

## **PSY467 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AND CINEMA: UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL BEHAVIOR THROUGH THEORY, RESEARCH, AND THE CINEMA**

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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment.  
CLASSES MEET: Tues. 2-4 PM and Friday 1-3 P.M

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

The purpose of this course is to use a combination of social psychological theory and research and feature length films to explore the determinants of important forms of human social behavior. Although theory and research in social psychology has taught us a great deal about human behavior, there is a great deal more to be learned. All creative expressions that attempt to portray human thoughts, feelings or actions, whether through the medium of prose, poetry, music, painting, theater or film, involve assumptions and assertions about the psychological determinants and consequences of human behavior, but perhaps none do so in as vivid, impactful, and accessible a manner as film. Films will therefore be combined with social psychological theory and research to explore the current knowledge concerning topics such as the existential realities of the human condition, culture, aggression, obedience, prejudice, attraction, and relationships.

**Warning: Some of the films are R-rated and portray violence, sex, partial nudity, prejudice, racism, and death, and we will discuss the potentially disturbing topics of violence, sex, mortality, prejudice, colonization, and the Nazi Holocaust.**

The particular films chosen represent a variety of genres and eras and were selected because each film focuses intently on one particular topic that has also been the focus of important socialpsychological theories and research. The films will be a complement to the scholarly readings by serving the following functions: a) illustrating significant instances of particular forms of social behavior as they occur in their natural context; b) reminding us in vivid and memorable ways of the real world phenomena social psychological theories and research are intended to explain; c) helping us to clarify and assess existing knowledge and remaining questions.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

When the class is over you should have a better understanding of yourself and the people and events around you, and more specifically, the roles of self-esteem, culture, and death awareness in human behavior, the causes of the rise of Hitler and other charismatic leaders, the factors that contribute to obedience and interpersonal aggression, the causes and consequences of prejudice, factors that influence the formation of long-term close relationships and the success or failure of such relationships, and the psychological functions of a personal narrative and history.

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE and ETIQUETTE:**

Attendance is expected at each class session. If you must miss a class, please notify me prior to the class meeting via email. **Please silence and put away all cell phones and similar telecommunication devices and do not use them for calling, messaging, or texting during class sessions, discussions, or film viewing time.**

## **READINGS:**

There will be a set of carefully selected and concise readings for each week. The readings will consist of compilations of relevant theoretical analyses and empirical reports from social psychology and other social science sources. **Please keep up with the readings so that we can have interesting, informed discussions during class time!** This is not the type of material you can adequately comprehend in an all-nighter the night before the exam, nor would that be the right approach for enjoying and benefiting from the course. The readings are available under “content” in the D2L course site. Quizzes may be added if people don’t seem to be doing the readings prior to class.

## **GRADING:**

Grades will be based on attendance (10%), an essay midterm (25%) and final (25%), one page commentaries for each film (20%) which are due in the D2L under “assignments” by 5 P.M. on the Monday following each film, and an 8-15 page paper (20%) that uses a film not shown in the course along with three complementary readings of your own choosing (three readings not included in the required readings, although you can refer to that latter readings as well in your paper) to explore a social psychological topic. The paper will be due May 10, 2021. Class Participation can add up to 5% to your grade.

Grading using % of available points will be:

90% and up = A	60% and up = D
80% and up = B	59% and under = F
70% and up = C	

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

The course will conform to a variety of university policies, the details of which can be found via these links:

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop>

<http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>

<https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/absences>

<http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>

<http://drc.arizona.edu/instructrs/syllabus-statement>

<http://new.library.arizona.edu/research/citing/plagiarism>

<http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Jan. 15	Introduce Course and Syllabus
Jan. 19	Evolution and Socialization
Jan. 22	NO CLASS
Jan. 26	Self-esteem, Culture, and Meaning
Jan. 29	<b><u>FILM 1: BLACK ROBE</u></b>
Feb. 2	Cultural Differences, Terror Management Theory
Feb. 5	<b><u>FILM 2: THE SEVENTH SEAL</u></b>
Feb. 9	Death and Transference
Feb. 12	<b><u>FILM 3: HITLER DOCUMENTARY</u></b>
Feb. 16	Obedience and the Heroic Triumph over Evil
Feb. 19	NO CLASS
Feb. 23	Aggression in the Individual
Feb. 26	<b><u>FILM 4: TAXI DRIVER</u></b>
March 2	Heroism, Evil, & Violent Cues
March 5	NO CLASS
March 9	READING DAY
March 12	REVIEW SESSION
March 16	<b>MIDTERM</b>
March 19	NO CLASS
March 23	Prejudice I
March 26	<b><u>FILM 5: DO THE RIGHT THING</u></b>
March 30	Prejudice II
April 2	READING DAY
April 6	Evolution, Love and Attachment
April 9	<b><u>FILM 6: CAMILLE</u></b>
April 13	Love, Self-esteem, & Meaning
April 16	NO CLASS
April 20	Long-term Relationships
April 23	<b><u>FILM 7: HUSBANDS AND WIVES</u></b>
April 27	Growth, & Security in Relationships
April 30	<b><u>FILM 8: WATERLAND</u></b>
May 4	History, Connection, & Transcendence
May 11	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>

