



PS908 Social Psychology (Online)

Instructor Information	<p>Michael Fitzgerald Home Institution: Metropolitan State University Email: michael.fitzgerald@metrostate.edu</p>		
Term	December 13, 2021 - January 7, 2022	Credits	4 units
Course Delivery	<p>The class will be delivered in the format of online. Other than recorded lecture videos, the instructor will arrange 4 hours' real-time interactions with students per week (via discussion forum, zoom meeting, and WeChat). The workload students are expected to complete to properly pass this course is about 10-12 hours per week.</p>		
Required Texts (with ISBN)	<p>Branscombe, N. R. & Baron, R.A. (2016). Social Psychology (14th ed.). Publisher: Pearson. ISBN: 978-0134410968</p>		
Prerequisite	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).

Learning Outcomes

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.

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

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

TOTAL = 300 points

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.

Grading Scale is as follows

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0



Class Schedule

Date	Lecture	Readings	Online Teaching Arrangement
Day 1	Introduction and Course Overview		approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 2	Social Psychology Theory and Methods	Chapter 1	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 3	Social Cognition	Chapter 2	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 4	Social Perception	Chapter 3	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 5	First Exam		
Day 6	The Self (Part I)	Chapter 4	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 7	The Self (Part II)	Chapter 4	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 8	Attitudes	Chapter 5	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 9	Stereotyping and Prejudice	Chapter 6	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 10	Second Exam		
Day 11	Attraction and Close Relationships (Part I)	Chapter 7	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 12	Social Influence	Chapter 8	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom



Day 13	Prosocial Behavior (Part I)	Chapter 9	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 14	Prosocial Behavior (Part II)		approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 15	Third Exam		
Day 16	Aggression	Chapter 10	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 17	Groups and Individuals	Chapter 11	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 18	Dealing with Adversity/Achieving Happiness	Chapter 12	approximately 60-90 minutes pre-recorded video lectures plus 30 minutes online interaction via Zoom
Day 19	Course Review		
Day 20	Final Exam		