

# **Social Psychology**

PSYC 3341 JanTerm, 2019  
M-F 9-12 and 1-4 at Fort Burgwin

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## *Course Description*

Social psychology is the study of how the presence of others influences our ABCs - Affect, Behavior, and Cognition. The course addresses the question of how an individual's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by his/her social environment. This includes topics such as attitudes change, conformity, attraction, aggression, and small-group behavior.

After completing this course, you should be able to discuss social psychology in relation to general psychology, other disciplines, and your own life and interests. You should be able to demonstrate both a general knowledge of the field as well as an advanced understanding of a few specialized topics.

By taking this course at the SMU in Taos campus, you will be able to experience social psychology beyond the traditional classroom. We will have field trips and off-campus experiences at several different locations. You will also have a chance to engage the local community and apply your course material in one of several project options.

Email is usually the best way to get a message to me. You can also use my local cell phone number to text me if you do not get a quick response to email. If you must miss an exam you must let me know BEFORE the exam. Makeups will be scheduled at instructor's discretion and only with a written excuse. Makeup exams for reasons other than official University absences will be scheduled by appointment. If you need to contest an exam score, you have two days from the day the exam was returned to do so. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## *Student Learning Outcomes*

- On exams and quizzes students will be able to explain basic theories and methods related to the study of human behavior, cognition, and socio-cultural organization.
- On exams and quizzes students will demonstrate comprehension of a social psychological perspective about how humans influence each other; how we establish and maintain social relations; and how theories relevant to social psychology can readily be applied to areas related to business, law, and health.
- On exams students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of cultural and social influences on identity development and self-understanding as well as how individuals differ in processing information about group identities.

- The course is a Breadth/Individuals, Institutions, and Culture course under the 2016 University Curriculum As such, there are additional SLOs:
  - Students will identify the types of interactions and influences that arise between or among individuals, institutions, and cultures using methodologies from the social or behavioral sciences.
  - Students will summarize basic empirical phenomena in the study of individuals, institutions, and cultures that shape economic, political and social experiences.
- The course is tagged under the University Curriculum as a Human Diversity course. As such, there is one additional SLO:
  - Students will demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, social, or political conditions of identity formation and function in human society, including the ways in which these conditions influence individual or group status, treatment, or accomplishments.
- The course is tagged under the University Curriculum as during this term in Taos: Oral Communication (this tag does not apply on the Dallas campus). The course will have the following SLO.
  - Oral Communication: Students will select, organize and use appropriate evidence or information to suit a specific or targeted audience. Students will use appropriate vocal and visual cues to deliver a presentation to a specific or targeted audience.

### *Book*

- Required Textbook: Kenrick, D. T., Neuberg, S. L., & Ciladini, R. B. (2015). *Social Psychology: Goals in Interaction* (6<sup>h</sup> ed.). Boston: Pearson.
- Textbook is also available in an electronic format through <https://www.vitalsource.com/>.
- The publisher has a REVEL version of the text available. REVEL includes a number of interactive features that can facilitate learning. If you are interested in the REVEL content, please see contact me before the semester starts so we can discuss that option.

### *Grades*

- Attendance in lecture is required. This is an incredibly fast-paced class and you cannot afford to miss any time. Missing a single day is the equivalent of missing two weeks of a long semester. You can earn up to 10 points for positive and active class participation. Creating an atmosphere in class that discourages the participation of others (interrupting or insulting classmates) or interferes with the classroom environment (text messaging, reading the newspaper, talking during class, using a computer for activities unrelated to this class) will also result in a drop in points.
- You will have six daily quizzes and a cumulative final exam. The quizzes will cover material covered in class the previous day and the reading assigned for that day. The quizzes and exam will include multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. The quizzes and exam will cover both the lecture and textbook presentation of the material so you need to keep up with the reading as well as the lectures. The final exam is cumulative. Quizzes are 20 points each and the final is 100 points.
- Interviews, writing, and presentation. You will apply the research methods and attitudes sections of the course to develop an empirically driven set of interview questions. You will get responses to your interview questions from community

members of the locations of our field trips. You will need to incorporate the information from your interviews to develop an in-class presentation of 10-12 minutes (and 3 minutes for questions). Each of you will have a different topic relating to the course material and community based field trips. (See attached presentation description). The paper is worth 25 points and the presentation is worth 5 points.

