



Version: 03 January 2023



Social Psychology Spring 2023 (PSY-235)

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(immediately after class)

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When emailing me, the GTA, or the ULA **always** include PSY-235 in the subject line of the email

Course Location: Psychology Building 118
Course Time: Tuesday/Thursday 240pm-400pm

Email, office hours, or before/after class are the best ways to contact the TA and myself. Plan at least 2 business days for email responses; however, sometimes the responses will be faster. I do not typically check emails on the weekend.
Before emailing or meeting, check the syllabus.

Course Description: This is an in person course. This course provides an overview of social psychology. Research in social psychology uses the scientific method to understand the relationship between people and their social environments. Research in social psychology has implications for all aspects of life, because social influence is pervasive: romantic relationships, economic decision-making, child rearing, marketing and advertising, group identification, political negotiations and affiliations, etc. Whatever you want to do with your life, social psychology plays a role. There is no honors option for the course.

Learning Objectives:

- You will learn how psychologists think about social interactions, perceptions, and influence.
- You will learn the research methods social psychologists use.
- You will learn to think critically about conclusions made by social psychologists.
- You will be able to apply social psychology to novel situations and events in your own life.

Required Materials:

"Together: The Science of Social Psychology" <http://noba.to/txqy938d> (free to download)
iClicker tech in some form or another
Access to D2L for exams, assignments, and additional readings

Activities: You will meet the learning objectives and demonstrate your knowledge by...

- ...reading textbook chapters written by expert social psychologists
- ...reading and analyzing peer-reviewed journal articles written by expert social psychologists
- ...participating in course lectures
- ...completing at least 3 out of 5 exams
- ...applying social psychology to your own life

Participation & Attendance

You are expected to attend lectures, answer questions using iClicker, ask your own questions, participate in activities, and generally be an active and engaged learner. From my experience as both a student and a teacher, this is the best way to enjoy a class and learn the most from it. Please save your side conversations, text messages, and shopping for after class.

You get points for coming to class and participating. Specifically, I will present questions to be answered by iClicker at the beginning of each class covering material from the previous class and readings, along with questions at the end of each class covering the material from that class. There will also be questions spread throughout the class, both for review and for use as demonstrations. To get credit for attendance that day, you must complete some of the questions, including those at the beginning and end of class.

- You will receive 2 points for each class (excluding exams).
- Questions start on the second day of classes.
- You can miss a total of 5 online Question classes without penalty (i.e. 2.5 weeks of class).
- You can use a physical iClicker or the iClicker app for your phone.
- You do not need to get the questions correct to get credit. You just need to respond
- If you forget your iClicker, you run out of batteries, or the web app isn't working, there is a **two-time-use** sign-in sheet. Once you have used your two sign ins, any future classes where you miss iClicker questions will result in no credit for that day. If there is a problem with your attendance, please contact a teaching assistant.
- Please note: If you have someone else use your iClicker for you when you are not in class, this is a violation of academic integrity policies. You will lose all class participation and bonus points for the semester and will be reported to your dean for an academic integrity violation.
- Please ensure your iClicker is setup before the second class (January 12th). You can follow these instructions: <https://macmillan.force.com/iclicker/s/article/Student-Guide-iClicker-Roster-Grade-Sync-Integration>. I am not iClicker tech support; it is your responsibility to make sure these things work.
- We will track attendance in 23 classes, but you can miss five of these without penalty. This means you need to attend 18 classes to receive full participation credit (36 points). If you attend more than 18 classes, the additional points are essentially extra credit (10 possible points).

Exams

There are five exams in total. An exam comes at the end of each section of the course, plus a final exam covering the entire course at the very end. Exams are 60 points each. Your lowest two grades will be dropped. Exams will be multiple choice, with some short-answer and fill-in-the-blank questions. The exams will be conducted online and so will necessarily be open-note and open-book. However, please recognize that you will still need to study. You will not have time to hunt through your notes and readings and still complete the exams on time. Exams start at the start of the class time (240pm) and last exactly 1 hour (340pm). The final exam's start time is TBD. It will also be exactly 1 hour.

Please take detailed notes on the lecture material (slides, discussions, videos); you will be tested on it. The slides for this course are designed to supplement the lecture and are not the sum total of what is discussed during the lecture. Research shows that providing students with copies of slides does not help them learn or remember the material any better. For that reason, I do not provide copies of my slides until after the lecture. Developing note-taking skills is an important part of your education, and you should practice it in this class. If I ever go too quickly, please do not hesitate to ask that I repeat something or slow down.

Assignments

There are four possible assignments that ask you to apply social psychology to daily life, think about social psychological concepts, or delve deeper into social psychological research. You will do two of these four assignments. All of the assignments are worth 20 points each. You must complete one article analysis and one application assignment. Please note that if you complete extra assignments, your first score will be counted. Information about the assignments are on D2L. Due dates for the assignments are on D2L and in the schedule below.

