

## **PSY360-02 – Social Psychology, Fall 2018**

T/Th, 2:30-3:45pm, 2302 ASH

**Professor:** Dr. Ellen Shupe  
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**Office Hours:** T/Th 1:30-2:30pm  
(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 how we use social information in understanding ourselves, 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.

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 highly recommended.

### **Course Objectives:**

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

- 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
- Types of social influence and factors leading to them
- Intergroup conflict & modes of conflict resolution
- 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
- The scientific method as it applies to social psychological phenomena

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 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

### **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, 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.** The use of cell phones will not be allowed during class, so please turn phones off and put them away before class begins. Although laptops are strongly discouraged, students may use them if they sit in the back of the classroom and do not disturb others. They may be used only to take notes for PSY360.

**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).

**Evaluation:**

Final grades will be based on your performance on 4 exams, 4 quizzes, and 3-5 assignments.

Exams. There will be four exams, consisting of multiple choice and free response questions and worth 40 points each. The fourth exam will take place during finals week and will cover material from chapter 8, and 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 a family emergency) will be permitted to take a make-up exam. Make-up exams will be scheduled outside of class time and may have a different format as regularly scheduled exams.

Quizzes. You will also have four 5-point quizzes over assigned articles from psychological journals. The assigned articles are listed on the last page of the syllabus and will be available via e-reserve. 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 3-5 homework assignments, requiring you to apply social psychological theory and/or research to one or more “real-life” contexts. Each assignment will be worth 5-10 points, for a total of about 30-40 points. Instructions for the assignments will be discussed in class and, in most cases, posted on Blackboard.

**Semester Grades:**

Final grades will be based on your performance on the four 40-point exams, four 5-point quizzes, and 3-5 assignments; 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
8/28	Intro. to PSY360; Motives	Ch. 1	
8/30	Culture, norms, & roles		
9/4	<i>No Class – Labor Day Break</i>		
9/6	Culture, norms, & roles; The social self	Ch. 3	
9/11	The social self	Ch. 3	Quiz 1 – Morgan et al. (2011)
9/13	The social self	Ch. 3	
9/18	Intro. to social cognition; biases	pp. 123-134	Quiz 2 – Rich & Zaragoza (2016)
9/20	Stereotypes	pp. 190-193	
9/25			EXAM 1
9/27	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
10/2	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
10/4	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
10/9	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	Quiz 3 – Calogero & Tylka (2014)
10/11	Conformity	Ch. 7	
10/16	Conformity	Ch. 7	
10/18	Conformity	Ch. 7	
10/23			EXAM 2
10/25	Conflict & conflict resolution	TBD	
10/30	Conflict & conflict resolution	TBD	
11/1	Conflict & conflict resolution	TBD	
11/6	Moral disengagement; Aggression		Quiz 4 – Welsch et al. (2015)
11/8	Aggression	Ch. 11	
11/13	Aggression	Ch. 11	
11/15	Aggression	Ch. 11	
11/20			EXAM 3
11/22	No class – Thanksgiving break		
11/27	Group processes	Ch. 8	
11/29	Group processes	Ch. 8	
12/4	Group processes	Ch. 8	
12/6	Group processes; Review	Ch. 8	
	T, 12/11/18; 4-5:50pm		FINAL EXAM

\* Note: October 26th 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.