Instructors

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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 1-hour lectures during each class (one lecture from each instructor), with adequate time for questions and discussion.

Course Textbook


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 two influential journal articles and/or review chapters. Copies of the latter will be placed outside Lazenby 112, i.e., in front of Shirley’s office. Students are responsible for making their own copies of these materials.

Grades will be based equally on a midterm, a final exam, and a paper. The midterm will be completed in class, and the final exam will be administered during finals week. The paper is due March 10 (the last day of class), and should be approximately 15 pages in length (excluding references). The paper should be 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and should be written in APA format. The purpose of the paper is to write a research proposal based on the material presented in class. It should include a literature review on the chosen topic, and the proposed study should make a novel contribution to the field. You may apply it to your own area of research if you’d like, although you may not propose a study that you are already doing in your lab. You are encouraged to meet with us about the paper before you start working on it. If you are not in the social psychology program, you must discuss your topic with us first.
Tentative schedule (subject to change)

January 6:  Course introduction

January 13:  Impression formation
Kunda: ch.. 2

January 20:  Mental representation and memory
Kunda: ch. 5

January 27:  Heuristics and counterfactuals
Kunda: chs 3 & 4

February 3:  Sources of impressions
Kunda: ch. 9

**February 10: MIDTERM**

**February 17: Stereotypes**

Kunda: ch. 8


**February 24: Hot cognition**

Kunda: ch. 6


**March 3: Automaticity**

Kunda: ch. 7


**March 10: The self**

Kunda: ch. 10
