

# PSY360 (Section 3) – Social Psychology Fall 2016

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Kristy K. Dean, Ph.D

Department of Psychology

Office: 2138 AuSable Hall

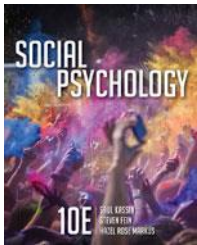
Email: [deankr@gvsu.edu](mailto:deankr@gvsu.edu) (\*preferred method of correspondence)

Phone: 616-331-2412

Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10-11am and by appointment

## COURSE OVERVIEW

**Meeting Times and Place:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 12-12:50pm, ASH 2120



**Textbook:** Our textbook is titled Social Psychology (10<sup>th</sup> ed.) by Kassin, Fein, & Markus (2016, Wadsworth Cengage). **Note #1:** This textbook is required and necessary if you are committed to learning the content in this course. A copy has been placed on Course Reserve in the library. **Note #2:** You \*could\* use an earlier edition, however content often differs across editions and you are ultimately responsible for the content in the 10<sup>th</sup> edition. **Note #13:** Additional readings will be distributed via the course's Blackboard website.

**Course Description:** Social psychology is the scientific study of how people influence, and are influenced by the world around them. Some of the topics we will cover include the self-concept, stereotyping and prejudice, close relationships, aggression, persuasion, and conformity. In general, this course will introduce you to the theories and research methodologies of social psychology and how these are used to understand, predict, and sometimes control how the social world influences our ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving. More specifically, this course will cultivate your skills for critically analyzing – and therefore better understanding – social situations encountered in daily life by focusing on both the intra- and inter-personal processes that impact our behavior.

**Prerequisite(s):** PSY101 (Introductory Psychology) OR HNR234 (Society and Self: Psychological Perspective) OR SOC201 (Introduction to Sociology)

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of this course, students should have a better understanding of how the person AND the social world combine to influence the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of ourselves and others. Specifically, students will be able to...

- Identify and describe a variety of social psychological concepts used to explain social behavior.
- Apply these concepts to problems in everyday social life and hypothetical situations.
- Evaluate and expand upon social psychological concepts.

- Understand the scientific method as it applies to research within social psychology.

**Class Format:** The class is primarily lecture-based, but will include additional methods to foster active participation (i.e., class discussions, question-answer sessions, in-class activities, etc.) Class sessions highlight important concepts/findings within the text, however the class sessions and the text supplement each other, too; both cover material that will not (and cannot) be covered in the other format. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that students read the assigned readings PRIOR to attending the corresponding lecture, and attend all class sessions (note the reference to class participation and in-class assignments below).

**Active Engagement with the Course Material:** To understand the material covered in ANY course, active engagement with the course material is necessary, especially outside of class. Teaching experts suggest that students devote approximately 2-3 hours a week to studying for every 1 credit of coursework. Given this course is 3 credits, this means that if you desire an “A” in this course, you should be willing to devote 6-9 hours a week to studying for this course. This can vary – some students should devote more time, some students can get away with less. However it is unreasonable to expect to earn a grade above a B- if the only “studying” you do is reading the textbook and taking notes on the study guide. Studying effectively for a 300-level Psychology course involves more than merely underlying sentences, memorizing definitions and the like. The Blackboard website has several resources (in External Links) that will help you identify and implement useful study strategies. In general, when you are reading the textbook, reviewing your notes, or studying, consider asking yourself the following questions to determine if you \*really\* understand the material you’ve been studying: 1) Can I describe the main point of this paragraph, or the “take home message” of the study described without looking at the book or notes?; 2) Can I apply these concepts to understand hypothetical or “real world” situations? In other words, can I generate new examples of these concepts?; 3) Can I describe how these concepts relate to other concepts I’ve learned in this course?

### **GRADING POLICY**

Course grades will be based on total points earned from the following sources:

| <b>COURSE ACTIVITY</b>         |                         | <b>POINT VALUE</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Exams #1, #2, and #3           | 3 x 30 pts. each        | 90 pts             |
| Final Exam                     |                         | 60 pts             |
| Class Participation            | several x 1-2 pts.      | 25 pts             |
| Preparation Quizzes #1, #2, #3 | 3 x 6 pts. each         | 18 pts             |
| Preparation Quiz for Final     |                         | 12 pts             |
| Journal Article Assignment     |                         | 30 pts             |
| Section Assignments #1, #2, #3 | choose 2 x 20 pts. each | 40 pts             |
| Extra Credit                   | 2 x 8 pts. each         | 16 pts             |

\*These course activities are subject to change. Total of 275 points, not including extra credit.

