

Psychology 3410 Required Paper

DUE: Friday, March 10, 1 p.m.

This paper is worth 20 points.

Papers turned in after 1 p.m. March 10, 2006, will lose two points for each weekday or part of a weekday late unless alternate arrangements have been made in advance (see p. 3).

You must sign in your paper. See details below.

Assignment for Required Paper

The classic film 12 Angry Men will be shown in class on Thursday, March 2. Your assignment is to explain how various theories and research findings from 1) the study of social influence, and 2) the study of group processes are illustrated in this film. Be sure to discuss both social influence and group processes, but see note #3 below. You should choose examples from the film, describe the relevant social psychological theory or theories, and explain clearly how the examples you have chosen illustrate the theory or research finding. The paper is worth 20 points. If you have questions about the grading criteria or the assignment, please ask your TA or Dr. A.

See page 2 for requirements for the format and length of this paper.

Schedule of Class Activities Useful in Writing This Paper

2/21	Lecture, Power & Social Influence
2/23	Lecture, Conformity
2/28	Lecture, Group Processes
3/2	Film, <u>12 Angry Men</u> *

2/21-3/2 Readings from Myers textbook, as described in syllabus, Chapters 6, 8 & 15

* If you rent the film on your own, be sure to get the original black and white version starring Henry Fonda.

Paper Writing Tips and Grading Criteria

How to Write a Good Paper

1. Do not rely on us to infer that you understand the material; instead, explain the relevant theory and integrate your example with it. **A useful strategy would be to pretend that you are explaining the theory to someone who has never heard about it;** that is, explain the theories and concepts in your own words.

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Paper Writing Tips and Grading Criteria, contd.

2. **When you discuss a theory, be sure to go beyond the definition to consider how, why, and when the theory operates. Remember the pyramid handed out in lecture in the first part of the course. Great papers will also discuss the broader implications of these theories and findings (such as potential real-world implications).**
3. **More is not better.** It is better to choose 2-3 theories and to illustrate them with really good examples (for example, 1 social influence theory and 1 group process theory) than to list all relevant examples from the film and describe them superficially. Be sure to explain each theory, how and when it works, and how it your examples illustrate it.
4. You should integrate material from textbook and the lectures in your paper. The most relevant assigned chapters are Myers 6, 8, and 15. You may also find the chapter on persuasion (Chapter 7) to be helpful, but using materials from this chapter is not required. You do not have to cover all of these chapters in your paper, nor are you restricted to these chapters in your explanations.
5. Be sure that the content of the paper is relevant to the assignment. A well-written paper that does not address the assigned topic will not receive a good grade.
6. You do not need to know the real names of the actors. Just be sure to provide enough information about each person so that we can follow the points you are making.
7. You do not need to provide a reference section for the paper.
8. **We read rough drafts.** Plan ahead, and see us in office hours. Ask Watch for her deadline for receiving rough drafts. Dr. Aspinwall will read rough drafts during the following times:

Tuesday, March 7, 2 -3 p.m. in Rm. 804 (regular office hours)
Thursday, March 9, 2-3 p.m. in Rm. 804 (regular office hours)
9. See below and next page for additional information re: grading criteria and requirements and information about how to sign in your paper.

Grading Criteria

Your paper will be evaluated with respect to how well you integrate course material with examples from the film. We should be able to tell from your paper that you understand the relevant theory and how it applies to your examples. Just mentioning or listing the concepts is not adequate; you must describe and explain how the concepts apply to the examples you choose.

You will not be graded on whether you agree with the professor, the TA, or the text. You will be graded on how well you justify and elaborate (i.e., explain, provide evidence for) your examples and conclusions.

Finally, although we generally do not grade on the basis of writing quality, it is hard to appreciate a paper that has not been proofread or that is clearly the first and only draft.

Requirements

Your paper must be typed, double-spaced, 5 pages MAXIMUM (not including the cover page) with at least 1" margins on all sides, and stapled. If you write more than 5 pages, we will not read one extra word (i.e., we will grade you on the first 5 pages only. We do this to be fair to students who write only the five required pages, but might have had more to say.). Please include a cover page with the title of your paper, your name, and the date. The cover page does not count toward the total. The MINIMUM length for the paper is 4 pages. Minimum font size is 10 point type; maximum font size is 12 point type.

How to Request Feedback on Your Paper

If you would like to receive feedback on your paper in addition to a grade, please write "feedback, please" somewhere on your cover sheet. Whether you request feedback or not will have no bearing on attention that we devote to your paper or the grade that your paper receives.

Paper Sign-In Policy

It is your responsibility to make a copy of your paper in the event of loss and to sign in a hard copy of your paper with Watch or Dr. A or with the social area secretary, Angela Newman, in Room 820. You may sign in your paper at the end of class on March 9 or during the day March 10 to Angela Newman.

Policy regarding Late Papers and Requests for Extensions

Papers turned in after 1pm Friday, March 10 will lose two points for each weekday or part of a weekday late, unless you have a documented reason for turning the paper in late (see the syllabus for details) or unless you have received an extension from Dr. A. Extensions should be requested by Friday, March 3, and may be done in-person or by e-mail.

Other Important Information

It is your responsibility to ask the TA or the professor if you have questions about this assignment.

No group projects are allowed; your paper must be your own.
