

PSY360 – Social Psychology, Winter 2020

Section 02: T/Th, 10-11:15am, 2310 ASH

Section 04: T/Th, 11:30-12:45, 2310 ASH

Professor: Dr. Ellen Shupe
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Office Hours: T 1:30-2:30 & 4-5pm
Th 1:30-2:30pm

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 the social environment's influence on human behavior and cognitions. During the semester we will discuss a number of psychological theories and areas of research, such as how individuals use social information in understanding themselves, the behavior and decision making of people working in groups, causes and consequences of discrimination, and social explanations for aggressive behavior. 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.

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

Class Policies:

Academic integrity. As with other courses at GVSU, you are expected to do your own work in PSY360 and to not plagiarize or cheat in any way. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: 1) taking or receiving help from others during exams or quizzes; 2) attempting to pass off someone else's work as your own; 3) using ideas, sentences, or phrases from a source without proper citation; 4) copying part or all of another student's answers on assignments; 5) completing part or all of an assignment for another student; and 6) submitting part or all of an assignment that has been previously graded or is being submitted concurrently for another course. You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures related to academic integrity for PSY360. If you are unsure if a specific action constitutes a breach of academic integrity, please contact Prof. Shupe for clarification. Cheating and plagiarism will likely result in a zero on the relevant exam, quiz or assignment, reported to the Chair of the Psychology Department, and documented in your student record.

The use of electronic devices during class. Because research suggests the use of electronic devices in the classroom often interferes with learning, the use of laptops, surface computers, tablets, cell phones, and other devices during class sessions is strongly discouraged. If you believe using a tablet or other device is important to your learning, please plan to sit in the back row of the classroom or make other arrangements with Prof. Shupe.

Other GSVU policies. In addition to the policies described above, you will be expected to comply with all course-related policies at GVSU (see <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/> for a complete listing).

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester you should have a good understanding of the following:

- The scientific method as it applies to social psychological phenomena
- Dominant social psychological motives
- Influences of individualism and collectivism on social behavior
- 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
- The maintenance and change of attitudes; the relation between attitudes & behavior
- Types of social influence and factors leading to them
- Intergroup conflict & modes of conflict resolution
- Factors related to compliance, obedience, and other forms of influence
- Media and other social influences on aggression
- The roles of aggressive cues, cognitions, and learning in aggression
- Theory and research related to moral disengagement and deindividuation
- Research related to social psychological interventions for aggression
- Social facilitation, social loafing, and other performance-related effects of social contexts
- The influence of task type, member characteristics, and context on group performance
- Groupthink, biased information sampling, and other group decision making phenomena

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

- The ability to think critically, especially as related to interpreting and applying social psychological theory and research to people's experiences in everyday social life
- 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

Evaluation:

Semester grades will be based on your performance on exams, quizzes, and homework assignments.

Exams. There will be three 50-point exams, consisting of multiple choice and free response questions. The first two exams will take place during class periods. The third exam will take place during finals week and will cover material related to conflict and group processes, as well as a number of theories and phenomena discussed throughout the semester. Students who miss an exam due to a documented, excused absence (such as an illness, court appearance, or family

emergency) will be permitted to take a make-up exam.

Quizzes. Semester grades will also be based on six 5-point quizzes. Three of the quizzes will be over assigned articles which will be available through e-reserve on the library's website. The other quizzes will be over material covered in the readings or in recent class sessions. Although there will be a total of seven quizzes, the lowest grade for each student will be dropped. Students who miss a quiz due to a documented, excused absence will be permitted to take a make-up quiz.

Assignments. There will also be two 10-point homework assignments, requiring the application of social psychological theory and/or research to one or more "real-life" contexts. Instructions for the assignments will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard.

Semester grades 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
1/7	Introduction to the course; Motives		
1/9	Culture & norms		
1/14	The social self	Ch. 3	
1/16	The social self	Ch. 3	Assignment 1 due at 5pm
1/21	The social self; Social cognition	pp. 123-134	
1/23	Social cognition; Stereotypes	pp. 190-193	Quiz: Rich & Zaragoza (2016)
1/28	Stereotypes; Prejudice/discrimination	Ch. 5	
1/30	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
2/4	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
2/6	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	Quiz: Calogero & Tylka (2014)
2/11			Exam 1
2/13	Attitudes & attitude change	Ch. 6	
2/18	Attitudes & attitude change	Ch. 6	Quiz
2/20	Social influence	Ch. 7	
2/25	Social influence	Ch. 7	
2/27	Social influence	Ch. 7	Quiz
3/3-3/5	No classes - Spring break		
3/10	Moral disengagement/deindividuation		Quiz: Welsch et al. (2015)
3/12	Aggression	Ch. 11	
3/17	Aggression	Ch. 11	Quiz
3/19	Aggression	Ch. 11	
3/24			Exam 2
3/26	Conflict & conflict resolution	TBA	
3/31	Conflict & conflict resolution	TBA	
4/2	Group processes	Ch. 8	
4/7	Group processes	Ch. 8	Assignment 2 due at 5pm
4/9	Group processes	Ch. 8	Quiz
4/14	Group processes	Ch. 8	
4/16	Review for final		
Final Exam: <u>Tuesday, 4/21 at 10am</u> (Section 04) & <u>Thursday, 4/23 at 10am</u> (Section 02)			

Non-textbook Readings for Quizzes

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

Rich, P.R., & Zaragoza, M.S. (2016). The continued influence of implied and explicitly stated misinformation in news reports. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition, 42*, 62-74.

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.

Note: These readings are on e-reserve, on GVSU library's website