**Exams:** There will be three, non-cumulative, multiple-choice exams in this course, and a cumulative final exam. Study guides for each exam will be posted on Blackboard a week

before the exam. Make-up exams will be given only in rare circumstances (see Policy section below).

**Class Participation:** To encourage active engagement and attendance, students will complete in-class activities throughout the semester that assess understanding and use of content covered during class sessions. These particular activities are begun and completed during the class session, and will be worth approximately 1-2 points. NOTE THAT THESE IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES CANNOT BE MADE UP. If you miss class, for whatever reason (even if that absence is excused), you miss out on these points. This is a minimal loss of points (1-2 points each day), especially considering the amount of extra credit available.

**Preparation Quizzes:** In an attempt to encourage distributed learning (i.e., studying continuously over the course of the semester, rather than only right before an exam) and help students distinguish between the topics they know well vs. don't understand, four quizzes are assigned, to be completed several days before each exam. These quizzes will be completed through Blackboard and will cover topics that will appear on the upcoming exam. You are encouraged to use your book and notes but NOT other people when completing the quizzes. The deadline to complete all quizzes is 5pm on the dates stated below.

**Journal Article Assignment:** The purpose of the Journal Article Assignment is to help you become a better (read: more confident, more accurate) consumer of social psychology by encouraging you to interact more deeply with primary, empirical sources in the field. I have compiled a list of articles from *Psychological Science*, a well-respected academic journal in psychology, that correspond to the general topics of the course. From this list, you will 1) select and read one article, and then demonstrate your understanding by 2) completing a worksheet with a series of questions about different components of the article (e.g., introduction, methods, results, discussion). A separate document (on Blackboard) will describe this assignment in more detail and provide useful tips and strategies. See sections below for deadline and relevant policies.

**Section Assignments:** Our textbook and course are separated into three main sections: Social Perception, Social Influence, and Social Relations. Our section assignments, then, will correspond with each of these overarching section. Specifically, these assignments will involve 1) reading (or otherwise interacting with) material beyond the textbook and class sessions, 2) comparing/contrasting this new knowledge with what has been learned from these other sources, and 3) applying this new knowledge to provide new insights into everyday social behavior. More specific descriptions for each section assignment are available in separate documents (see "Social Perception Section Assignment", "Social Influence Section Assignment", and "Social Relations Section Assignment" on Blackboard). Each assignment is worth 20 points. Two section assignments are required and students can choose which two of the three possible assignments they want to complete. See sections below for deadlines and relevant policies.

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** As you proceed through this semester, you will start to notice many of our social psychological topics and processes "in action" in the world around you.

To aid your understanding of the real-world relevance of the course's content, extra credit assignments will involve identifying a social psychological principle/idea/theory and describing how it is relevant to your life in some way (i.e., applying the principle to better understand yourself, someone else, some incident/event, etc.). An additional document (available on Blackboard) will provide instructions and tips for completing the extra credit write-up. Up to 16 extra credit points can be earned (8 points per assignment).

This grading scale will be used to determine final grades.

| Grade | % Earned     | Grade | % Earned       |
|-------|--------------|-------|----------------|
| A     | 94 and above | C     | 73 – 76.9      |
| A-    | 90 – 93.9    | C-    | 70 – 72.9      |
| B+    | 87 – 89.9    | D+    | 67 – 69.9      |
| B     | 83 – 86.9    | D     | 63 – 66.9      |
| B-    | 80 – 82.9    | F     | 62.9 and below |
| C+    | 77 – 79.9    |       |                |

