

## **PSY 3460: Social Psychology Online (Summer 2020, #10653)**

### **General Information**

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Office Location: LH 374  
Student Hours: By appointment

### **Course Overview**

**WELCOME** to Social Psychology! The purpose of this course is to explore social psychological theory and research. Social psychology is the study of how individuals think, feel, and behave in everyday social situations. Specifically, the course will cover topics such as self-knowledge, perceptions, cognitions, attitudes, conformity, attraction, aggression, prejudice, and stereotyping.

Throughout the course, you will develop insight into general questions such as... How do people come to be who they are? How do people think about, influence, and relate to one another? How do people protect their self-esteem in the face of their own failures? What causes us to fall in love, hate our neighbor, or join with others to clean up our neighborhoods? How do people justify their decisions? When faced with information that disconfirms a stereotype, why do people cling to their previously held stereotypes? How does culture shape who we become and how we interact with one another?

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, you will be able to answer the above questions and gain a better understanding of the processes shaping how individuals think, feel, and behave. Specific goals include:

1. Gain an understanding of social psychology as a scientific discipline (research methods, major theoretical perspectives, main topics and concepts).
2. Develop critical thinking skills and communication skills regarding the body of knowledge, research findings, and underlying principles that currently exist in the field.
3. To stimulate thinking about the implications of the research for daily situations and use the knowledge gained from psychological research to benefit yourself and others.
4. Enjoy the class and get a good grade.

### **Format**

This online course will be divided into weekly modules. Each module will contain reading assignments, lectures, and a discussion question. Major assignments such as papers and exams will also appear in the week's module in which they are due.

Class will include lectures, films, and discussions. **Please be advised that some course content may be considered sensitive.** The lectures will clarify as well as *extend* the course reading. Thus, lectures will cover material that is not in the course reading. To be successful in the course you must carefully read the course materials *and* consistently view online lectures. You will also be expected to actively participate in course discussions.

Make sure to log on regularly to Canvas for important announcements and useful resources. I am most available and will respond as soon as I can via **email**. I encourage you to use office hours to discuss class or exam material, to ask general questions, or provide comments.

### Textbook

Kassin, S., Fein, S., Markus, H.R. (2017). *Social Psychology* (10th Ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1305580220

For textbooks, any version of the text (e.g., hardback, paperback, e-book) is acceptable. Additional readings will be posted to Canvas under the relevant subject areas.

### Grading

Final grades will be calculated based on the following:

Exams (3 x 100 points)	= 300 points
Discussion Participation (8 x 10 points)	= 80 points
Writing Assignments (3 x 40 points)	= <u>120 points</u>
TOTAL:	= 500 points

463 – 500 pts.	93 – 100%	A
443 – 462 pts.	90 – 92%	A-
433 – 442 pts.	87 – 89%	B+
413 – 432 pts.	83 – 86%	B
398 – 412 pts.	80 – 82%	B-
383 – 397 pts.	77 – 79%	C+
363 – 382 pts.	73 – 76%	C
347 – 362 pts.	70 – 72%	C-
332 – 346 pts.	67 – 69%	D+
312 – 331 pts.	63 – 66%	D
297 – 311 pts.	60 – 62%	D-
0 – 296 pts.	0 – 60%	E

Grades are earned, not negotiated, and all students receive every possible consideration to ensure that their final grade reflects their performance in the course. Course grades will be adjusted (if necessary) for the difficulty of the class, based on overall performance. Therefore, borderline grades will not be “bumped up” to the next grade, so please do not ask. This consideration is automatic, so negotiations and appeals to the professor are neither necessary, nor accepted, to ensure fairness to all students.

**Exams.** There will be three non-cumulative exams covering material presented in course lectures, class discussions, and reading assignments. Exams will consist primarily of multiple-choice but may have matching, fill-in, short answer questions, and essay questions.

The exams will be administered online at home using ChiTester and you will have 6 days to complete the exam. Exams are open book and open note, but they are timed (60 minutes), which does not allow you sufficient time to look up answers. Study as if you were taking a closed-book exam.

As a general rule, **there will be no make-up exams**. Under extraordinary circumstances (e.g., death of family member), or if you are seriously ill on the day of an exam, you must inform me the day of and must produce documentation of your circumstances (i.e., physician’s note).

**Test Item Reviews.** If you choose to truly learn the material on the exams and you seek to improve your exam score and perhaps gain some insight into your test preparation, you may do the following for the multiple-choice items:

- 1) With your textbook and notes available as a reference, log-in to ChiTester to review your exam.
- 2) For each missed item, write down in a doc the following:
  - a. the **item number**
  - b. the **correct response** (*figure it out – use your readings & notes - no google!*). Do not write out the questions or the responses; simply provide the letter (a, b, c, d) of the correct responses and
  - c. a statement of exactly **where you found the correct response** (page # in readings, slide from lecture notes...)
  - d. a **2-3 sentence HONEST explanation for why you chose one of the incorrect responses**. Perhaps you misread the question, didn't study or misunderstood the concept, didn't do the readings, second-guessed yourself, and/or you just spaced out! This is an opportunity for you to learn from your mistakes!

Submit the document with your answers. You may earn **0.50 points** for each missed multiple choice item that you successfully review. The assignment is due by **11:59 pm on the date before the next test opens**. *Early reviews are encouraged; late reviews are not accepted.* Reviews that do not include the required elements are not considered.

