Background: Social Area students take a written Preliminary Examination during the Spring Semester of their third year in the program. The exam is taken in two parts: a sit-down exam and a take-home exam (see Social Area Handbook).

Below is the core list of readings for the Preliminary Examination. It represents the minimum knowledge base required to pass the exam. You should also review your course readings (especially core Social and Personality courses and the research methods course). We further urge you to stay current on the major professional journals (e.g., *JPSP, PSPB*) so that you are familiar with current research and issues in social psychology. We also suggest that for each review of a particular research program, you read at least one original journal article that describes a study discussed in the article or chapter. This is the best way to become familiar with the methods and procedures utilized in a line of research. In general, in preparing for the preliminary exam, you should be able to thoughtfully summarize, critique, and integrate the major approaches in social psychology.

**History/Background**


**Research Methods**


Following chapters only:
- Chapter 1 – Experiments and generalized causal inference (pp. 1-32)
- Chapter 2 – Statistical conclusion validity and internal validity (pp. 33-63)
- Chapter 3 – Construct validity and external validity (pp. 64-102)
- Chapter 14 – A critical assessment of our assumptions (pp. 456-504)

Aggression/Altruism


Attitudes


Close Relationships and Interpersonal Processes


Decision-Making


Emotions


**Groups/Intergroup Processes**


**Person Perception and Attribution**


**Personality and Social Behavior**


**The Self**


**Self-Regulation and Motivation**


Social Influence


Highly recommended:

Ch. 1; Hogg, M. A., & Terry, D. J. Social contextual influences on attitude-behavior correspondence, attitude change, and persuasion. (pp. 1-9).

Ch. 6 Miller, D. T., Monin, B., & Prentice, D. A. Pluralistic ignorance and social identity: When the group and the individual diverge. (pp. 95-113).


Social Psychophysiology / Neuroscience


**Stereotypes and Prejudice**


