

## **PSY360 – Social Psychology, Fall 2019**

Section 03: T/Th, 2:30-3:45pm, 1310 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.

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, 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 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.

### **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 GVSU 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
- 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
- Situational factors influencing helping behavior and other prosocial behavior

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:**

Final grades will be based on your performance on 4 exams, 6 quizzes, and 2 homework assignments.

Exams. There will be four exams, consisting of multiple choice and free response questions. The first three exams will be worth 40 points and take place during class periods. The fourth exam will be worth 50 points and will take place during finals week. It will cover material from chapters 8 and 10, as well as a list 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. Make-up exams will be scheduled outside of class time, and they may have a different format than in-class exams.

Quizzes. You will also have six 5-point quizzes. Three of these quizzes will be over assigned articles. These articles are listed on the last page of the syllabus and will be available via the library's e-reserve system. The other three quizzes will be over material covered in the most recent classes. They are designed to help you keep up with class and see how well you understand the material. 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 you to apply 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:**

Final grades will be based on your performance on three 40-point exams, one 50-point exam, six 5-point quizzes, and two 10-point homework 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
8/27	Intro. to PSY360; Motives	Ch. 1	
8/29	Culture, norms, & roles		
9/3	The social self	Ch. 3	
9/5	The social self	Ch. 3	Assignment 1 due
9/10	The social self	Ch. 3	
9/12	Intro. to social cognition	pp. 123-134	Quiz: Chapter 3
9/17	Cognitive biases; Stereotypes	pp. 190-193	Quiz: Rich & Zaragoza (2016)
9/19			EXAM 1
9/24	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
9/26	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
10/1	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	
10/3	Prejudice & discrimination	Ch. 5	Quiz: Calogero & Tylka (2014)
10/8	Social influence	Ch. 7	Quiz: Chapter 5
10/10	Social influence	Ch. 7	
10/15	Social influence	Ch. 7	
10/17			EXAM 2
10/22	<b>No class - Fall break</b>		
10/24	Moral disengagement		Quiz: Welsch et al. (2015)
10/29	Aggression	Ch. 11	
10/31	Aggression	Ch. 11	
11/5	Aggression	Ch. 11	
11/7	Conflict & conflict resolution	TBA	Quiz: Chapter 11
11/12	Conflict & conflict resolution	TBA	
11/14	Conflict & conflict resolution	TBA	Assignment 2 due
11/19			EXAM 3
11/21	Group processes	Ch. 8	
11/26	Group processes	Ch. 8	
11/28	<b>No class - Thanksgiving Recess</b>		
12/3	Helping behavior	Ch. 10	
12/5	Helping behavior	Ch. 10	
	Th, 12/12, 2–3:50pm		FINAL EXAM

## Readings for Quizzes

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.

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

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**