

Social Psychology (PSY 360-02) (3 credits)
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 – 10:50am; ASH 2119
Fall 2025

Instructor: Ernest Park, Ph.D.

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I will try to respond to emails within 24 hours if they are received Monday-Friday. Please set up a meeting with me (e.g., during office hours) if you have any questions/concerns that may require a lengthy response. Please be aware that I may not respond to email inquiries that involve information that has already been covered in the syllabus or in class.

Office Hours: Monday 11am-12pm, Wednesday 3-5pm, and by appointment

Required Textbook:

Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H. R. (2025). *Social Psychology* (12th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

*This syllabus is subject to change. Changes (if any) will be announced during class, via email and/or in the class slides that are posted online. Students are responsible for keeping informed of any such notices.

Prerequisites: Undergrad level PSY 101 (minimum grade of D), or Undergrad level PSY 201 (minimum grade of D), or Undergrad level HNR 234 (minimum grade of D).

Course Description: This course is designed for undergraduate students interested in learning about how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by (1) situational factors (particularly other people), as well as (2) our membership in social groups. Throughout this course, we will be discussing the roles that both individual differences and situational factors play in guiding our everyday thoughts and actions. A primary goal of this course is to provide students with a foundation for understanding how people make sense of their lives and experiences, with an emphasis on contemporary theory and research.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester, students should be able to: 1) understand and explain contemporary theories, concepts and principles drawn from social psychology, 2) appropriately integrate related concepts, and 3) apply knowledge to more accurately describe, explain, and predict one's own social tendencies and those of others

Basis for grading:

Exam 1 = 100 points

Exam 2 = 150 points

In-class quizzes/activities (5 quizzes/activities worth 10 points each) = 50 points

Homework assignments (5 assignments worth 10 points each) = 50 points

Total possible points = 350 points

Number grade = Earned points/350 X 100 (grades ending with .499 and below will be rounded down, and .50 and above will be rounded up)

Grading scale:

A = 94 and above	C+ = 77-79	F = 59 and below
A- = 90-93	C = 73-76	
B+ = 87-89	C- = 70-72	
B = 83-86	D+ = 67-69	
B- = 80-82	D = 60-66	

Exams: Exams will be used to assess comprehension and memory skills. These tests will be completed in-person in the classroom. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Scantrons will be provided, but students need to bring their own No. 2 pencils. Students are responsible for knowing material from the text and any content discussed in class (including content from videos). Students will not be allowed to use any course materials during exams, and students are not allowed to talk about exam content with any other students who have not yet taken the exam (e.g., students enrolled in other sections of the class).

In-class quizzes/activities: There will be a total of 5 graded in-class quizzes/activities throughout the semester. The quizzes will each consist of 5 multiple-choice questions that cover *any material* that has been discussed in the text or in class by the time of the quiz. These will be “pop” quizzes (students will not be given advanced notice about the quiz). To receive credit, students must be seated in class at the time quizzes are distributed, and quizzes must be completed within the designated time. Since “pop” quizzes will cover any material discussed up to the time the quiz is taken, it is important for students to keep up with the assigned readings and to remember what has been covered throughout the semester.

Some weeks there may be a graded in-class activity instead of a quiz. These activities will include a graded component that requires students to submit their work by the designated due date. Details and instructions will be provided in class on the day of the assignment. The in-class quizzes/activities are unannounced and students must be in class and on time to earn points for these assignments. To maintain fairness to all, make-up opportunities cannot be granted (instead, when absences are justified the in-class quiz/assignment will be dropped from one’s overall grade; see class policies for late assignments and see me with any questions). Class attendance and attentiveness are thus strongly encouraged.

Homework assignments: Students will be required to complete 5 homework assignments. These are designed to provide students with the opportunity to thoughtfully apply principles that have been covered in class. More information about these assignments will be provided later in the semester.

Policies:

Grading: Students are not permitted to redo/re-take any assignments, quizzes, or exams, and so it is important to be prepared for class and on exam days. Please see me if you have questions about this policy.

