**PSY 235-002: Social Psychology**

Course Syllabus – Spring 2024

**Course Description**

Social psychology is the scientific study of the nature and causes of human social behavior, emotion and cognition. This course provides an introduction to the principles and concepts of the discipline and emphasizes how traits of individuals interact with the social environment to produce the rich complexity of human social life. Perhaps more than most courses, social psychology is concerned with “real life” content. As such we will discuss topics such as friendship and romance, sexuality, aggression and violence, prejudice and discrimination, cooperation and conflict, and morality and religion. Principles of economics and biology are provided as a theoretical backdrop in order to better frame the role of social psychology in the broader enterprise of understanding why we are the way we are.

**Class Meeting Days/Time/Location**

118 Psychology Bldg.

TTH 4:10-5:30pm

**Instructor**

Prof. C. David Navarrete Email: cdn@msu.edu

Office Hr: Tue 3:00p-4:00p Location: 247 Psychology

**Course Email:**

[psy235msu2024@gmail.com](mailto:psy235msu2024@gmail.com)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:**

Jodie Yen Email: yenjodie@msu.edu

Office Hr: By appointment

**Undergraduate Assistant:**

Hope Hesseltine Email: [hesselt1@msu.edu](mailto:hesselt1@msu.edu)

Office Hr: By appointment.

**Sonia Fekete:**  Email: [feketes1@msu.edu](mailto:feketes1@msu.edu)

Office Hr: By appointment

**Course Materials**

*Textbook:* Kenrick, D.T., Neuberg, S.L., & Cialdini, R.B. (2020). *Social Psychology: Goals in Interaction.* Pearson. (You may use 5th, 6th or 7th edition).

*Assigned readings:* There are assigned readings posted in the content folder on some weeks on D2L. There is no cost for accessing these readings.

*Class Clicker:* Students should acquire the iClicker app student account. Information on clickers is here: <https://tech.msu.edu/service-catalog/teaching/student-response/iclicker/> but is probably easier to just go to your app download site and enter “iClicker”

**Course Web**

The website for the course is available via D2L.

**Online Homework Assignments**

Homework assignments are posted online and are expected to be turned into the appropriately labeled folder in D2L. Assignments take about 1 to 3 hrs to complete and are due at 8:00p on the following days:

20-Jan. 2-Feb.

20-Feb. 7-Mar

21-Mar. 11-Apr

Class will not meet on 13-Feb & 20-Feb

**Exams and Assignments**

The combined point total for all course content is 400 pts. split among the following ways:

*Exams:* There are three 100 pt. exams each composed of 45 multiple-choice and two short-answer items. Exams total 300 pts. (~75% of course grade). Exams will be administered at our usual class time on the dates posted below. All exam scores are used and none are dropped.

*Class Participation:* Participation is registered via iClicker accounts (40 pts. Total)

*Homework Assignments:* There are six (6) online homework submissions for 60 points total.

Make-ups for exams may be allowed in some instances, so contact me if you have a special circumstance involving official university business, a religious observance, or a documented emergency.

The point breakdown for assignments, participation and exams is as follows

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Pts. Each** | **#** | **Pts. Total** |
| **Homework** | 6-12 | 6 | 60 |
| **Clicker** | 2 | 20 | 40 |
| **Exams** | 100 | 3 | 300 |
| **Total** |  |  | 400 |

NOTE: Two absences are allowed before clicker participation points are deducted. D2L will drop the lowest two scores in this category in the last week of class.

**Grading**

The grading scale is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Percent** | **Pt. Min.** | **Grade** |
| **90%** | 360 | 4.0 |
| **85%** | 340 | 3.5 |
| **80%** | 320 | 3.0 |
| **75%** | 300 | 2.5 |
| **70%** | 280 | 2.0 |
| **65%** | 260 | 1.5 |
| **60%** | 240 | 1.0 |

NOTE: Pt. Min. = Minimum points needed for grade.

**Extra Credit**

Students may receive a extra credit for participation in experiments through MSU’s Human Participation in Research (HPR/SONA) system. Directions for participation are posted on our course domain on D2L. Students may volunteer in research studies for up to 10 extra credit points maximum (5 hrs. participation time = 5 HPR credits and 10 class points).

Alternatives to research participation for extra credit may be earned through other means, such as writing a research paper or film analysis, but you must contact me about completing an alternative assignment at least three weeks before the day of the last exam.

**Course Announcements/Updates**

Announcements are made via email sent through MSU’s online course content system, D2L. Make sure D2L has your up-to-date contact information.

**Questions and Concerns**

Questions and concerns should be addressed to the course email or to the instructor during/after class, via email or during office hours.

**Content Schedule**

**Text Topic**

Wk 1 Ch. 1 Introduction to Social Psychology

Wk 2 Chs. 2-3 Person-Situation; Social Cognition

Wk 3 Chs. 4-5 Self Presentation; Attitudes and Persuasion

Wk 4 Ch.6 + Assigned Social Influence; Game Theory Intro

Wk 5 Assigned Prospect Theory and Game Theory

Exam 1: Wks 1-5

Wk 6 Ch. 8 + Assigned Sex, Love and Romance I

Wk 7 Ch. 8 + Assigned Sex, Love and Romance II

Wk 8 Ch. 7 + Assigned Affiliation and Pro-Sociality

Wk 9 Ch. 10 + Assigned Aggression & Violence

Wk 10 Ch11 Prejudice and Discrimination

Exam 2: Wks 6-10

Wk 11 Chs. 12-13 Group Conflict and Cooperation

Wk 12 Ch. 9 + Assigned Good & Evil I: Moral Psychology

Wk 13 Ch. 9 + Assigned Good & Evil II: Political Psychology

Wk 14 Assigned Good & Evil III: Psychology of Religion

Wk 15 Assigned Do We Have Free Will?

