

PSY360-01 – Social Psychology, Fall 2016

T/Th, 2:30-3:45pm, 178 LOH

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Office Hours: T/Th 1:15-2:15

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:

- Some important influences of individualism and collectivism on social behavior
- Important social psychological motives
- The role of norms and social roles in social behavior
- Theory and research related to the cognitive, affective and motivational aspects of the self-concept
- Social influences on the self-concept
- Theory and research on self-esteem and self-presentation
- Cognitive heuristics and biases used in social perception

- Types and manifestations of racism and sexism, and their consequences
- Theory and research on social, cultural, and cognitive influences on the development of prejudice and discrimination
- Research on psychological interventions for racism and other forms of discrimination
- Theory and research related to social influence
- Research on causes and consequences of compliance and obedience
- Theory and research related to social facilitation, social loafing, and other performance-related effects of social contexts
- Theory and research related to group performance, including the influence of task type, member characteristics, and context
- Theory and research related to groupthink and other group decision making phenomena
- Theory and research related to media and other social & situational influences on 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.

Evaluation:

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

Exams. Grades will be based in part on four exams, each covering 2-3 major topics. The exams will consist of multiple choice and free response questions and will be worth 35 points each. Students who miss an exam due to an excused absence (i.e., documented illness or other urgent situation) 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 day of 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 (i.e., documented illness or other urgent situation) will be permitted to take a make-up quiz. When possible, these arrangements should be made with Prof. Shupe before the day of the scheduled quiz.

Homework assignments. Finally, final grades will be based on three 10-point homework assignments, each requiring a 2-3 page paper applying social psychological theory and research to one or more specific contexts. Instructions for the assignments will be posted on Blackboard at least one week before the relevant due dates.

Semester Grades:

As stated above, grades will be based on your performance on four 35-point exams, three 5-point quizzes, and three 10-point homework assignments. They will be determined using the rubric below.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentages</u>	<u>Point range</u>
A	92.5-100%	171-185
A-	90-92%	166-170
B+	87.5-89.5%	162-165
B	82.5-87%	153-161
B-	80-82%	148-152
C+	77.5-79.5%	143-147
C	72.5-77%	134-142
C-	70-72%	130-133
D+	67.5-69.5%	125-129
D	60-67%	111-124
F	0-59.5%	0-110

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Chapter	Topics	Exams, Quizzes, & Assignments
8/30	Ch. 1	Introduction to PSY360; Dominant motives	
9/1		Culture, norms, & roles	
9/6		No class – Labor Day break	
9/8	Ch. 3	The social self	Homework #1 due
9/13	Ch. 3	The social self	
9/15	Ch. 3	The social self	Quiz 1 – Morgan et al. (2011)
9/20	Ch. 3	The social self	
9/22			EXAM 1
9/27	pp. 123-134	Introduction to social cognition	
9/29	pp. 190-193	Stereotypes	
10/4	Ch. 5	Prejudice & discrimination	
10/6	Ch. 5	Prejudice & discrimination	Quiz 2 – Calogero & Tylka (2014)
10/11	Ch. 5	Prejudice & discrimination	
10/13	Ch. 5	Prejudice & discrimination	
10/18	Ch. 5	Prejudice & discrimination	
10/20			EXAM 2
10/25	Ch. 7	Conformity	
10/27	Ch. 7	Conformity	
11/1	Ch. 7; Ch. 11	Conformity; Aggression	Quiz 3 – Welsch et al. (2015)
11/3		Applying social psychology	
11/8	Ch. 11	Aggression	Homework #2 due
11/10	Ch. 11	Aggression	
11/15	Ch. 11	Aggression	
11/17			EXAM 3
11/22	Ch. 8	Group processes	
11/24		No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
11/29	Ch. 8	Group processes	
12/1	Ch. 8	Group processes	
12/6	Ch. 9	Attraction & close relationships	Homework #3 due
12/8	Ch. 9	Attraction & close relationships	
		T, 12/13, 4pm	EXAM 4

Note: Deadline to drop the course and receive a “W” grade is October 28

Readings for Quizzes

Quiz 1 (Th, 9/15)

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 (Th, 10/6)

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 (T, 11/1)

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.