

**Psychology 871: Social Cognition**  
**Spring Quarter 2007**  
**Mon. 12:30 - 3:18**  
**Lazenby Hall 120**

Instructor

Russell Fazio  
100c Lazenby Hall  
Phone: 688-5408  
E-mail: [fazio.11@osu.edu](mailto: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

Bless, H., Fiedler, K., & Strack, F. (2004). *Social Cognition: How Individuals Construct Social Reality*. New York: Psychology Press.

Hamilton, D. (2005). *Social Cognition: Key Readings*. New York: Psychology Press.

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 from the Bless et al. text and influential journal articles reprinted in Hamilton's reader. A few additional readings also will be assigned. These will be made available on the Carmen website, <http://carmen.osu.edu>.

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 April 30.
2. **final** exam covering Weeks 7-9 of the syllabus and weighted 30%. The final will be administered during finals week. According to the Registrar's final exam schedule, the exam is scheduled for Monday, June 4, 11:30 - 1:18.

3. **paper** weighted 30% that will be due on **May 29**. 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 26: Course introduction**

**April 2: 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

Bless et al.: Chapters 1 & 2

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

**April 9: Mental representation and memory**

Person memory; On-line versus memory-based processing; Memory as re-constructions of the past

Bless et al.: pp. 51-76, 168-172

Hamilton: Preview Part 6; Readings 2, 23, 24, 25, 33, 34

**April 16: Reasoning, judgment, and automatic processing**

Judgments under uncertainty; Probability estimation; Heuristics; Nonconscious processing; Automatically-driven attention, categorization, and behavior

Bless et al.: Chapters 4 & 5

Hamilton: Preview Part 3; Readings 10, 11  
Preview Part 4; Readings 13, 14, 15, 16

**April 23: Dispositional Inferences**

Attribution processes; Biases and errors; Spontaneous trait inferences

Moskowitz, G. B. (2004). *Social Cognition: Understanding Self and Others*. New York: Guilford Publications. Chapter 6, "Attribution" & Chapter 7, "Correspondence Bias and Spontaneous Trait Inference." [posted on the Carmen web site]

Hamilton: Preview Part 5; Readings 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

**April 30: MIDTERM**

**May 7: Stereotypes**

Stereotype activation; The consequences of stereotypes for information processing;  
Their functional value; Stereotype development

Moskowitz, G. B. (2004). *Social Cognition: Understanding Self and Others*. New York:  
Guilford Publications. Chapter 11, "Stereotypes and expectancies." [posted on the Carmen  
web site]

Bless et al.: pp. 76-81

Hamilton: Preview Part 2; Readings 3, 7, 8  
Preview Part 7; Readings 26, 28, 29

**May 21: Expectancies and social interaction**

Hypothesis testing; The impact of expectancies on social interaction; Expectancy  
maintenance and confirmation

Bless et al.: pp. 145-168, 172-178

Hamilton: Readings 12, 27, 30, 37

**May 21: 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; Self-serving reasoning

Bless et al.: Chapter 7 & 8

Hamilton: Preview Part 8; Readings 31, 32  
Preview Part 9; Readings 35, 36, 38

**May 29: Papers due by 5:00PM**

**June 4: Final Exam @ 11:30AM**