Complete 1 of These...

- Article Analysis #1 (due: Feb 2)
- Article Analysis #2 (due: March 30)

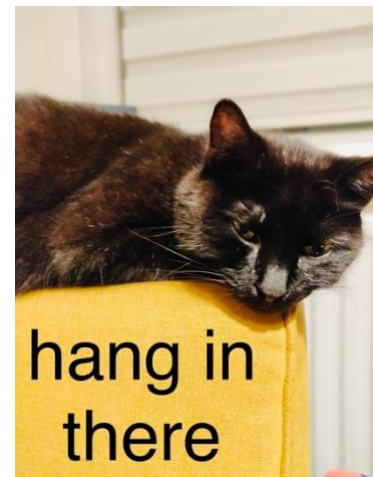
...And Complete 1 of These

- Application Assignment #1 (due: Feb 28)
- Application Assignment #2 (due: April 25)

Assignments are accepted without penalty up to one week after the due date. After one week, late assignments are no longer accepted. The one exception to this is Application Assignment #2. The absolute last day to turn in this assignment is April 28th at 11:59pm. This is necessary so that we have time to grade the assignment before grades are due to the university.

Make-up Policy

I understand that you will occasionally have health issues that prevent them from coming to class. I want to encourage you to stay home from lectures when feeling sick and therefore have a flexibly policy for makeup exams due to illness. I trust that you will not abuse



this flexibility, so please only use this makeup policy when you are showing symptoms, are sick, and/or test positive for a contagious virus that rhymes with lovid. The only requirement for making up exams is that you must email me before the class-period the exam begins—even just a few minutes before to be eligible to makeup an exam. In other words, forgetting about an exam or sleeping through class is not an acceptable excuse. If you do not notify me before the class or exam begins, you will not be able to make up the points (remember, you can drop your lowest exam score). Because this policy is already very flexible, there are no exceptions to this policy.

If you cannot take the exam because of a university-scheduled event (e.g., a commitment for a sports team), a religious holiday, or some other acceptable event that you could have foreseen, you must notify me at least one week before the exam to be eligible for a makeup.

Research Participation Hours

One way to learn about social psychology is to participate in psychological research. I've been out of school since 2012 and I still participate in studies. They help me see things through participants' eyes and give me better insight into how studies are conducted.

You are required to participate in 4 hours of research participant in the psychology subject pool. You will receive 5 points per hour (20 points in total). Information on participating in research is on D2L. Please follow the instructions posted there. All research must be completed by *Friday, April 28 at 5:00pm*.

If you would like to complete an alternative assignment (10-page literature review) instead of research participation, you must inform me before March 1. After March 1, you no longer have the option of doing the alternative assignment.

Please note that your Sona credits will not appear in the D2L gradebook until after the last day of classes. Sometime after the weekend of April 28, I will upload your credits to D2L. I do not have access to your Sona credits until after Friday, April 28.

Extra Credit

The first type of extra credit is participation in psychology research. Every hour completed after your first four hours will be extra credit. You will receive 1 point for every 1 hour of research participation, with a maximum of 6 points (6 extra hours) of extra credit added to your final grade. *You must see the documentation on D2L for information on research participation!* All research must be completed by *Friday, April 28 at 5:00pm*.

If you would like to complete an alternative assignment (10-page literature review) instead of research participation, you must inform me before March 1. After March 1, you no longer have the option of doing the alternative assignment.

The second type of extra credit is creating a meme that illustrates a concept in the course. It is worth 2 points. You can do this 2 times. Each concept needs to be different. They should be turned in by 5pm on Friday, April 28th, but can be turned in at any time.

Assignments, Due Dates, and Points

	Due Date	Points
Attendance		

Participation	April 30	36
<i>Total Attendance</i>		36
Assignments		
Article Analysis Assignment Option 1	Feb 2	20
Article Analysis Assignment Option 2	Feb 28	20
Application Assignment Option 1	March 30	20
Application Assignment Option 2	April 25	20
<i>Total Assignment (after dropping lowest score)</i>		40
Exams		
Exam 1	Feb 7	60
Exam 2	March 2	60
Exam 3	April 4	60
Exam 4	April 27	60
Final Exam	TBD	60
<i>Total Exams (after dropping two lowest scores)</i>		180
Research Participation Hours		
Research Credits	April 28	20
<i>Total Research Participation Hours</i>		20
Extra Credit		
Research Credits	April 28	6
Memes	April 28	4
Additional attendance	April 28	10
<i>Total Extra Credit</i>		24
Maximum Points Possible		276

Distribution of Points for Grades

Total Points	Grade	
251	4	Aim for this
233-250	3.5	Be happy with this
219-232	3	
205-218	2.5	
191-204	2	Try to avoid this
178-190	1.5	
164-177	1	
<164	0	Please not this

Note: There will be no "rounding up" because all of these values are already rounded up.