#### **SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS\***

| <u>Date</u>  | <u>Readings</u> | <u>Scheduled Topic</u>                    |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Aug. 29 <sup>th</sup> (M), 31 <sup>st</sup> (W)                                | Chapter 1       | Introduction to the Course                |
| Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup> (F), 7 <sup>th</sup> (W), 9 <sup>th</sup> (F)            | Chapter 2       | Research Methods                          |
| <b>Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> (M)</b>  |                 | <b>NO CLASS – Labor Day</b>               |
| Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> (M), 14 <sup>th</sup> (W), 16 <sup>th</sup> (F)         | Chapter 3       | The Social Self                           |
| <b>Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> (F)</b>   |                 | <b>Journal Article Assignment Due</b>     |
| Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> (M), 21 <sup>st</sup> (W), 23 <sup>rd</sup> (F)         | Chapter 4       | Person Perception                         |
| Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup> (M), 28 <sup>th</sup> (W), 30 <sup>th</sup> (F)         | Chapter 5       | Stereotypes, Prejudice,<br>Discrimination |
| <b>Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> (W)</b>   |                 | <b>Preparation Quiz #1 Due</b>            |
| <b>Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> (M)</b>   |                 | <b>EXAM #1</b>                            |
| Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup> (W), 7 <sup>th</sup> (F), 10 <sup>th</sup> (M)            | Chapter 6       | Attitudes                                 |
| <b>Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> (M)</b>  |                 | <b>Social Perception Assignment Due</b>   |
| Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup> (W), 14 <sup>th</sup> (F), 17 <sup>th</sup> (M)          | Chapter 7       | Conformity                                |
| Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup> (W), 21 <sup>st</sup> (F), 24 <sup>th</sup> (M)          | Chapter 8       | Group Processes                           |
| <b>Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> (F)</b>  |                 | <b>Preparation Quiz #2 Due</b>            |
| <b>Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> (W)</b>  |                 | <b>EXAM #2</b>                            |
| Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup> (F), Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup> (M), Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup> (W) | Chapter 9       | Attraction and Close Relationships        |
| <b>Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> (W)</b>   |                 | <b>Social Influence Assignment Due</b>    |

|   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup> (F), 7 <sup>th</sup> (M), 9 <sup>th</sup> (W)    | Chapter 10 | Prosocial Behavior                                       |
| Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup> (F), 14 <sup>th</sup> (M), 16 <sup>th</sup> (W) | Chapter 11 | Aggression   |
| <b>Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> (M)</b>                                       |            | <b>Preparation Quiz #3 Due</b>                           |
| <b>Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> (F)</b>                                       |            | <b>EXAM #3</b>   |
| Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup> (M), 28 <sup>th</sup> (M), 30 <sup>th</sup> (W) | Chapter 12 | Law  |
| <b>Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> (W), 25<sup>th</sup> (F)</b>                  |            | <b>NO CLASS - Thanksgiving</b>                           |
| <b>Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> (M)</b>                                       |            | <b>Social Relations Assignment Due</b>                   |
| Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup> (F), 5 <sup>th</sup> (M), 7 <sup>th</sup> (W)    | Chapter 13 | Business   |
| Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup> (F)  |            | Final Thoughts and Review                                |
| <b>Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> (F)</b>  |            | <b>Extra Credit Deadline<br/>Preparation Quiz #4 Due</b> |
| <b>Wednesday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:50pm</b>                      |            | <b>FINAL EXAM</b>  |

\*This schedule (including assigned readings) is subject to change. Students are responsible for any changes announced in class or on Blackboard.

### **COURSE POLICIES**

**Withdrawing from a Course:** The ultimate deadline for withdrawing from this course (or any course at GVSU) is Friday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

**Attendance Policy:** You are adults, so you should be able to regulate your behavior and evaluate the costs and benefits of your decisions, including whether or not you attend class sessions. Attendance is not required, but strongly recommended. If you need notes from a class session you missed, you are strongly encouraged to download the abbreviated lecture notes from Blackboard and supplement these with notes from your classmates.

**Late Work Policy:** Assignments should be turned in during class, in person. If this is not possible, deliver assignments to the Psychology Department Office (2224 AuSable Hall), NOT to the professor's office. An assignment is considered late if it is handed in after 4pm on the day the assignment is due. Late assignments will be penalized 3 points for each day it is late. Emailed assignments WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Exceptions to the late work policy will be made ONLY if documentation (e.g., doctor's note, police report, etc.) is provided and/or arrangements are made in advance to the assignment due date.

**Make-Up Policy:** Alternative days/times for the exam are negotiable if 1) you have a good reason and coordinate with the professor at least one week before the scheduled exam; or 2) there is a real emergency or illness that is documented (e.g., doctor's note, police report, etc.). Vacation travel (including going home early for the weekend) is not an acceptable reason for a make-up exam. It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor in a timely manner (within a week of the exam) and make arrangements for a make-up exam. If students miss

class and thereby miss a class participation activity, this activity CANNOT BE MADE UP, regardless of the reason for missing class.

