

PSY360-02 – Social Psychology, Winter 2017

T/Th, 2:30-3:45pm, 2120 ASH

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Office Hours: T/Th 1:15-2:15
(and by appointment)

Textbook:

Kassin, S.M., Fein, S., & Markus, H.R. (2017). *Social Psychology* (10th Ed). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Course Content:

This course provides an introduction to the field of social psychology, the psychological study of individuals' relations with their social environment. During the semester we will discuss a number of psychological theories and areas of research, such as the use of information in forming impressions of others, the behavior of individuals in groups, causes of stereotypes and discrimination, and the influence of others on self-esteem. In addition to developing an understanding of the foundations of social psychology, you will be encouraged to think critically about and discuss issues directly related to social psychology, such as the application of psychological research to social issues.

Because we are by nature social animals, many of the topics we discuss will seem very familiar. Although this familiarity generally makes the course interesting and relevant to “real life,” it may also make the material we cover seem deceptively easy. You are likely to find the course challenging, so be prepared to spend a significant amount of time outside of class time on course-related work. Class attendance is not required but is highly recommended, as we will discuss a number of topics not covered (or covered in less detail) in the textbook.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester you should have a good understanding of the following social psychological phenomena, theories, and research:

- Influences of individualism and collectivism on social behavior
- Dominant social psychological motives
- The role of norms and social roles in social behavior
- Cognitive, affective and motivational aspects of the self-concept
- Social influences on the self-concept, self-esteem, and self-presentation
- Cognitive heuristics and biases used in self-perception and social perception
- Types and manifestations of racism and sexism, and their consequences
- Social, cultural, and cognitive influences on the prejudice and discrimination

- Psychological interventions for racism and other forms of discrimination
- Types of social influence and factors leading to them
- Causes and consequences of compliance and obedience
- Social facilitation, social loafing, and other performance-related effects of social contexts
- Group performance & the influence of task type, member characteristics, and context
- Groupthink, biased information sampling, and other group decision making phenomena
- Media and other social influences on aggression
- The role of weapons and other aggressive cues
- The role of cognitions and learning in aggression
- Research related to social psychological interventions for aggression
- Theory and research related to affiliation, attraction, and close relationships
- Research related to topics in applied social psychology

In addition, by the end of the semester you should have developed or further developed the following:

- The ability to think critically, especially as related to interpreting and applying social psychological theory and research
- The ability to work in groups to discuss and critically interpret readings from the formal psychological literature
- The ability to integrate published research and theory on social psychological topics and apply them to “real life” situations

Disability Support Resources:

If you need academic accommodations beyond those given to the entire class, please contact Disability Support Resources (<http://www.gvsu.edu/dsr>) at 331-2490 as soon as possible, then contact Prof. Shupe to discuss your specific needs.

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to do original work and to not take or receive the efforts of another person on any exam, quiz, or assignment, use unauthorized resources on exams, or plagiarize. You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures related to academic integrity for PSY360. If you are uncertain about whether an action constitutes plagiarism or another breach of academic integrity, please contact Prof. Shupe for clarification.

The Use of Electronic Devices during Class:

Please turn off all cell phones before coming to class (and leave them off). You may use a laptop or tablet during class to take notes for PSY360, if you sit in the back of the classroom and are not disruptive to other students.

Evaluation:

Final grades will be based on your performance on four exams, three quizzes, and three homework assignments.

Exams. There will be four exams, consisting of multiple choice and free response questions and worth 35 points each. Students who miss an exam due to an excused absence (e.g., documented illness) will be permitted to take a make-up exam. When at all possible, arrangements for a make-up exam should be made with Prof. Shupe before the regularly scheduled exam.

Quizzes. Grades will also be based on three 5-point quizzes, over assigned readings from the social psychological literature. Students who miss a quiz due to an excused absence will be permitted to take a make-up quiz. When possible, these arrangements should be made with Prof. Shupe before the regularly scheduled quiz.

Homework assignments. Finally, grades will be based on four homework assignments, requiring you to summarize a theory or phenomenon or to apply theory and research to one or more specific contexts. One of the assignments will be worth 5 points, and the other three will be worth 10 points.

Semester Grades:

As stated above, final grades will be based on your performance on four 35-point exams, three 5-point quizzes, and four homework assignments worth a total of 45 points. They will be determined using the grading scale below.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentages</u>
A	92.5-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87.5-89.5%
B	82.5-87%
B-	80-82%
C+	77.5-79.5%
C	72.5-77%
C-	70-72%
D+	67.5-69.5%
D	60-67%
F	0-59.5%

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings	Exams, Quizzes, Assignments
1/10	Intro. to PSY360; Motives	Ch. 1	
1/12	Culture, norms, & roles		
1/17	The social self	Ch. 3	Homework 1 due (10pts)
1/19	The social self	Ch. 3	
1/24	The social self	Ch. 3	Quiz 1 – Morgan et al. (2011)
1/26	Intro to social cognition; Biases	pp. 123-134	Homework 2 due (10 pts)
1/31			EXAM 1
2/2	Stereotypes	pp. 190-193	
2/7	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
2/9	Prejudice & discrimination: theories	Ch. 5	Homework 3 due (5 pts)
2/14	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
2/16	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	Quiz 2 – Calogero & Tylka (2014)
2/21	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
2/23			EXAM 2
2/28	Conformity	Ch. 7	
3/2	Conformity	Ch. 7	
3/7-3/9		Spring Break	
3/14	Conformity: obedience	Ch. 7	
3/16	Aggression	Ch. 11	Quiz 3 – Welsch et al. (2015)
3/21	Aggression	Ch. 11	
3/23	Aggression	Ch. 11	
3/28	Aggression: interventions	Ch. 11	
3/30			EXAM 3
4/4	Attraction & close relationships		
4/6	Applied psychology activity		
4/11	Attraction & close relationships		Homework 4 due (10pts)
4/13	Group processes	Ch. 8	
4/8	Group processes	Ch. 8	
4/20	Group processes	Ch. 8	
			EXAM 4

* Note: March 10 is the deadline for dropping the course with a grade of “W”

Readings for Quizzes

Quiz 1

Morgan, G.S., Wisneski, D.C., & Skitka, L.J. (2011). The expulsion from Disneyland: The social psychological impact of 9/11. *American Psychologist*, 66, 447-454.

Quiz 2

Calogero, R.M., & Tylka, T.L. (2014). Sanctioning resistance to sexual objectification: An integrative system justification perspective. *Journal of Social Issues*, 70, 763-778. doi: 10.1111/josi.12090

Quiz 3

Welsch, D.T., Ordonez, L.D., Snyder, D.G., & Christian, M. (2015). The slippery slope: How small ethical transgressions pave the way for larger future transgressions. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 100, 114-127.