

**PSY 235 – Social Psychology**  
Course Syllabus – Fall 2019

**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**

Tu/Th 10:20p-11:40p

Erickson Hall 203: Kiva Auditorium

**PLEASE SEND ALL COURSE QUESTIONS TO OUR COURSE EMAIL ACCOUNT**

Course Email: psy235@cdnresearch.net

**Instructor**

Prof. C. David Navarrete

Office Hr: Th, 2:30-3:30

Location: 247 Psychology Bldg.

Ph: 517-432-8391

Email: cdn@msu.edu

**Teaching Assistants**

TBA

**Course Materials**

Students may use either of the two textbook options:

Kenrick, D.T., Neuberg, S.L., & Cialdini, R.B. (2014). *Social Psychology: Goals in Interaction*. (6th Ed.). Pearson. (4th Ed. ok).

Greenberg, J., Schmader, T., Arndt, J., & Landau, M. (2015). *Social Psychology: The Science of Everyday Life*. Worth.

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

*Class Clicker:* Students should acquire and register iClicker2 by the second week of class.

**Course Web**

The website for the course is available via D2L.

### **Online Homework Assignments and Meeting Day Exceptions**

Lecture content for the following days are posted online. Content will be available a week before it is due. Online lecture assignments are expected to be turned into the appropriately labeled folder in D2L. Due dates for assignments based on the video lectures is 8:00p on the following days. Assignments take about 1 to 3 hrs to complete.

10-Sep. 24-Sep.  
8-Oct. 24-Oct.\*  
12-Nov. 26-Nov\*

\* Class will not meet on 8-Oct and 26-Nov, but your assignments are due nevertheless.

### **Exams and Assignments**

Exams are in the same room as lecture. The combined point total for all course content is 420 pts. split among the following ways:

*Exams:* There are three 100 pt. exams each composed of 45 multiple-choice (2 pts. each), and two short-answer items (5 pts. each). Exams total 300 pts. (~75% of course grade).

*Class Participation:* Participation is registered via iClicker 2 (40 pts. Total)

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

Make-ups for exams or participation are not typically allowed, but contact instructor if you have a special circumstance involving official university business, a religious observance or a documented emergency.

### **Grading**

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

Type	Pts. Each	#	Pts. Total
Homework	4-12	6	60
Clicker	2	20	40
Exams	100	3	300
<b>Total</b>			<b>400</b>

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

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) 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 = 10 HPR credits).

Alternatives to research participation for extra credit may be earned though other means, such as writing a research paper, 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 teaching staff at [psy235@cdnresearch.net](mailto:psy235@cdnresearch.net) or during office hours. TAs/UAs may answer questions about grading, but final decisions are the responsibility solely of the instructor.

### **Academic Freedom**

Respectful dialogue and professional conduct, are important, and 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.

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>

### Content Schedule (Homework Weeks in Bold)

<i>Text</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>	<i>Kenrick</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Wk 1	Chs. 1-2	Ch. 1	Introduction to Social Psychology
Wk 2	Chs. 3-4	Chs. 2-3	Person-Situation; Social Cognition
<b>Wk 3</b>	Chs. 5, 6, 8	Chs. 4-5	Self Presentation; Attitudes and Persuasion
Wk 4	Ch. 7	Ch. 6 + Assigned	Social Influence; Game Theory Intro
<b>Wk 5</b>	Assigned	Assigned	Prospect Theory and Game Theory
Wk 6	Ch. 14 + Assigned	Ch. 8 + Assigned	Sex, Love and Romance I
<b>Wk 7</b>	Ch. 14 + Assigned	Ch. 8 + Assigned	Sex, Love and Romance II
Wk 8	Ch. 15 + Assigned	Ch. 7 + Assigned	Affiliation and Pro-Sociality
<b>Wk 9</b>	Ch.12 + Assigned	Ch. 10 + Assigned	Aggression & Violence
Wk 10	Chs. 10-11	Ch11	Prejudice and Discrimination
Wk 11	Ch. 9	Chs. 12-13	Group Conflict and Cooperation
<b>Wk 12</b>	Ch. 13	Ch. 9 + Assigned	Good & Evil I: Moral Psychology
Wk 13	Ch. 13	Ch. 9 + Assigned	Good & Evil II: Political Psychology
<b>Wk 14</b>	Assigned	Assigned	Good & Evil III: Psychology of Religion
Wk 15	Assigned	Assigned	Do We Have Free Will?

#### Exam Dates

Exam 1: Tues. 3-Oct.

Exam 2: Thurs. 7-Nov.

Exam 3: Thur. 5-Dec.

#### Administrative Housekeeping

**Limits to Confidentiality.** 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 the TA and I, must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with us:

- 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.

**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](http://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 (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. Typically, I will schedule for you to take the exam during a special exam sessions offered by the Psychology Department. Those exams occur in small group settings and are offered every Tuesday at 5:00pm or Friday at 9:00am in Giltner 346. If you are unable to make either of those times, or that option does not meet your VISA accommodations, you may be able to schedule to take your exam at the RCPD office. In either case, the exam must be scheduled well in advance, so you need to adhere to the two week prior notification requirement.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:** 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) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The department of psychology 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: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu))

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](http://www.allmsu.com) website 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.

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>

**Disruptive Behavior.** Article 2.III.B.4 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) 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 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 . . . 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.