House Rules

I value *open* discussion of all of the relevant topics related to the day's topic. I want to hear your thoughts and for you to feel comfortable expressing them in the class. A large part of what I enjoy about teaching this course is hearing your thoughts, opinions, and analysis of the topics we discuss.



All I ask is that you are *respectful* to your colleagues in the class and to people and groups not present in the class.

Discussing some topics in social psychology can sometimes be delicate and evoke strong emotions. Therefore, I ask that we make sure that we all make an effort to be respectful to one another and to keep the discussions we have in the course confidential. Racism, sexism, anti-LGBTQ prejudice, religious prejudice, political prejudice etc will not be tolerated. In addition, smoking, fight clubs, dinosaur breeding, and minotaur hunting are forbidden.

It's (still) a Pandemic

As long as we are in this panini press, there is a chance that it will disrupt the class. We are a community of social psychologists and part of being in a community is making decisions to help keep the entire community healthy. **The best way to do this is to get fully vaccinated and boosted and boosted again and again as long as boosters are available [insert rocket ship emoji here]** (if you haven't already). The vaccines are safe and they work. They are this era's *moon landing*. They are incredible feats of bioengineering that will save countless lives. Celebrate them by getting them injected into your veins (ok ok, just your arm). **The two next best things that you can do is to regularly wear a mask indoors (on campus and otherwise), avoid crowds (especially inside), and to stay home when you aren't feeling well.** You are able to miss class meetings without losing any points (although you will lose out on learning opportunities). Please use this flexibility to stay home when you are not feeling well and especially if you test positive for COVID. Do not try to "power through". Stay home. Take naps. In the event the princess bride forces us to be online, don't worry. We'll just meet on Zoom and continue learning in that environment. In the event we move online again, I will do everything I can to communicate with the class the plan at as early of a stage as possible. It will work out.

Schedule and Readings

All readings are required and will be included on the exams except for the reading explicitly listed as optional. As the name of the optional reading suggests, it is in fact optional.

Date & Topic	Assignment Due
Tuesday, January 10, 2023 Introduction to Social Psychology	<i>Optional Reading</i> An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology
Thursday, January 12, 2023 Research Methods	<i>Readings</i> Research Methods in Social Psychology

	Conducting Psychology Research in the Real World (sections: Introduction, Rationale for Conducting Psychology Research in the Real World)
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 Social Development: Evolution & Culture	<i>Readings</i> Evolutionary Theories in Psychology Culture
Thursday, January 19, 2023 How to Read a Journal Article	How to Read a Journal Article
Tuesday, January 24, 2023 Social Development: Evolution & Culture Peer Reviewed Reading	<i>Reading</i> Li, C., Zuckerman, M., & Diener, E. (2021). Culture moderates the relation between gender inequality and well-being . <i>Psychological Science</i> , 32(6), 823-835.
Thursday, January 26, 2023 Social Development: Childhood and Relationships	<i>Readings</i> Attachment Through the Life Course Social and Personality Development in Childhood (note: not in textbook, but still free)
Tuesday, January 31, 2023 Social Development: Childhood and Relationships Peer Reviewed Reading	<i>Reading</i> Moors, A. C., Conley, T. D., Edelstein, R. S., & Chopik, W. J. (2015). Attached to monogamy? Avoidance predicts willingness to engage (but not actual engagement) in consensual non-monogamy . <i>Journal of Social and Personal Relationships</i> , 32(2), 222-240.
Thursday, February 2, 2023 Social Development: Catchup and Review <i>February 3 is the last day to drop with refund</i>	<i>Article Analysis #1 Due</i> (You only need to do one of two article analyses. This is the first option. The second option is due March 30th)
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 Exam Day	Online Exam 1: From Start of Course till Now
Thursday, February 9, 2023 Social Cognition: The Self & Attitudes	<i>Readings</i> Self & Identity Social Cognition & Attitudes
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 Social Cognition: The Self & Attitudes Peer Reviewed Reading	<i>Reading</i> Lewis Jr, N. A., & Oyserman, D. (2015). When does the future begin? Time metrics matter, connecting present and future selves . <i>Psychological Science</i> , 26(6), 816-825.
Thursday, February 16, 2023 Social Cognition: The Effects of Others	<i>Readings</i> Theory of Mind

