



**Shanghai Jiao Tong University**  
**PS908 Social Psychology (Online)**

<b>Instructor Information</b>	Michael Fitzgerald, PhD Home Institution: Metropolitan State University Email: michael.fitzgerald@minneapolis.edu Office Hours: Determined by Instructor		
<b>Term:</b>	June 29, 2020 - July 24, 2020	<b>Credits:</b>	4 units
<b>Class Hours:</b>	Monday through Friday, 120 mins per teaching day		
<b>Discussion Sessions:</b>	2 hours each week, conducted by teaching assistant(s)		
<b>Total Contact Hours:</b>	66 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 3000 mins in total)		
<b>Required Texts (with ISBN):</b>	Branscombe, N. R. & Baron, R.A. (2016). Social Psychology (14th ed.). Publisher: Pearson. ISBN: 978-0134410968		
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	N/A		



## Course Overview

The goal of this course is to help you develop an understanding of your social world (including yourself and others). This includes how social context (i.e., other individuals, groups, and cultural contexts) can shape your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, but also how your thoughts, feelings and behaviors shape your social context and your own perceptions of your social world (e.g., cultural awareness).

## Course Goals

By taking this course students will

1. Be familiar with classic and contemporary issues in social psychology;
2. Understand the major theories driving social psychological research.;
3. Appreciate the methodological strategies common to social psychology;
4. Understand how social psychological methods and theories answer questions across the fields of psychology and in the real world;
5. Have honed your critical thinking skills regarding research, methods, and social problems.

## Course Procedure

This course is conducted completely online through D2L Brightspace. Because this course is online, much of your learning will be happening independently. However, I will do my best to provide opportunities for you to engage with me and with the material in ways that approximate classroom experiences. To accomplish this, the course will consist of lecture, participation activities, and a class discussion board (5%).

On our course D2L Brightspace page, you will find content organized into modules by chapter. Within each module, you will find the lecture materials, participation assignment, and any other supplemental readings for that chapter.

I will use our course page's announcement feed to communicate important information about the class. This might include updates or changes to the course schedule, important information about exams, assignments, etc. I will also post an announcement on our class feed at the throughout each week to touch base and orient you to the topics you will encounter during your readings. Checking your email and our course D2L page regularly is much like attending class every day.

## Lecture Materials

Lecture materials will consist mostly of Power Point slide presentations and are designed to help with understanding and organizing the material. Since there is a lot of material in the textbook, lectures will also highlight key concepts and terms in the chapters to help you focus your study efforts. I may occasionally provide short videos or video lectures in addition to Power Point slides.

You will need to have the Microsoft Power Point program to view lecture slides.

## Participation Activities

For each chapter, you will have a brief assignment to complete. This gives you the chance to get you thinking more in-depth about a topic we are covering, to dazzle me with your thinking, and/or



to show me that you are on track with the course schedule! Examples may include but are not limited to: a written reflection, a brief quiz to test your knowledge about the material, or participation in a group discussion on our class discussion board. The instructions for completing each participation activity will be posted in that chapter's content module by Monday and will be due the following Sunday by 11:59 pm unless I specify otherwise. You will find the deadline for all participation activities listed on the course schedule at the end of this syllabus.

### **Class Discussion Board**

Here I will post questions relevant to social psychology for us to discuss as a class. This gives you a chance to learn from other's experiences, to appreciate the diversity of your classmates' individual perspectives, and hopefully to get a chance to think about things from another's point of view. Participation in the discussion board is highly encouraged but not required (with the exception if a specific discussion topic is assigned for a required Participation Activity).