Late assignments: If an exam, quiz or homework assignment deadline will be missed due to illness, I must be notified by email at least 1 hour **before** the scheduled due date. To turn in late work for reasons other than illness, students must contact me at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled due date. A valid excuse must be provided for any missed work and students should wait for approval from me before assuming the excuse is acceptable. **Exams, quizzes and/or assignments that are not turned in, or are turned in late and fail to meet these regulations will result in a zero.**

Integrity of Scholarship and Grades

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>

Truth and honesty: The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. The university expects that both faculty members and students will honor these principles and in so doing protect the validity of university grades. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in the planning and supervision of academic work, so that honest effort will be positively encouraged. Compliance shall include compliance with the following specific rules:

1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide, or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own.
5. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.

GVSU Statement on Plagiarism

Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches, or the writing of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment also is considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for ideas/materials taken from another is guilty of plagiarism. Such activity may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, or, if flagrant, dismissal from Grand Valley. For further information see the Student Code.

AI Policy Statement (adapted from Joscelyn Jurich - the Center for Engaged Pedagogy)

Our academic community depends on integrity, shared responsibility, and academic honesty. All work in this course must be your original work and completed in accordance with GVSU policies. You may not use ChatGPT or other generative AI software at any stage or in any phase in any type of work in this course. If you have questions about what is permissible at any point in the semester, please reach out to me so we can talk.

Disability: If you are in need of accommodations due to a learning, physical, or other disability you must present a memo to me from Disability Support Resources (DSR), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested reasonable accommodations. If you have not already done so, please contact the Disability Support Resources office (215 CON) by calling 331-2490 or email to access@gvsu.edu. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received a copy of the DSR issued memo. All discussions will remain confidential.

Well-being: Your health and your family's health should be a priority. If you are dealing with illness, sick family members, a bad internet connection, increased anxiety, childcare challenges, or any other issues, please reach out as soon as possible and we can talk about potential accommodations. GVSU remains committed to supporting you and is here to help you in times of financial need. Financial hardship funds may be available to help student's meet their basic needs, and help cover educational costs (such as housing, food, textbooks, and technology requirements) that a student could not otherwise pay out of pocket. Please visit the GVSU Special Circumstance & Financial Hardship Requests web page for more information.

Psych Friends Peer-to-Peer Mentors: Psych Friends mentors are upper-level psychology and behavioral neuroscience students who provide guidance and support in many areas, such as: effective studying and time management techniques, understanding the PSY and BNS major requirements, careers in the field, and the process of applying for graduate school. Visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/navigate> to schedule an online or in-person meeting today!

Cancelled classes: If the university is closed and classes are cancelled, any scheduled exam will take place the next class meeting (unless you are notified otherwise by me).

Students are expected to read the assigned chapter before the first lecture of the week

	Topic	Assignments Due
Week 1, starts Aug. 25	Syllabus Ch. 2: Doing Social Psychology Research	
Week 2, Sept. 1	NO CLASS on MONDAY (Labor Day; 9/1/25) Chapter 3: The Social Self (Wednesday)	HW1 due 9/5/25 (by 5pm)
Week 3, Sept. 8	Chapter 4: Perceiving Persons	Quiz/Activity 1
Week 4, Sept. 15	Chapter 5: Prejudice	HW2 due 9/19/25 (by 5pm)
Week 5, Sept. 22	Ch. 5 continued	Quiz/Activity 2
Week 6, Sept. 29	Chapter 6: Attitudes and persuasion	
Week 7, Oct. 6	Exam 1 (Monday) Chapter 7: Conformity (Wednesday)	Exam 1 on 10/6/25
Week 8, Oct. 13	Chapter 7 continued	HW3 due 10/17/25 (by 5pm)
Week 9, Oct. 20	NO CLASS on Monday (Fall Break; 10/20/25) Ch. 8: Group processes (Wednesday)	
Week 10, Oct. 27	Chapter 9: Attraction and Close Relationships	Quiz/Activity 3
Week 11, Nov. 3	Chapter 9 continued	HW4 due 11/7/25 (by 5pm)
Week 12, Nov. 10	Chapter 10: Helping Others	Quiz/Activity 4
Week 13, Nov. 17	Ch. 11: Aggression	HW5 due 11/21/25 (by 5pm)
Week 14, Nov. 24	Chapter 11 continued NO CLASSES on WED or FRI (Thanksgiving break; 11/26/25 and 11/28/25)	
Week 15, Dec. 1	Chapter 14: Health and Well-being	Quiz/Activity 5
	Final (Exam 2) Monday, December 8, 10 – 11:50am	Exam 2 on 12/8/25