

PSYCHOLOGY 360
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
Spring 2025

Professor: Christine Smith, Ph. D.
ASH 2221
331-2424
Office Hours: Online Office Hours by appointment @ via Zoom
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Method of Instruction: This course is taught under the **online designation**, meaning that the entire course is delivered online through Blackboard. You will find that this class affords you an incredible amount of flexibility with respect to when you engage with the course materials. However, it is important to note that a detailed calendar with due dates is presented in this syllabus and submitting each week's required work on or before the stated deadline is a critical determinant of successfully completing the course. We will use Blackboard for all of our online activity.

Technology Requirements and Help: All class specific technologies will be available to you through Blackboard. You will need to be able to open and save PDF files. Any technology related questions you have while taking this course can be answered by the helpdesk at GVSU (helpdesk@GVSU.edu). I will use the standard word processing program of GVSU. Word documents in the course site will be posted as .docx files. If this is not compatible with your digital device, please get in touch with me immediately. All work submitted for this course should be submitted as .docx files or PDF files.

Required Readings: All readings for the course are available as digital files posted to BB.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce you to the scientific study of human social behavior. From the readings, lectures, and application assignments you will find that one of the most exciting aspects of social psychology is how relevant it is to your everyday life. Throughout this course you can expect to develop knowledge of the rich variety of social psychological concepts, and to develop a better understanding of the scientific method as it applies to social psychological phenomena. The material presented in this course should prepare you for future study within the field of psychology and will also be useful in your work and in other parts of your life.

As a student, you are responsible, at a minimum, for reading the material and completing the assignments on time and retaining material presented in the lectures/readings. In some content-focused courses absorbing the material and repeating it back on exams is all that is required for a good grade. Such is not the case with this class, for I am more interested in your ability to conceptualize theoretical issues, apply material in new contexts, and energetically examine your social world.

Class Format: This course is reading and writing intensive. Success in this course is strongly dependent upon reading and thinking deeply about the assigned readings.

Assignments: Over the course of the semester, you will complete three short application projects that will require you to apply social psychological theory to real world events and to synthesize the material presented in lecture and in your readings. These projects and their due dates are listed in the course outline below and are to be submitted to BB. **Assignments submitted late will earn half credit only.**

Weekly Quizzes and Discussion Questions: At the end of each week's learning modules, students will be required to take a quiz on the material presented within the module. Quizzes and discussion questions need to be completed by midnight on Sunday of each module's respective week. The quizzes will be comprised of multiple-choice items and the discussion questions will be short answer/short essay questions. There will be weeks where the assessments will be divided across several content modules, however, the number of points in any given week will remain constant (30 points each week).

Academic Integrity: Each student is expected to pursue the academic goals and objectives in this course with the highest level of honesty and integrity. Representing someone's words or ideas as your own, whether done unintentionally or deliberately is plagiarism. Any student found plagiarizing will receive a grade of "F" in the course. I recognize that many students utilize AI-based assistance when editing their work. However, all the work you submit **MUST** be your own writing. You should never include in any of your assignments anything that was not written directly by you. Including anything you did not write will be treated as an academic misconduct case and will result in a grade of "F" in the course. If you are unsure where the line is between collaborating with AI and copying from AI, I recommend the following:

1. Never hit "Copy" within your conversation with an AI assistant. You can copy your own work into your conversation, but do not copy anything from the conversation back into your assignment. Instead, use your interaction with the AI assistant as a learning experience, then let your assignment reflect your improved understanding.
2. Do not have your assignment and the AI agent open at the same time. Use your conversation with the AI as a learning experience, then close the interaction down, open your assignment, and let your assignment reflect your newly revised knowledge. This includes avoiding using AI directly integrated into your composition environment: just as you should never use the words written by a classmate as your own, you should never add AI generated content to your submission.

Grading: Your final grade will be based on 3 application projects (50 points each) and 6 weeks of assessments (30 points each). Thus, the maximum number of points you can earn is 330. You are guaranteed the following grade based on your percent of total possible points.

Grade Distribution:

A	100-94%	A-	93.99-90%	B+	89.99-87%
B	86.99-84%	B-	83.99-80%	C+	79.99-77%
C	76.99-74%	C-	73.99-70%	D+	69.99-67%
D	66.99-60%				
F	59% and lower				

Course Topics Outline and Assignment Deadlines

Although there is a much more detailed description of our class schedule (see class schedule in BB Ultra), the following is a summary of course topics along with due dates.

Week 1: Introduction to Social Psychology and the Social Self

[Complete Module Quiz and discussion questions by May 11th @ Midnight](#)

Week 2: Social Self and Social Memory

[Complete Module Quizzes, discussion questions and application project # 1 by May 18th @ Midnight](#)

Week 3: Heuristics and Explaining Others' Behavior

[Complete Module Quizzes and discussion questions by May 25th @ Midnight](#)

Week 4: Intergroup Relations, Prejudice and Stereotyping

[Complete Module Quizzes, discussion questions and application project # 2 by June 1st @ Midnight](#)

Week 5: Persuasion, Attitudes, and Social Influence

[Complete Module Quizzes and discussion questions by June 8th @ Midnight](#)

Week 6: Social Influence, Conformity, and Obedience

[Complete Module Quizzes, discussion questions, and application project # 3 by June 15th @ Midnight](#)