Psychology 871: Social Cognition
Spring Quarter 2005
Mon. 12:30 - 3:18
Dulles Hall 20

Instructor
Russell Fazio
100d Lazenby Hall
Phone: 688-5408
E-mail: fazio.11@osu.edu

Course Overview

This course is intended to provide an introduction to research in social cognition. Social cognition is the study of the cognitive underpinnings of social behavior and the ways in which we think about our social world.

This class will be conducted in a lecture/discussion format. Typically there will be two lectures during each class session, separated by a short break, with adequate time for questions and discussion.

Course Textbooks


Course Requirements

Readings are assigned for each week, and are to be read by the Monday class with which they are associated. Each week’s readings consist of a chapter or two from the Kunda text and influential journal articles reprinted in Hamilton’s reader.

Grades will be based on:
1. **midterm** exam covering Weeks 2-5 of the syllabus and weighted 40% of the course grade. The midterm will be administered during class on May 2.
2. **final** exam covering Weeks 7-9 of the syllabus and weighted 30%. The final will be administered during finals week.
3. **paper** weighted 30% that will be due on **May 31**. The paper should take the form of a research proposal related to any topic covered in the course. It should include a brief literature review and a summary of the proposed research – work that should have the potential to offer a novel contribution to the field. You may propose work related to your own area of research if you’d like, although it must be relevant to the course material and you may not propose a study that you are already doing in your lab. The paper should be written in APA format and should be no more than 4000 words in length (excluding only the list of references). The word count, as indicated by any standard word processor, should be listed on the title page. The 4000-word limit will be strictly enforced.
Academic Misconduct

All students at the Ohio State University are bound by the Code of Student Conduct (see http://oaa.ohio-state.edu/coam/code.html). Suspected violations of the code in this class will be dealt with according to the procedures detailed in that code. Specifically, any alleged cases of misconduct will be referred to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Students with disabilities

This syllabus is available in alternative formats upon request. In addition, if you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact the instructor immediately. Students with special needs should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 292-3307 for certification if they have not already done so. Upon such certification, the ODS and the instructor will make every effort to accommodate special needs. However, to ensure that evaluation of student performance in the course is conducted in a manner that is fair to all students, special accommodations will not be granted in the absence of ODS certification.
Tentative schedule (subject to change)

March 28: Course introduction

April 4: Social perception and impression formation – Historical Overview
   From Heider/Bruner/Asch to modern social cognition; Some basic concepts;
   The constructive nature of perception; Priming and category accessibility

   Kunda: Chapter 2
   Hamilton: Chapter 1; Readings 1, 6, 9, 22

April 11: Mental representation and memory
   Person memory; On-line versus memory-based processing; Memory as re-constructions
   of the past

   Kunda: Chapter 5
   Hamilton: Readings 2, 23, 24, 33, 34

April 18: Inferences about others
   Attribution processes; Biases and errors; Spontaneous trait inferences; Hypothesis
   testing

   Kunda: Chapter 9; pp. 111-124, 137-143
   Hamilton: Readings 17, 18, 19, 20, 25

April 25: Reasoning, judgment, and expectancy confirmation processes
   Judgments under uncertainty; Probability estimation; Heuristics; Expectancy
   maintenance and confirmation

   Kunda: Chapter 3
   Hamilton: Readings 10, 11, 12, 27, 30, 37

May 2: MIDTERM
May 9: Stereotypes
Stereotype activation; The consequences of stereotypes for social perception and their functional value; Stereotype development; Stereotypes from the perspective of the target
Kunda: Chapter 8; pp. 124-137
Hamilton: Readings 3, 7, 8, 26, 28, 29

May 16: The affect ↔ cognition interface
Effects of cognition on affect and of affect on cognition; Misattribution and emotion; Affective consequences of counterfactual thinking; Emotion-congruent processing; Feelings as information; Motivated reasoning
Kunda: Chapter 6; pp. 143-159
Hamilton: Readings 31, 32, 35, 36, 38

May 23: Automaticity
Nonconscious processing; Implicit memory; Automatically-driven attention, categorization, and behavior; Implicit measures in social cognition research
Kunda: Chapter 7
Hamilton: Readings 13, 14, 15, 16