

**LINFIELD COLLEGE**  
**PSY 200, SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Leslie Minor-Evans  
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**REQUIRED TEXTS:** *The Social Animal*, by Elliot Aronson, Worth Publishers, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2004.  
*Culture and Modern Life*, by David Matsumoto, Brooks/Cole Publishers, 1997.  
Companion site for “The Social Animal” [<http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/aronson9e/>]

**COURSE DESCRIPTION (from the Linfield College catalog):** “The individual in a variety of social settings. Interaction at the inter-person, intra-group, and inter-group levels. Social interaction, attitudes, attributions, aggression, altruism, affiliation, conformity, environment, nonverbal communication. Research, theory, and application. Class discussion, projects.” (3 credits, IS)

**PREREQUISITE:** PSY 101 or instructor consent.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** My main objectives for this course are to provide an opportunity in which you can engage in critical thinking about the *self in the social world*, and to invite you to apply the social psychological principles learned to your own life. As well, you will become familiar with major theories and theorists, important research findings, concepts and principles, ethics and research methodology used in social psychology.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

**Course grade:** The final course grade will be determined by the following:

1. Two research projects @ 15 points x 2 = 30 points (30%)
2. Weekly discussions (from instructor-created questions, as well as from “Social Animal” companion site questions and links) @ 4 (original) + 2 (response) x 5 weeks = 30 points (30%)
3. Weekly self-quizzes @ 4 points (16 questions x .25 points each) x 5 weeks = 20 points (20%)
4. Final exam @ 20 points (40 questions x .5 points each) = 20 points (20%)

Total: 100 points = 100%

(Extra credit points for introductions and the survey will be added into your total before final grades are assigned.)

**Research projects:** You will complete two brief research projects in the course, and submit your results in a formal report. For each, you will choose between several options on topics being covered, with choices offered for both observational and participant research. Complete instructions and descriptions of the options are provided in a separate posted handout.

**Discussions and quizzes:** You will post a total of TWO discussion postings each week. One of these will be your direct response (referred to as “original”) to a question I have posed. The other will be your response (referred to as “response”) to a classmate’s posting on a different topic. You will have several topic options from which to choose each week. Samples of good responses will be posted online. The quizzes are to be completed online, in open book format, with no time limit. You may take each quiz as many times as you want in order to get the grade you are aiming for.

**Grading scale:**

90 – 100% = A, A-  
80 – 89% = B+, B, B-  
70 – 79% = C+, C, C-  
60 – 69% = D  
0 – 59% = F

## COURSE POLICIES

**Late work:** Point penalties will be accrued for unexcused late work.

**Incompletes:** A grade of Incomplete (I) is given only in emergency situations. The student must request an Incomplete in writing and must obtain my permission. All uncompleted work must be completed within the time limits I set. If you simply don't turn in the final assignments or the final exam, your course grade will be calculated with the missed portion counting for 0 points.

**Academic honesty:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student found to be engaging in either of these activities at any point in the course will receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or entire course and may be subject to further college sanctions.

**Return of course materials:** The two formal research reports submitted online will be returned online graded and with comments.

**Rules and Norms:** The online environment is both uniquely rewarding and uniquely challenging. Rewards: Some people do quite well in such an environment, and prefer it over traditional classroom experiences. It certainly offers you advantages in being able to "attend" at your own convenience, and review material as many times as you need in order to learn it. Challenges: The first challenge is that you must be a good "self-starter" who learns well by reading and thinking on your own, without a lecturer guiding you and summarizing main information. Second, you will need to be familiar with the hardware and software systems of the computer you are using to take the class; this course is not designed to teach you systems or applications. If you are unfamiliar with WebCT, you may want to complete Linfield's orientation designed for new users, and spend some time familiarizing yourself with the course links before beginning the course. Finally, you also MUST be a good online citizen: Respect your colleagues. We sometimes type and send things we would not think of saying to someone in person. No "flaming" of colleagues or instructor will be allowed. I will remove any inappropriate postings and will not give you credit for them.

**Assignments, an Introduction:** Social Psychology is a very "applied" sub-area of psychology. That is, we "do" social psychology, more than just theorize about it. For this reason, you will be doing two research assignments in the real (not virtual) world. And because this is an online class and discussions with classmates add value to any course, you will be discussing material with your classmates online. Also, as a self-check that you understand material you are reading, you will complete an open-book quiz each week. Finally, because this is a real class with real credits, you will take an online final exam. \*Surprise!\* BONUS points for extra credit: 2 points for introducing yourself to the class, and 3 points for completing a short survey. Both are due within the first week of class. Quizzes, discussions, assignments, and the final exam are due before midnight of their respective due dates. I strongly encourage you to complete these as early as possible so that you won't be rushing, and can make other arrangements in case of a computer glitch. Each due date listed is a "drop dead" date, it is not the ONLY date you may turn in work: Be an early bird! Don't wait until the last minute! That said, this is not an independent study class to be completed at the speed of lightning: While assignments and discussion topics will be posted a week or so before each due date, students will all move through the course as a cohort.

**Students with disabilities:** Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.

## **CLASS OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

This is subject to change. Any changes made will be announced online.  
See also "Calendar / Schedule" online for reading and assignment due dates.

### **Week 1: Beginning Weds., Jan 2**

Read Aronson chapters 1 & 9; Matsumoto chapters 1 & 4.

Post your introduction and online discussions before midnight on Sunday. Post your self-quiz before midnight on Tuesday.

### **Week 2: Beginning Weds., Jan. 9**

Read Aronson chapters 2 & 3; Matsumoto chapter 3.

Post your online discussions before midnight on Sunday. Post your self-quiz before midnight on Monday.

Project #1 due by midnight on Tuesday.

### **Week 3: Beginning Weds., Jan. 16**

Read Aronson chapters 4 & 5; Matsumoto chapter 2.

Post your online discussions before midnight on Sunday. Post your self-quiz before midnight on Monday.

### **Week 4: Beginning Weds., Jan. 23**

Read Aronson chapters 6 & 7; Matsumoto chapter 5.

Post your online discussions before midnight on Sunday. Post your self-quiz before midnight on Monday.

Project #2 due by midnight Tuesday, Jan. 22.

### **Week 5: Beginning Weds., Jan 30**

Read Aronson chapter 8; Matsumoto chapters 6, 7, & 8.

Post your online discussions before midnight on Sunday. Post your self-quiz before midnight on Monday.

Complete the final exam before midnight on Weds., Feb. 6.

**Term ends Weds., Feb. 6.**

**INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:**

Greetings Linfieldians! My name is Leslie Minor-Evans, you can call me Leslie (or Supreme Commandress, if you prefer). I am a Seattle native, spent a decade as a Southern California, two years as a resident of Singapore, and another decade or so here in Central Oregon. I completed a B.A. in Psychology at the University of Washington, then the M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Ecology at the University of California – Irvine. I am a social psychologist by training, so PSY 200 is one of my favorite classes to teach. My main academic areas of interest include family relations, gender issues, race and ethnicity, social demography, and social stratification. When not thinking deeply about such issues, I enjoy taking my dogs (and sometimes the cats come along) to run in the woods near our home in Sisters, Oregon; and I also like to spend free time reading and dabbling in photography (but not at the same time). I have three grown sons and a large extended family. I currently teach full-time for Central Oregon Community College, occasionally for the University of Oregon, and have taught as an adjunct instructor for Linfield for more than a decade. Please feel free to contact me at any time!