**Syllabus**

**Experimental Social Psychology**

**Psychology 36**

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**Texts & Readings**

There is no required textbook for the course. Readings can be found on the Blackboard Website for Psychology 36 [http://blackboard.tufts.edu](http://blackboard.tufts.edu). While not on reserve, the APA Manual (6th Edition) is also at the Library Reference Desk. For reviews of general experimental psychology see the following text (available at the campus bookstore): Pelham, B.W., & Blanton, H. (2007). Conducting Research in Psychology: Measuring the Weight of Smoke.

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**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. You can access the course web site through the Information Technology Services web site at [http://blackboard.tufts.edu](http://blackboard.tufts.edu).

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**Course Description & Objectives**

This course will focus on the process of designing, conducting, interpreting, and presenting empirical research in social psychology. You will be exposed to several different methods used in social psychological research, with an emphasis on true experiments. The use of these methods will be illustrated through readings and discussions of classic and contemporary research in social psychology. Class assignments will provide students with hands-on experience in implementing these techniques. In the main part of the course, students will form research teams with the task of conducting an original experimental research project.

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**Course Prerequisites**

Those enrolled in this course should have completed *at minimum* courses in social psychology (Psych 13 or equivalent), introductory statistics (Psych 31 or equivalent), and experimental psychology (Psych 32 or equivalent). Concurrent enrollment in Psych 31 or Psych 32 is not acceptable.
Course Elements and Grading
Your final grade will be determined by an assessment of your performance in the following required elements of the course:

Exam (40%). One final exam will cover the material presented in the lectures, text, supplemental readings, and class assignments.

Group Research Project (30%). The group project consists of several stages that must be completed throughout the course of the semester. Each stage of the project contributes to the overall grading. Research teams will be required to prepare a research manuscript that details the essential elements of the research project. This paper must follow the format as described by the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Ed. Details concerning the group project will be discussed as appropriate.

Individual Assignments (30%). Students will be responsible for completing assignments and participating in class discussions during the semester. You are required to come to class prepared to demonstrate that you have read and thought critically about the material assigned for each class.

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. Late Group Project Assignments will impact the grade of each group member.

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

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.