	Social Comparisons
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 Social Cognition: The Effects of Others Peer Reviewed Reading	<i>Reading</i> Rogers, T., & Feller, A. (2016). Discouraged by peer excellence: Exposure to exemplary peer performance causes quitting . <i>Psychological Science</i> , 27(3), 365-374.
Thursday, February 23, 2023	No class. Take a break. Catch up on work. Play video games.
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 Social Cognition: Catchup and Review <i>March 1 is last day to drop with no grade reported</i>	<i>Application Assignment #1 Due</i> (You only need to do one of two application assignments. This is the first option. The second application is due April 25th)
Thursday, March 2, 2023 Exam Day	Online Exam 2: From Exam 1 till Now
Tuesday, March 7, 2023	No class. No office hours. Spring break.
Thursday, March 9, 2023	No class. Spring break.
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 Emotions: Functions and Culture	<i>Readings</i> Functions of Emotions Culture & Emotion
Thursday, March 16, 2023 Emotions: Functions and Culture Peer Reviewed Reading	<i>Reading</i> Andersen, M. M., Schjoedt, U., Price, H., Rosas, F. E., Scrivner, C., & Clasen, M. (2020). Playing with fear: A field study in recreational horror . <i>Psychological Science</i> , 31(12), 1497-1510.
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 Social Influence: Persuasion & Conformity	<i>Readings</i> Persuasion: So Easily Fooled Conformity and Obedience
Thursday, March 23, 2023 Social Influence: Persuasion & Conformity Peer Reviewed Reading	<i>Reading</i> Paluck, E. L., Shepherd, H., & Aronow, P. M. (2016). Changing climates of conflict: A social network experiment in 56 schools . <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> , 113(3), 566-571.
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 Social Influence: Groups	<i>Reading</i> The Psychology of Groups
Thursday, March 30, 2023 Catchup and Review	<i>Article Analysis #2 Due</i> (You only need to do one of two article analyses. This is the second option. The first option was due on February 2nd)
Tuesday, April 4, 2023	Online Exam 3: From Exam 2 till Now

Exam Day	
Thursday, April 6, 2023 Conflict: Prejudice & Discrimination	<i>Readings</i> Prejudice, Discrimination, & Stereotyping Cooperation
Tuesday, April 11, 2023 Conflict: Prejudice & Discrimination Peer Reviewed Reading	<i>Reading</i> Leitner, J. B., Hehman, E., Ayduk, O., & Mendoza-Denton, R. (2016). Blacks' death rate due to circulatory diseases is positively related to whites' explicit racial bias: A nationwide investigation using project implicit . <i>Psychological Science</i> , 27(10), 1299-1311.
Thursday, April 13, 2023 Positive Relationships: Helping and Love	<i>Readings</i> Helping and Prosocial Behavior Love, Friendship, and Social Support
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 Positive Relationships: Helping	<i>Reading</i> Stavrova, O., Pronk, T., & Denissen, J. (2022). Estranged and Unhappy? Examining the Dynamics of Personal and Relationship Well-Being Surrounding Infidelity . <i>Psychological Science</i> , 09567976221116892
Thursday, April 20, 2023	No class. Take a break. Catch up on work. Play video games. Go outside.
Tuesday, April 25, 2023 Catchup, Review, Wrap-up	<i>Application Assignment #2 Due</i> (You only need to do one of two application assignments. This is the second option. The first option was due February 28th)
Thursday, April 27, 2023 Exam Day	Online Exam 4: From Exam 3 till Now Reminder: <i>Extra credit is due on April 28th</i>
During week of Monday, 5/2 - Friday, 5/6	Online Final Exam: Entire Course

Commit to Integrity: Academic Honesty

Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the *[insert name of unit offering course]* adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in [General Student Regulations](#) 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the [all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades](#); and [Ordinance 17.00, Examinations](#). See [Spartan Life Online](#) (splife.studentlife.msu.edu) and/or the [MSU Web site](#) (msu.edu) for more.

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 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](#).)

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 Department of Police and Public Safety) 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.

Inform Me of Any Accommodations Needed (please)

[From the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities](#) (RCPD): 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. 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 will be honored whenever possible.

Disruptive Behavior (i.e. be cool)

Article 2.III.B.4 of [Student 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](#) 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.

Meme Extra Credit

Meme is a word coined by Richard Dawkins in his book *The Selfish Gene*. Now it can refer to a number of things that might go viral on the internet. The meme extra credit option asks you to make a meme illustrating a concept from the course. It can be any social psychology topic from the course (i.e. you can't use my musings about my cat for your meme). Although meme's can take many forms, for this assignment I recommend the classic image + text style of meme (see right). However, if you'd like to make a gif or a tiktok styled meme you can.

All meme's will be graded with this rubric:



Demonstrates understanding of course content using a meme format	Full Points
Demonstrates partial understanding of course content using a meme format	½ Points
Off topic, offensive, incomplete, or otherwise not following the assignment	0 Points