This graduate seminar provides a foundation and an overview of topics in social and personality psychology. It serves as a core course in the Psychology Department’s PhD curriculum. Topics to be covered include social categories, the self, person perception, relationships, social comparisons and judgments, personality traits, emotions, person knowledge, interpersonal processes, and motivation and self-regulation.

Readings and class meetings

Readings are theoretical and empirical articles from peer-reviewed psychology journals and chapters from books. There is no textbook for the course. Readings are to be read by everyone before the seminar meets. Most if not all required readings will be available electronically on Blackboard (http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/). If you have problems getting them, please let us know as soon as possible. References are provided for all the readings, so you may read them in the original journal or book if you wish. Class time will consist of lecture and discussion of the readings.

Course Components and Grading

In order to pass the course, each separate component (participation, presentation, and paper) must be at a passing level (non-compensatory model). Grades will be based on:

45% paper [more details below], broken down as follows:
- draft due to reviewers February 27
- 10%, peer reviews, due March 5
- 35%, final paper, due Mar 12
- 20% participation (in-class contributions and miscellaneous assignments)
- 35% final exam (date TBA)

Paper: Your paper will be a proposed study that you would conduct to follow up on either (a) a paper published in JPSP within the last 2 years, or (b) a paper published by one of the social-personality faculty at the University of Oregon. That is, your proposed study should be related to and inspired by the paper you are basing this assignment on.

Your paper should be about 8-10 pages of text, not including references. The theoretical background for the study should come from the paper you are starting from, from readings covered in the course, and other background reading you will do for the proposal. We encourage you to write a proposal for a study that you a) really could run and b) would really be excited to run. Ideally, we would like some of these studies to be run at some point in the future. A complete first draft of your paper will be due February 27. Each paper will be given to one peer reviewer in this class who will write a review/critique due by March 5. You will use these critiques to revise your paper for the final due date on March 12. You will be graded on both the critique that you
write and your final paper. Although the first draft is not separately graded, incomplete or poorly written first drafts will count against your final grade.

**Participation and assignments:** Much of the educational value of this course will come from class discussions. We expect your active participation in these discussions, and this will require that you have read and thought about the course readings prior to each class meeting. From time to time, you will be given small assignments designed to facilitate your understanding and consideration of the readings. These may include writing responses or answering specific questions about the readings; complete instructions will be provided in class. One unexcused absence is allowable with no penalty. Additional absences can count against your participation grade. It is in your best interest to discuss any absences that you know of in advance with the instructors.

**Final exam:** There will be a cumulative open-book/notes exam. We will discuss details and dates early in the term.

**Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with one of the instructors as soon as possible. Please request that the counselor for students with disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

**Changes/Plagues/Weather**

Topics, readings, or grading criteria may be changed at the instructors’ discretion. Changes will be announced in class, over email, or on Blackboard. If necessary, accommodations in response to swine flu, other pestilence, or inclement weather will be decided by the instructors in accordance with university guidelines and will be communicated to students via email and/or Blackboard.

**SCHEDULE & TOPICS**

**NOTE:** Readings are listed in a suggested order. Some readings may change (for example depending on guest speakers); consult Blackboard for updates.

**Week 1**

**Jan 9 – Introduction and history**


Jan 11 – Personality and personality traits / Guest lecture by Gerard Saucier


**Week 2**

Jan 16 – MLK Day (no class today)

Jan 18 – Personality and situations


**Week 3**

Jan 23 – Lifespan development


Jan 25 – No class today

**Week 4**

Jan 30 – Goals and self-regulation / Guest lecture by Elliot Berkman


Feb 1 – Genes and behavior

Week 5
Feb 6 – Emotions / Guest lecture by Robert Mauro

Feb 8 – Emotions and decisions / Guest lecture by Paul Slovic
Slovic, P. (2010). The more who die, the less we care. In E. Michael-Kerjan & P. Slovic (Eds.), *The irrational economist: Decision making in a dangerous world* (pp. 30-40). New York: Public Affairs Press.

Week 6
Feb 13 – Motivation and the self
Feb 15 – Interpersonal perception

Feb 20 - Perceiving other minds

Feb 22 - Self and other: Overlaps and gaps

Week 8
Feb 27 – Measuring implicit (and unpopular) attitudes
Feb 29 - Stereotype, fitting in, and opting out

Week 9
Mar 5 – Evolution & Morality/ Guest lecture by Azim Shariff

Mar 7 – Belonging / Guest lecture by Holly Arrow

Week 10
Mar 12 – Power, hierarchy, hormones / Guest lecture by Pranj Mehta
Additional reading TBA.

Mar 14 – Topic and readings TBA