**Class Participation and Assignments.** Because this is an online course, you will be responsible for participating in weekly discussions using a discussion board on Canvas. You are expected to post 1 primary post (5 points), and 2 response posts (2.5 points each). Primary posts are due each Friday at 11:59P. Response posts are due each Sunday at 11:59P. **Primary Posts** should be 300-400 words long (about one double spaced page, 12 point font, Times New Roman). They should directly answer the Primary Question, and utilize quotes from the articles and lecture.

**Writing Assignments.** You will turn in three writing assignments throughout the semester. The purpose of these assignments is for you to engage in critical thinking about the topics covered in the class. For each writing assignment, you will be asked to discuss how material learned in class relates to real world situations. How can psychological findings and theory be useful and applicable in the real world? You must support the points you make in your papers with APA style citations from the textbook, class reading materials, or psychological journals. Citations from other sources, such as websites, magazines, or newspapers, are not acceptable.

### **Course Norms**

**E-mail Response Policy & E-mail Etiquette.** I will respond to all e-mails within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends. It is essential to practice proper e-mail etiquette, especially early in your education and career. When sending emails, please include the following: (1) an appropriate subject line (e.g., PSY 3100—reason for e-mail), (2) Address the recipient (e.g., Hello, Dr. Herrmann), (3) state your question in a full sentence (e.g., Today in lecture you mentioned..., I was wondering about...), and finally (4) End the e-mail with your name (e.g., Best/Thanks/Sincerely, Jane Doe).

## How To Do Well in This Course

### 1. Attend class

- Lecture presentations will be posted on Canvas so you don't have to write everything down. Use shorthand clarifications.
- Note emphasized items and attend to concepts that are repeated or described in several ways.

### 2. Ask questions of the instructor and your classmates

- Be in regular contact with me. I am committed to your success and here to help.
- Attend student hours.
- Form study groups; another student's input can really help clarify confusing topics.

### 3. Don't delay in working on course requirements.

- Do *not* wait until the last minute (e.g., 3 AM before an assignment is due) to get help.
- Do *not* wait until you have scored poorly on multiple assignments/tests before you seek help. If you are not doing well after the first few (2-3) weeks, you need to seek help immediately.

## University and Course Policies

**Specific Accommodations.** Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Services Center (or Room 221 at the Davis Campus). SSD can also arrange to provide course materials in alternative formats upon request. For more information, please see: <http://www.weber.edu/ssd>.

**Academic Integrity.** Any academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If a student is caught engaged in academic dishonesty in this course, they risk failing the course and being subject to academic discipline including the imposition of university sanctions. Please see the university policy on cheating, which can be found in the WSU Student Code, Section IV, Part D, Paragraph 2.

*For the purposes of this course, students are encouraged to work together. Discussing the assignment together will not be considered cheating. However, all submitted work should be original. Any student caught submitting identical or closely related work will at the minimum receive zero (0) credit for the assignment and at a maximum a failing grade in the course and be turned in to the appropriate university personnel. The types of activities that would be considered academic dishonesty are as follows: actively copying answers or otherwise using the work of another student on an exam; using the answers of another student on an assignment without having done the work yourself; soliciting other students or agencies to complete and submit work for you.*

**Inclusivity Statement.** Pivotal to Weber State University's mission is the need to embrace and value the diversity of its members. Acknowledging the uniqueness of each individual, we seek to cultivate an environment that encourages freedom of expression. Because the University is a community where inquiry is nurtured and theories are tested, every individual has the right to feel safe to express ideas that differ from those held by other members of the community. However, all persons who aspire to be part of our campus community must accept the responsibility to demonstrate civility and respect for the dignity of others. Recognizing that the proper balance between freedom of expression and respect for others is not always apparent or easy to achieve, we must continually challenge ourselves and each other in an atmosphere of mutual concern, good will and respect. Therefore, expressions or actions that disparage an individual's or group's ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, age or

disability are contrary to the mission of Weber State University and will are not acceptable in classroom discussion.

***Use of Technology.*** The use of cell phones, smart phones, or other mobile communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore prohibited during class. Students using cell phones, tablets, or laptops for anything other than course work will be asked to leave. Students are permitted to use devices during class for note-taking and other class-related work only.

***Emergency Closure Statement.*** Due to the applied nature of this course, if for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, class will be cancelled and assignments will be adjusted accordingly. This may include dropping an assignment altogether or rearranging delivery of course topics to cover more in any one class. Look for announcements from the university on Weber e-mail or the website and from the instructor on the course Canvas page. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

**\*The syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. By continuing in the course after reading the syllabus, you indicate that you accept the terms of the syllabus.**

**Course Timeline\***

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Due</b>
1	6/22-28	Introduction to Social Psychology Research Methods The Social Self	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3
2	6/29-7/5	Perceiving Persons Attitudes	Chapter 4 Chapter 6 <b>Writing Assignment #1 Due 7/3</b>
<b>Exam 1 Open Thursday 7/2-Tuesday 7/7</b>			
3	7/6-7/12	Conformity Group Processes	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
4	7/13-19	Attraction and Close Relationships Helping Others	Chapter 9 Chapter 10 <b>Writing Assignment #2 Due 7/17</b>
5	7/20-26	Aggression	Chapter 11
<b>Exam 2 Open Thursday 7/23- Tuesday 7/28</b>			
6	7/27-8/2	Prejudice, Stereotyping, Discrimination Applying Social Psychology: Law	Chapter 5 Chapter 12
7	8/3-9	Applying Social Psychology: Business Applying Social Psychology: Health	Chapter 13 Chapter 14 <b>Writing Assignment #3 Due 8/7</b>
<b>Exam 3 Open Thursday 8/6-Wednesday 8/12</b>			

**\*This schedule is subject to change.**