**Classroom Conduct:** We are all adults capable of conducting ourselves in a civil and respectable manner. If you want to sleep, eat lunch, watch Netflix, text/chat with friends, etc. – do it somewhere else! These activities are rude and distracting to your classmates. Seriously, if you are unable or unwilling to regulate your behavior and pay attention for an hour, you need to address that issue immediately. Active participation in class activities and discussions is strongly encouraged – share your questions, ideas, and perspectives! But please be mindful of how much you contribute and whether you are preventing your classmates from contributing. It is okay to disagree with others, and it is okay to express non-mainstream views during discussions. However, bigotry and disrespect is completely unacceptable. Disrespectful students will be asked to leave, and this type of behavior may result in public ridicule and a meeting with campus police. Please think about what you want to say, edit if necessary, then speak.

**Individual Accommodations:** We all have lives outside this course, and these life experiences are important. Arrangements can be made to accommodate various life circumstances (e.g., illness, religious observances, university-related athletic or academic obligations, death of a loved one, etc.), but only if students contact the professor in a timely manner. In contrast, end-of-semester requests for “just a couple more points” or “additional extra credit assignments” are unfair to your classmates and do not demonstrate a sincere commitment to learning and will be denied. If you need academic accommodations because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact Disability Support Resources (DSR) at 331-2490. If you have a physical disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency situation, please let me know so I can develop a plan to assist you.

**Statement on Academic Dishonesty:** The following is adapted from the Student Code, Sections 223.00 and 223.01: The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind.

- a. No student shall knowingly procure, provide or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
- b. No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
- c. No student shall allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
- d. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded, or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course, without specific authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.
- e. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his/her own. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. The language or ideas taken from

another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs, to entire articles copied from the internet, books, periodicals, speeches, or from the writings of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgement also is considered plagiarism. In short, any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.

While students are encouraged to study together and help each other understand the course material, all assignments and exams should be the sole work of the individual student, not a collaborative effort (unless the assignment is explicitly described as collaborative). In addition to striving for academic honesty, your instructor also expects you to avoid any *appearance* of dishonesty. That is, avoid doing things (like looking at your phone during an exam) that are associated with academic dishonesty and thus raise concerns that you may be potentially dishonest in your work. Any violation of academic integrity, even on a small scale or on a small assignment, can result in a failing grade in the course.

**Blackboard:** The course Blackboard website (<http://bb.gvsu.edu>) is ESSENTIAL to your success in the course. It is the student's responsibility to visit Blackboard and stay current of the material posted in this forum. Blackboard will be used in the following ways:

- 1) **Grades:** All grades will be posted on Blackboard in a timely manner. For security reasons, I am very hesitant to discuss grades over email, and will only do so if the student initiates that conversation.
- 2) **Course materials:** All course materials (e.g., syllabus, assignments, supplemental articles) will be posted on Blackboard. Review guides will be posted one week before the scheduled exam date. Abbreviated lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard before class. I also like to post links to fun and/or educational Social Psychology-related weblinks on Blackboard, so if you have any to suggest, let me know.
- 3) **Announcements:** In addition to making announcements in class, all major announcements will be posted on Blackboard.
- 4) **Quizzes:** As mentioned earlier in the syllabus, four quizzes will be administered via Blackboard.
- 5) **Emails:** Many emails sent by the professor will be sent via Blackboard. Please make sure your email address in Blackboard is accurate. I respond to emails promptly (within 12-24 hours, if not sooner) when they are sent during normal business hours (8am to 5pm). Emails sent on weekends, holidays or in the evening may receive delayed responses because your professor enjoys having a life outside this course.

**Library Resources:** Gayle Schaub is the psychology librarian and she can provide you with individualized research assistance for all of your classes. Her office is in the Mary Idema Pew Library on the Allendale campus and she can be reached at [schaubg@gvsu.edu](mailto:schaubg@gvsu.edu) or 331-2629. Her psychology library subject guide (<http://libguides.gvsu.edu/psych>) contains links to all of the psychology databases and other specific resources for psychology students. The library also has Peer Research Consultants that can work with you one-on-one or in a small group to assist you with research. Information about Peer Research Consultants can be found on the library homepage (<http://www.gvsu.edu/library/>).