	<b>READINGS FOR PSYCH 467</b>	<b>READING DUE</b>
R1:	Birth and Death of Meaning, Becker, Preface, pp. 1-12; Birth and Death of Meaning, Becker, pp. 38-64.	Jan. 19
R2:	Birth and Death of Meaning, Becker, 65-86, 119-134; Culture and Social Behavior, Triandis, 169-173.	Jan. 26
R3:	Birth and Death of Meaning, 139-154; Denial of Death, Becker, pp. 1-8, 11-34; Terror Management Theory Advances chapter: pp. 86-93, 100-102.	Feb. 2
R4:	Denial of Death, Becker pp. 127-150; Escape from Evil, Becker, pp. 87-95; Social Influence, Turner, pp. 136-141.	Feb. 9
R5:	Obedience to Authority, Milgram pp. 169-189; The Few, the Brave, the Noble, Fogelman & Weiner, pp. 231-236; Escape from Evil, Becker, pp. 108-119, 143-145; Greenberg et al. TMT and Politics.	Feb. 16
R6:	Escape from Evil, Becker, pp. 146-155, 168-170; Freud, 185-189; Aggression, Geen, pp. 28-29, 32-35, 48-53, 83-91.	Feb. 23
R7:	Aggression, Geen, 102-111, 160-167; Aggression and Crimes of Violence, Goldstein, pp.130-133, 141-165.	March 2
R8:	The Nature of Prejudice, Allport, 17-27, 367-380; Greenberg et al., (2021) Stereotypes, 382-388.	March 23
R9:	The African-American: A Duality Dilemma, Jones, pp. 17-21; Allport, 142-161; Stereotype threat, Moskowitz, 519-523; Allport, 41-46.	March 30
R10:	Defining and Studying Romantic Love, Pope, 1-25; Aronson, et al., 325-332, 335-345.	April 6
R11:	Falling in Love, Aron, Paris, & Aron, 1102-1112; Denial of Death, Becker, 159-175; Love text, 1-2.	April 13
R12:	Greenberg et al., (2021) on relationships, 567-569, 585-587; Dual Motive Depth Psychology, Greenberg, et al., 82-96.	April 20
R13:	Love and the Dynamics of Personal Growth, Csikszentmihalyi, 306-326.	April 27
R14:	The Lost Themes, Lifton, 3-9; Approaches and Modes of Transcendence, Lifton, 13-35; McAdams, 252-255, 274-278.	May 4

## Where to go, who to call if you're in crisis or need:

**Located in Tucson?** Call the [Community-Wide Crisis Line](#) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 520-622-6000.

**Are you a University of Arizona student?** If it is not an emergency and you are a UA student, call or walk-in to Counseling and Psych Services at 520-621-3334 Monday - Friday. Walk-in triage is available between 9 am and 4 pm Monday - Friday.

**Are you a concerned friend?** Concerned friends can find out more about helping a friend who might be experiencing problems through our [Friend 2 Friend](#) website.

[Resources for sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking.](#)

### 24- Hour Hotlines:

[The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) is a 24-hour, toll-free, confidential suicide prevention hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. By dialing [1-800-273-TALK](#) (8255), the call is routed to the nearest crisis center in our national network of more than 150 crisis centers. The Lifeline's national network of local crisis centers provides crisis counseling and mental health referrals day and night.

[Crisis Text Line](#): Text HOME to 741741 from anywhere **in the United States**, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from a secure online platform. Find out more about how it works at [crisistextline.org](#).

[Suicide Prevention for LGBTQ Youth through the Trevor Project](#):

- **The Trevor Lifeline** is a 24/7 suicide hotline: 866-4-U-TREVOR (1-866-488-7386)
- **TrevorChat**: Online instant messaging available 7 days a week, 3 pm - 10 pm ET (12 pm -- 7 pm PT)
- **TrevorText**: Confidential and secure resource that provides live help for LGBTQ youth with a trained specialist, over text messages. Text TREVOR to 1-202-304-1200 (available 7 days a week, 3 pm - 10 pm ET, 12 pm -- 7 pm PT)

[Veterans' Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#): 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

[SAMHSA Treatment Referral Hotline](#) (Substance Abuse): 1-800-662-HELP (1-800-662-4357)

[National Sexual Assault Hotline](#): 1-800-656-HOPE (1-800-656-4673)

[Loveisrespect \(National Dating Abuse Helpline\)](#): Call 1-866-331-9474 (TTY: 1-866-331-8453). Text LOVEIS to 22522 - you'll receive a response from a peer advocate prompting you for your question. Go ahead and text your comment or question and we will reply.