiz 2 |
| Day 11/July 29 | How Nice People Get Corrupted | 14 | |
| Day 12/July 30 | Persuasion | 15 | |
| Day 13/July 31 | Indoctrination | 16 | |
| Day 14/Aug 1 | The Presence of Others | 17 | |
| Day 15/Aug 2 | Group Think | 18, 19, 20 | Review, Quiz 3 |
| Day 16/Aug 5 | Social Relations, Prejudice | 22, 23 | |
| Day 17/Aug 6 | Aggression | 24 | |
| Day 18/Aug 7 | Like and Love | 26, 27 | |
| Day 19/Aug 8 | Conflict and Peace | 28, 29 | |
| Day 20/Aug 9 | Helping Others and Altruism | 30, 31 | Review, Quiz 4 |