



Social Psychology Spring 2022 (PSY-235)

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(pwd: tbs; send email to confirm that you'll join office hours)
Office hours: Monday 4pm to 5pm

Teaching Assistant: Brian Brutzman, MA (he/him)
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(pwd: research; send email to confirm that you'll join office hours)
Office hours: Wednesday 9am to 10am

Online Course Location:

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/93130653395>

Meeting ID: 931 3065 3395

Passcode: sp

In-Person Course Location: Erickson Hall 103

Course Time: Mon/Wed 1020am – 1140am

Email, office hours, or before/after class are the best ways to contact me. Plan at least 2 business days for email responses; however, sometimes the responses will be faster. 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

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

- ...reading textbook chapters written by expert social psychologists
- ...participating in course lectures

- ...completing at least 3 out of 5 exams
- ...reading and analyzing classic empirical research articles
- ...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 iClicker questions spread throughout the class, both for review and for use as demonstrations. To get credit for attendance that day, you must complete all of the iClicker questions, including those at the beginning and end of class, so make sure you do not arrive late or leave early.

- You will receive 2 points for each class (excluding exams).
- iClicker questions start on the second day of classes.
- You can miss a total of 5 iClicker classes without penalty.
- 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 or run out of batteries, there is a **one-time-use** sign-in sheet. Once you have used your one sign in, any future classes where you miss iClicker questions will result in no credit for that day.
- 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>
- We will use iClickers in 23 classes, but you can miss five of these without penalty. That means that you can get a total of 36 points from iClicker questions

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 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 (1020am) and last exactly 1 hour (1120am). 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 assignments that ask you to apply social psychology to daily life, think about social psychological concepts, or delve deeper into social psychological research. All of the assignments are worth 20 points. Your lowest grade will be dropped. Information about the assignments are on D2L. Due dates for the assignments are on D2L and in the schedule below.

Assignment #1: Article analysis

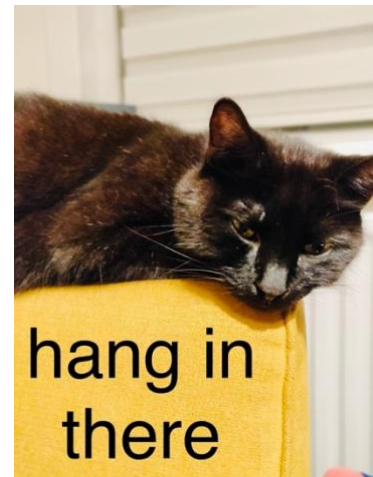
Assignment #2: Applying social psychology

Assignment #3: Persuasion

Assignment #4: Automatic and controlled prejudice

Make-up Policy

I understand that with the ongoing pandemic, 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 flexible 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 or are sick. 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).



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.

Extra Credit

The first type of extra credit is participation in psychology research. You will receive 1 point for every 1 hour of research participation, with a maximum of 10 points (10 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 29 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 during the weekend of April 29, I will upload your credits to D2L. I do not have access to your Sona credits until after Friday, April 29.

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 4 times. Each concept needs to be different. They should be turned in by the end of the day on Friday, April 29th, but can be turned in at any time.

Assignments, Due Dates, and Points

	Due Date	Points
Attendance		
iClicker Participation	All lectures	36
<i>Total Attendance</i>		36
Assignments		
Assignment 1	Feb 2	20
Assignment 2	Feb 28	20
Assignment 3	March 30	20
Assignment 4	April 25	20
<i>Total Assignment (after dropping lowest score)</i>		60
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
Extra Credit		
Research Credits	April 29	10
Memes	April 29	8
<i>Total Extra Credit</i>		18
Maximum Points Possible		276

Distribution of Points for Grades

Total Points	Grade	
248+	4.0	Aim for this
234-247	3.5	Be happy with this
220-233	3.0	
207-219	2.5	
193-206	2.0	Try to avoid this
179-192	1.5	
165-178	1.0	
<165	0.0	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 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 [insert rocket ship emoji here] as soon as possible** (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.** As you will see below, you are able to miss several class meetings before losing any points. 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 (see, this has already happened!). In the event we move online, 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 optional readings suggests, it is in fact optional.

Date & Topic	Assignment Due
Monday, January 10, 2022 Introduction to Social Psychology	<i>Optional Reading</i> An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 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)
Monday, January 17, 2022	No class. MLK Day.
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 Social Development: Evolution	<i>Reading</i> Evolutionary Theories in Psychology
Monday, January 24, 2022 Social Development: Culture	<i>Reading</i> Culture
Wednesday, January 26, 2022 Social Development: Relationships	<i>Reading</i> Attachment Through the Life Course
Monday, January 31, 2022 Social Development: In Childhood	<i>Reading (note: not in textbook, but still free)</i> Social and Personality Development in Childhood
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 Social Development: Catchup and Review	<i>Assignment #1 Due</i>
Monday, February 7, 2022 Exam Day	Online Exam 1: From Start of Course till Now
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 Social Cognition: The Self	<i>Reading</i> Self & Identity
Monday, February 14, 2022 Social Cognition: Social Judgments & Attitudes	<i>Reading</i> Social Cognition & Attitudes
Wednesday, February 16, 2022	No class. Take a break. Catch up on work. Play video games.
Monday, February 21, 2022 Social Cognition: Seeing Others Minds	<i>Reading</i> Theory of Mind
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 Social Cognition: Comparing Others	<i>Reading</i> Social Comparisons
Monday, February 28, 2022 Social Cognition: Catchup and Review	<i>Assignment #2 Due</i>
Wednesday, March 2, 2022 Exam Day	Online Exam 2: From Exam 1 till Now
Monday, March 7, 2022	No class. Spring break.
Wednesday, March 9, 2022	No class. Spring break.
Monday, March 14, 2022 Emotions: Functions	<i>Reading</i> Functions of Emotions
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 Emotions: Culture	<i>Reading</i> Culture & Emotion
Monday, March 21, 2022 Social Influence: Persuasion	<i>Reading</i> Persuasion: So Easily Fooled
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 Social Influence: Conformity	<i>Reading</i> Conformity and Obedience

Monday, March 28, 2022 Social Influence: Groups	<i>Reading</i> The Psychology of Groups
Wednesday, March 30, 2022 Catchup and Review	<i>Assignment #3 Due</i>
Monday, April 4, 2022 Exam Day	Online Exam 3: From Exam 2 till Now
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 Conflict: Prejudice & Discrimination	<i>Reading</i> Prejudice, Discrimination, & Stereotyping
Monday, April 11, 2022 Conflict: Violence	<i>Reading</i> Aggression & Violence
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 Positive Relationships: Cooperation	<i>Reading</i> Cooperation
Monday, April 18, 2022 Positive Relationships: Helping	<i>Reading</i> Helping and Prosocial Behavior
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 Positive Relationships:	<i>Reading</i> Relationships and Well-being
Monday, April 25, 2022 Catchup, Review, Wrap-up	<i>Assignment #4 Due</i>
Wednesday, April 27, 2022 Exam Day	Online Exam 4: From Exam 3 till Now Reminder: <i>Extra credit is due on April 29th</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

