

Social Psychology

PSY 241.01

3 credits

2026 Summer

June 24- August 15

Class Meeting Times and Location TBA

Instructor contact Information

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Preferred method of contact: Email. Please title your email SUMMER PSY 241. You are welcome to reach out any time with questions or concerns. I will aim to get back to you within 24 hours on the next workday.

Course overview

Welcome to Social Psychology! In this course, you will:

- Learn different theories and subject areas within the field of social psychology and assess their strengths and weaknesses
- Consider the research methodology that makes social psychology a science and assess the strengths and weaknesses of these methods
- Be able to apply social psychological concepts in your everyday lives

Course learning outcomes

- Describe key concepts, principles, and theories in psychological science
- Develop a working knowledge of psychology's major subfields
- Portray significant aspects of the history of psychological science
- Apply psychological content to solve practical problems
- Provide examples of psychology's integrative themes
- Exercise scientific reasoning to investigate psychological phenomena
- Interpret, design, and evaluate psychological research
- Employ ethical standards in research, practice, and academic contexts
- Apply psychological principles to strengthen community and improve quality of life
- Interact effectively with others
- Provide evidence of psychological literacy
- Exhibit appropriate technological skills to improve communication
- Exhibit effective self-regulation
- Demonstrate appropriate workforce technological skills

Learning resources

Chapters from open-education resources and additional articles/videos will be assigned weekly. You will not need to purchase a textbook. The OER we will be using is linked [here](#). Additional readings may be added to the announced.

How to be successful in this course

Course format

You are expected to master the material covered in the readings and in lectures. It is not wise to let yourself get behind in the reading.

The lectures in this course are designed to supplement the text. That is, lectures will present ideas and research that are not always covered in the text. Your success in this course depends on attending class and following with class materials regularly.

It is a wise idea to read or at least skim through the chapters/articles before they are covered in class. In addition to lectures, we will do discussions, quizzes, and activities to reinforce the material and get you to think about it a little more. This will mostly involve short, informal writing activities, partnered or small group discussion.

Course pace

Every week, new material is going to be presented. You will be expected to complete that week's readings by the end of the week.

Course requirements

Exams

There will be two midterms and a final exam. The exams and the final will be a mix of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. The exams are non-cumulative. The final exam will be on topics covered after the second midterm to the end of the semester.

In the event of a serious illness or emergency, documentation (e.g., through a doctor's note) will be accepted and associated penalties removed. It is up to my discretion as to whether the documentation itself is acceptable and received in a timely manner (e.g., you cannot turn in a doctor's note one month after the unexcused absence).

Quizzes

Once we cover a topic, it is important to assess how you are doing. Before each new topic (after the first one), you will first take a quiz on the previous topic we completed. Each quiz will have 1 to 4 questions on the past weeks' material. The goal is to see if you have read and thought about the material. Please note that some quiz questions might be on the upcoming tests. Quizzes will be pop-quizzes. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Reflection assignments

Reflection assignments are short in-class assignments. These will give you a chance to critically think about and apply a topic and discuss it with your classmates. These assignments will not be graded for style, but rather for your attempt at engaging with the topic. The lowest reflection grade will be dropped.

Extra points

You can earn 1 extra point by completing the anonymous midsemester teaching evaluations and 1 extra point by completing the end-of-semester teaching evaluations. Deadline to complete TBA. Extra points assignments TBA.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percent
A	92-100
AB	89-91
B	82-88
BC	79-81
C	72-78
CD	69-71
D	59-68
F	0-58

Evaluation

Quizzes	20
Reflections	20
Exam 1	20
Exam 2	20
Final Exam	20
Total	100

Course Schedule Organized by Week, Topic, and Items to Do

Week	Topics	Readings
Week 1 June 24- June 28	-Introduction and overview -Introduction to Social Psychology	OER chapter: Introduction to Social Psychology
Week 2 June 29- July 5	-The Methods of Social Psychology -Social Cognition	OER chapters: The Methods of Social Psychology; Social Cognition Article: Henrich, J., Heine, S. J., & Norenzayan, A. (2010). The weirdest people in the world? <i>Behavioral and Brain Sciences</i> , 33, 61–135, doi: 0.1017/S0140525X0999152X
Week 3 July 6- July 12	-Social Attribution -The Self	OER chapters: Social Attribution The Self Blog post: Baumeister, R. F., Campbell, J. D., Krueger, J. J., & Vohs, K. D. (2005, December 5). <i>Scientific American</i> . https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/exploding-the-self-esteem-2005-12/
Week 4 July 13- July 19	-Exam 1 -Emotion	OER chapter: Emotion
Week 5 July 20- July 26	-Social Influence -Attitudes	OER chapters: Social Influence Attitudes Article: Robert B. Cialdini, Noah J. Goldstein. 2004. Social Influence: Compliance and Conformity. <i>Annual Review Psychology</i> . 55:591-621. doi: 10.1146/annurev.psych.55.090902.142015
Week 6 July 27- August 2	-Persuasion -Helping, Altruism, and Prosocial Behavior	OER chapters: Persuasion Helping, Altruism, and Prosocial Behavior
Week 7 August 3- August 9	-Exam 2 -Groups	OER chapter: Groups Stigma Article: Dovidio, J. F., Major, B., & Crocker, J. (2000). Stigma: Introduction and overview. In T. F. Heatherton, R. E. Kleck, M. R. Hebl & J. G. Hull (Eds.) <i>The social psychology of stigma</i> (pp. 1–28). The Guilford Press.
Week 8 August 10- August 12	-Stigma, Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination	OER chapter: Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination Article: Steele, C. M., & Aronson, J. (1995). Stereotype threat and the intellectual test performance of African Americans. <i>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</i> , 69(5), 797–811. doi: 10.1037/0022-3514.69.5.797

* There may be changes in the class schedule or readings. Changes will be announced during class and/or via announcements.