Instructor: Professor Keith Maddox  
Office: 228 Psychology Building  
Phone: 627-2563  
E-mail: keith.maddox@tufts.edu

**Texts & Readings**


Additional readings for the course will be made available via Blackboard.

**Course Description & Objectives:**

Psychologists interested in social cognition examine the cognitive processes underlying human thought and the impact of those processes on human interaction. In other words, social cognition is a perspective that addresses not only what people think and do, but also how they go about thinking and doing. Social cognition might best be described as an approach within social psychology rather than a separate topic area. As such, it is applicable to a wide range of social psychological phenomena such as attribution, stereotyping, attitudes, persuasion, and the self.

My major objective for this course is to give you a fairly broad overview of social cognition; including theory and research, the methodology, and the questions that it can and cannot address about social psychological phenomena. It is my hope that you will benefit by developing a tendency to think critically about psychological research and any other information to which you are exposed.

**Course Prerequisites:**

This is an advanced seminar course. Those enrolled in this course should have completed courses in introductory social or cognitive psychology and statistics (Psych 13 or 28, and 31). Courses in experimental psychology (Psych 32) and experimental social psychology (Psych 36) are recommended. Students without these courses may have trouble benefiting from some of the important concepts covered in the course, simply because they must catch up on unfamiliar aspects (e.g., research methods in social psychology). However, I won’t discourage those who haven’t taken these courses from participating.
Course Elements & Grading:

Your final grade will be determined by an assessment of your performance in the following required elements of the course:

**Exams (50%).** Two exams will cover the material found in the chapters of the textbook, supplementary readings, and the class lectures/discussion. The exams will be a mixture of concept identification, short answer, and essay questions. The second exam will be cumulative, in that the early topics in the course serve as the foundation for later topics.

**Assignments (35%).** Students will be responsible for completing several assignments and during the semester. Assignments will be introduced when appropriate.

**Participation (15%).** Class attendance and participation will be recorded and considered in grading. I expect you to attend every class. You are required to come to class prepared to demonstrate that you have read and thought about the material.

Late Policy

Assignments that are not handed in on time will be marked down by 1/3 of a grade for each day late, beginning immediately after the due date and time.

Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism occurs in many different intentional and unintentional forms, none of which will be tolerated in this course. Anyone suspected of cheating or plagiarism will be reported and subject to sanctions. Please review the following website to familiarize yourself with Tufts policy on Academic Integrity and methods to avoid plagiarism. Academic Integrity: [http://uss.tufts.edu/studentaffairs/policies/campus/academicintegrity.asp](http://uss.tufts.edu/studentaffairs/policies/campus/academicintegrity.asp)

Blackboard Web Site

The site contains various course materials and tools to facilitate communication between the instructor and students in the course. It will be updated periodically during the semester, and should be checked regularly for updates.

Office Hours

I’m looking forward to the opportunity to get to know each of you, so feel free to stop by at least once this semester, even if just to chat about nothing in particular. If you cannot make my scheduled office hours listed above, I’m happy to schedule an appointment at another time. Office hours are a time for you to ask me about any topic.