Exam 3: Wks 11-15

**Exam Dates**

Exam 1: Thu. 15-Feb.

Exam 2: Tue. 26-Mar.

Exam 3: Thu. 18-Apr.

**Academic Freedom**

The instructor and staff are committed to respectful dialogue and professional conduct, and expectations are that students also understand the importance of honest and respectful interaction as well. Most importantly, we are committed to sustaining individual rights for freedom of speech in academic settings. Students are encouraged to make full use this right, and we are committed to engaging a wide range of comments, questions and viewpoints in the classroom or during office hours.

*Civility*.  We may engage in discussions (both online and in class) of topics where individuals have different opinions.  It is important for you to recognize distinctions between opinions and facts, but also to in all cases show courtesy and respect for others. Please refrain from using language that others might find offensive, and express disagreements and counterarguments in diplomatic and civil ways. Uncivil behavior may result in a 0.0 points for an activity, as well as further sanctions and restrictions based on MSU Code of Conduct.

Article 2.III.B.4 of [Student Rights and Responsibilities](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/student-rights-and-responsibilities-at-michigan-state-university/article-2-academic-rights-and-responsibilities) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 states that "The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/general-student-regulations) states: "No student shall . . . obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with the functions, services, or directives of the University, its offices, or its employees (e.g., classes, social, cultural, and athletic events, computing services, registration, housing and food services, governance meetings, and hearings).” Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Judicial Affairs office.

For more information regarding individual rights of students in colleges and universities, visit the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) at <https://www.thefire.org>

More information on university policy regarding your obligations is below.

**University Policy and Administrative Housekeeping**

**Limits to Confidentiality:** Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies.  However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others.  As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the MSU Police Department) if you share it with me:

·        Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,

·        Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and

·        Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared.  In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual.  If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the [MSU Counseling Center](https://caps.msu.edu/).

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.** Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.  If you require testing accommodations (e.g., additional time.) you must contact me and present your VISA *at least two weeks before the exam date*to schedule an alternative exam.

If you require testing accommodations (additional time, less disruptive room, etc.) you must contact me and present your VISA at least two weeks before the exam date to schedule an alternative exam. We will have our exams online, and you may be granted extra time to complete your exam, if needed.  The exam must be scheduled well in advance, so you need to adhere to the two-week prior notification requirement.  
  
**Academic Honesty.** The Spartan Code of Honor states, "As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do." In addition, Article 2.III.B.2 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities ([SRR](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities/article-two-academic-rights-and-responsibilities.html)) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The Psychology Department adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in [General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/regulations/general-student-regulations.html); [the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/regulations/student-group-regs-rulings-policies-ordinances/integrity-of-scholarship-and-grades.html); and [Ordinance 17.00, Examinations](https://trustees.msu.edu/bylaws-ordinances-policies/ordinances/ordinance-17.00.html).

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the [www.allmsu.com](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/www.allmsu.com__;!!HXCxUKc!2en03vSWOH4nUuHocncL1EFtQWjgRnuPv3FSlJd9fSOotRH6d9yM5kYEp2nCit9279XK-o6Nasi6YQ$) Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity webpage](https://ossa.msu.edu/academic-integrity).)

Every student is held responsible for knowing the academic integrity policy at MSU. Information regarding this policy is available at: <https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/dishonestystud.html>

**Generative AI**The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, DALL-E, etc.) is not permitted in this class; therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of Michigan State University’s policy on academic integrity, the Spartan Code of Honor Academic Pledge and Student Rights and Responsibilities, since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI tools may result in a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.

**Inclusive Environment**. MSU is committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive community in which students, faculty, and staff can work together in an atmosphere free from all forms of discrimination. The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) reviews concerns related to discrimination and harassment based on sex, gender, gender identity, race, national origin, religion, disability status, and any other protected categories under the University Anti-Discrimination Policy (<https://www.hr.msu.edu/policies-procedures/university-wide/ADP_policy.html>) and Policy on Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (<https://civilrights.msu.edu/policies/rvsm.html>). If you experience or witness acts of bias, discrimination, or harassment, please report these to OIE: <http://oie.msu.edu/>.

**Disruptive Behavior.** Article 2.III.B.4 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR)](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities/article-two-academic-rights-and-responsibilities.html) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 of the [SRR](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities/article-two-academic-rights-and-responsibilities.html) states that "The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](https://spartanexperiences.msu.edu/about/handbook/regulations/general-student-regulations.html) states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action.”

Students in this course should feel free to voice questions and comments relevant to the course material during lectures, via email or during office hours. Unnecessary chatter during lectures or exams is a distraction and should be avoided. Students should use lecture breaks for conversation.

**Mental Health**: Mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Counseling & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) website at [www.caps.msu.edu](http://www.caps.msu.edu/).