

PSY360 – Social Psychology, Winter 2018

Section 02: T/Th, 10-11:15am-, A1165 MAK

Section 05: T/Th, 11:30-12:45pm, A1165 MAK

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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. Because classes will be highly participatory, and because we will discuss a number of topics not covered (or covered in less detail) in the textbook, regular class attendance is required.

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 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

Academic Integrity:

As in 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, or a failing grade in the course, reported to the Dean of Students and the Dean of CLAS, and documented in your student record.

The Use of Electronic Devices during Class:

Unless otherwise noted, the use of laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices will not be allowed during class meetings. Please turn off cell phones before class (and leave them off!) If you need to use an electronic device due to a documented disability, contact Prof. Shupe to make the appropriate arrangements.

Disability Support Resources:

If you need academic accommodations due to a learning or physical, please provide Prof. Shupe with appropriate documentation from Disability Support Resources (<http://www.gvsu.edu/dsr>; 331-2490).

Emergency Preparedness:

If there is a fire alarm during class, immediately proceed to the nearest exit. For more information about emergency evacuation procedures, please contact GVSU Campus Security and/or refer to the following website: <http://www.gvsu.edu/emergency/evacuation-6.htm>.

Evaluation:

Final grades will be based on your performance on exams, quizzes, and 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 five 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. You will also be required to complete two 10-point homework assignments, requiring you to apply theory and/or research to one or more “real-life” contexts. Instructions for each assignment will be posted on Blackboard at least one week before the relevant due date.

Semester Grades:

Final grades will be based on your performance on the 4 exams, 5 quizzes, and 2 homework assignments and 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
1/9	Intro. to PSY360; Motives	Ch. 1	
1/11	Culture, norms, & roles		
1/16	The social self	Ch. 3	Homework 1 due
1/18	The social self	Ch. 3	
1/23	The social self	Ch. 3	Quiz 1 – Morgan et al. (2011)
1/25	Intro to social cognition; biases	pp. 123-134	
1/30	Intro to social cognition; biases	pp. 123-134	Quiz 2 – Rich & Zaragoza (2016)
2/1			EXAM 1
2/6	Stereotypes	pp. 190-193	
2/8	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
2/13	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
2/15	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	Quiz 3 – Calogero & Tylka (2014)
2/20	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
2/22			EXAM 2
2/27	Conformity	Ch. 7	
3/1	Conformity	Ch. 7	
3/6-3/8	<i>Spring Break</i>		
3/13	Conformity (obedience)	Ch. 7	
3/15	Aggression	Ch. 11	Quiz 4 – Welsch et al. (2015)
3/20	Aggression	Ch. 11	
3/22	Aggression	Ch. 11	
3/27	Aggression	Ch. 11	
3/29			EXAM 3
4/3	Group processes	Ch. 8	
4/5	No class – work on homework 2		Homework 2 due at 5pm
4/10	Group processes	Ch. 8	
4/12	Group processes	Ch. 8	
4/17	Helping Others/Prosocial behavior	Ch. 10	Quiz 5 – Ellis & Abdi (2017)
4/19	Helping Others/Prosocial behavior	Ch. 10	
	Finals Week		EXAM 4

* Note: March 9th 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

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.

Quiz 3

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 4

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.

Quiz 5

Ellis, B.H., & Abdi, S. (2017). Building community resilience to violent extremism through genuine partnerships. *American Psychologist*, 72, 289-300.