*Calendar*

Date	Session	Part 1	Part 2	Reading
7	Morning	Intro	Methods	1
	Afternoon	Person X Situation	Social Cognition	2, 3
8	Morning	Attitudes and Persuasion		5
	Afternoon	Sustainability and Social Dilemmas		13
9	Morning	Field Trip		Handouts
	Afternoon			
10	Morning	Social Influence		6, 4
	Afternoon	Stereotypes, Prejudice, Discrimination		11
11	Morning	Field Trip		
	Afternoon			
14	Morning	Relationships		7
	Afternoon	Wellbeing		8, Handout
15	Morning	Groups	Aggression	12, 10
	Afternoon	Prosocial	Presentations	9
16	Morning	Final Exam		

*Interviews, Writing Assignment, and Presentation*

To fully engage with the course material, you will have a project that involves developing interview questions based on our course material on research methods and attitudes. After you develop your questions, you will seek respondents in our various field trip and service locations. After compiling your responses, you will write a four page paper detailing your results. You will finally have an opportunity to present your information to the class in a 10-12 minute presentation. Depending on class enrollment, you will each have a different topic from social psychology to focus on.

Topics can include: stereotypes of and prejudice directed at indigenous populations, intimate partner violence, conformity and non-conformity, social influence campaigns, environmental attitudes and sustainable living practices, wellbeing and resiliency, flourishing relationships.

Step 1: Develop Questions

Based on research methods and attitude scale construction information from class and the textbook, develop at least 12 specific questions to have community members from each relevant field trip respond.

#### Step 2: Data Collection

Engage with members of the local communities we will visit and get responses to your questions.

#### Step 3: Write your paper

Incorporate your interview responses and material from at least 3 scholarly psychology references in a thoughtful paper on your chosen topic. Be sure to address the lecture and textbook information on that topic. Several questions you should address are: What do social psychologists know about the topic? How do community members feel about or respond to prompts about the topic? Is there overlap or a discrepancy between scholarly and lay beliefs on the topic?

#### Step 4: Presentation

In addition to your paper, you will need to do a 12 minute presentation in class. Presentations need to address your major findings and points from your paper and include visual aids.

#### *Course Policies*

- Changes to the syllabus: From time to time, I may make changes to the course plan, topics, or other aspects of the course, **including the dates of exams**. These changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for keeping up with announcements of changes and other course business.
- The use of cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices not related to class material is not allowed during class. Make sure that all cell phones are turned off or placed on silent during class. You are welcome to bring a laptop or tablet to class for the purpose of taking notes. However, you may not use those devices for anything else (e.g. playing games, checking email) during class. When I suspect a student is using the computer for purposes other than taking notes related to this class, I may ask the student to leave the room, and the student may be counted absent and incur negative participation points.
- Policies for exam days: You need to be on time for exams. I do not normally hand out any exams after the first person has finished and left the room. If you are late for an exam, you will receive a 0 and will not have the opportunity to makeup the exam, except under appropriate, documented circumstances. Once I pass out the exams, you are not allowed to leave the room and return. Take care of any business you need to before the exam starts.
- **Disability Accommodations:** Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate

arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

- **Religious Observance:** Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)
- **Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities:** Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (University Undergraduate Catalogue)
- **Academic Integrity:** Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course and will be dealt with according to the University's Honor Code. As stated by the Honor Council, "Permitting others to prepare their work, using published or unpublished summaries as a substitute for studying required materials, or giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in preparation of work to be submitted are directly contrary to the honest process of learning." A violation of the Code will result in an F for the course. In addition, the student may also be taken before the Honor Council. If you are unclear about this please see the instructor immediately. This can include ACADEMIC SABOTAGE (Intentionally taking any action which negatively affects the academic work of another student.); CHEATING (Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.); FABRICATION (Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.); FACILITATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of the Honor Code); and PLAGIARISM (Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.) A violation of the Code will result in an F for the course. In addition, the student may also be taken before the Honor Council. If you are unclear about this please see the instructor immediately.
- Any study involving observation of or interaction with human subjects which originates at Southern Methodist University, including a class project, report, or research paper, must be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research and Research-Related Activities. Students should consult with their course instructors early in the course to ascertain if their projects need to be reviewed by the IRB and/or to secure information on appropriate forms and procedures for IRB review. The student's instructor and department chair must sign the application for approval by the IRB.

*Letter Grades*

Letter	Percentage
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86

B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	Below 60