### **Assessment of Performance**

Your performance in this course will be determined based on the following three components:

1. Exams: There will be FOUR Unit Exams throughout the semester which will cover material from lecture slides and the textbook. The chapters and material covered on each exam can be found on the course schedule at the end of this syllabus. Exams will be approximately 50 items and will consist of recall AND application of terms, theories, and concepts. Because lectures may cover material not included in the textbook, carefully following along with lecture materials will maximize your success on exams!  
Once it opens, an exam will be available for the entire day. Once the deadline to complete an exam has passed, you will no longer be able to take the exam. **Exams are timed. You must complete the exam once you start it; you will not be able to re-take an exam.**
2. Participation Assignments: You will receive up to 10 points for completing each assignment. You will not receive credit for incomplete assignments or assignments that do not follow instructions. I will drop the assignment with the lowest score when calculating your final grade.
3. Social Insight Project: Applying Social Psychology to Solve a relative Social Problem of Issue  
Over the course of this semester, we will visit (and revisit) the idea that the ideas of social psychology – the theories, concepts, and research contributing to these ideas – can be applied to understand and solve real world problems that cut across disciplines. How can social psychology and inform our understanding of social problems ie climate change inaction, ethnic disparity, social inequality, etc. and possible solutions.

In this project, you'll be asked to explore social psychological factors related to social issues for example climate change action (or inaction), present your findings and recommendations in a brief report, and create an educational flyer or handout encouraging a specific climate-related action from what you've learned. A more detailed description and instructions for the project, as well as resources and tips, will be posted in the coming weeks in the "Social Insight" module in the Content section of our D2L course page.



### Grading Policy

Grades are determined on a point system as follows:

Exams:	50 points each x 4 exams	=	200 points
Social Insight Project:		=	50 points
Participation Assignments:	5 points each x 10 assignments	=	50 points

TOTAL = 300 points

### Grading Scale

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1
≤59	F (Failure)	0

No plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. This means among other things that you will not submit someone else's work as your own, copy someone else's work, or cheat in any other way. When you draw on others' work, you must cite that work properly.

### Class Expectations

1. Student Responsibility for Class Performance: I expect that you are taking this course because you are interested in psychology and that you want to do well! You are responsible for making sure you are familiar with all of the components of our course page, keeping up with the course schedule, and checking our course D2L Brightspace page regularly for newly posted materials and announcements. Reading assigned materials and taking notes, engaging with the lecture materials, and completing all assignments and exams by the deadline are all required to do well in this course.
2. Etiquette for Discussion Board: We want to create a virtual classroom that conveys a tone of respect for one another, and it is important that our discussion board allows us each to share our experiences and thoughts in a safe and respectful environment. Please use the same courtesy and etiquette on our class discussion board that you would if you were participating in discussion in a face-to-face class; please, no foul or disparaging language. Occasionally, we might find ourselves with a different way of looking at things than our classmates. If you wish to disagree, please do so by acknowledging the other person's viewpoint and offering



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your argument in a respectful manner. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a warning, loss of discussion points, and losing access to the discussion board.

You may also use the class discussion board to post your own questions or thoughts on social psychology or questions for me that are of interest to the entire class. Please only post comments or questions that are relevant to an entire class discussion. If you need to contact me about a personal issue or your performance in the course, please email me directly.

*A note on personal disclosure:* People vary considerably in how comfortable they feel sharing personal information about themselves. I will never ask you to share publicly (i.e., on the discussion board) information that could be considered sensitive or private. Please respect the privacy of others on the discussion board and keep information shared on the board within our class.



### Class Schedule

Day	Lecture	Readings
Day 1	Introduction and Course Overview	
Day 2	Social Psychology Theory and Methods	Chapter 1
Day 3	Social Cognition	Chapter 2
Day 4	Social Perception	Chapter 3
Day 5	<b>First Exam</b>	
Day 6	The Self (Part I)	Chapter 4
Day 7	The Self (Part II)	Chapter 4
Day 8	Attitudes	Chapter 5
Day 9	Stereotyping and Prejudice	Chapter 6
Day 10	<b>Second Exam</b>	
Day 11	Attraction and Close Relationships (Part I)	Chapter 7
Day 12	Social Influence	Chapter 8
Day 13	Prosocial Behavior (Part I)	Chapter 9
Day 14	Prosocial Behavior (Part II)	
Day 15	<b>Third Exam</b>	
Day 16	Aggression	Chapter 10
Day 17	Groups and Individuals	Chapter 11
Day 18	Dealing with Adversity/Achieving Happiness	Chapter 12
Day 19	Course Review	
Day 20	<b>Final Exam</b>	