

# PSY235: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

## Fall 2022

### Teaching Team

**Instructor:** Dr. Rebekka Weidmann (she/her)  
Office Hours: Virtual, Fridays 12:00 -1:00 pm  
Link to office hours: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/7955622827>  
Email: [weidma12@msu.edu](mailto:weidma12@msu.edu)

**Teaching Assistant:** Lauren Raycraft (she/her)  
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### Undergraduate Teaching Assistants:

Vishok Gunasekar (he/him)  
Office Hours: Virtual, Mondays 2:00 – 4.00 pm  
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Maya Gulick (she/her)  
Office Hours: Virtual, Tuesdays 5:00 – 6:00 pm  
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### Course meeting

Tuesday and Thursday from 12:40-2:00pm  
Course location: Psychology Building 118  
Course website: [d2l.msu.edu](http://d2l.msu.edu)  
Course Modality: in person

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### 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.**

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## Required Textbook and Course Materials

**Online Free Book:** "Together: The Science of Social Psychology" <http://noba.to/txqy938d> (free to download)

**iClicker** tech in some form or another Access to D2L for attendance, participation, quizzes, and exams.

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## Activities

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

- ...reading textbook chapters written by expert social psychologists
  - ...participating in course lectures
  - ...completing at least 4 out of 5 quizzes
  - ...reading and analyzing classic empirical research articles
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## Required Technologies

Laptop or Smartphone: iClicker App

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## Attendance and Participation

You are expected to attend lectures, ask questions, participate in activities, and generally be an active and engaged learner. This is the best way to enjoy a class and learn the most from it (also the best way to perform well grade-wise). Please save your side conversations, text messages, shopping, and video gaming for after class. I take attendance via iClicker. Attending class gets you points towards your final grade (and it helps with the learning process when preparing for the quizzes and exams).

To get credit for attendance for each lecture, you need to enroll via iClicker and answer the iClicker question that I present during each lecture.

- You receive 1 point for each lecture attended (you can miss 4 lectures, 24 lectures with attendance in total, which makes 20 points in total, exam dates excluded, see schedule below)
  - The lecture question starts at the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of classes
  - You can use a physical iClicker or the iClicker app for your phone
  - The question doesn't need to be answered correctly. You just need to respond.
  - Please note: If someone else uses your iClicker for you while 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 set up before the second class (Sept 6, 2022). You can follow these instructions: <https://macmillan.force.com/iclicker/s/article/Student-Guide-iClicker-Roster-Grade-Sync-Integration>
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## Quizzes and Exams

There will be five short quizzes (10 multiple-choice questions each, max of 20 points per quiz), one mid-term exam and one final exam. A quiz follows each section of the course, the mid-term exam covers the sections that we've covered before the mid-term exam, and the final exam covers the entire course at the very end of the semester. Of the five short quizzes, the four best grades count towards your final grade (i.e., the lowest grade or one absence from the quiz will be dropped). The quizzes, mid-term exams, and final exams are in person. They start on time! You have 20 minutes for the quiz and the entire class time (i.e., 75min) for the mid-term and final exams.

Please take detailed notes on the lecture material (slides, discussions, videos) and please read the book chapters; you will be tested on all of 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.

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## Make-up Policy

I understand that with the ongoing pandemic, you will occasionally have health issues that prevent you 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.

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## Summary Assignment

You have two assignments that are due at midterm (Assignment #1) and at the end of the class (Assignment #2). For each assignment, please **read, summarize, and respond to questions regarding one of the research articles** uploaded on d2l.msu.edu ("Assignment\_Articles" file) and write a 500-word summary (please use the "Assignment\_Template" file). Submission deadline is October 27, 2022, at 11:59pm EST for the first assignment and December 8, 2022, at 11:59pm EST for the second assignment. The summary counts for 15 points each.

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## Extra Credit

You have the option to do two extra credits: study participation and social experiment. You can choose to do both and earn a total of 40 extra credit points.

The first type of extra credit is **Study Participation**. You are all invited to participate in a 15-week longitudinal study which starts as soon as classes start (Sept 1, 2022). For each week of participation in the study you receive 2 points (30 points total). Further information can be found on d2l. Look for the “PSYC 235 Personality Study” document in the “Extra Credit” folder. If you do not feel comfortable to participate in the study but would like to receive extra credits, you can choose the **Alternative Assignment** posted on the d2l.

The second type of extra credit is to **Conduct and Report on a Social Experiment** that lasts for one week and submit a summary of how it went. The proposal of your social experiment can be uploaded any time *before* your one-week experiment starts (please use the template on d2l.msu.edu, in the “Extra Credit” folder) and the report is due within 7 days *after* your experiment ended (Last possible submission date for experiment summaries is December 8, 2022; also, please use the template in the “Extra Credit” folder on d2l). This social experiment must be **positive** and must be planned with a positive change for you, your relationship partners, or your social environment in mind. In other words, please do not conduct a social experiment that includes harming, bullying, ostracizing, or shaming someone else. But you can test if sending your partner an affectionate text every day influences you or them, if calling your mom more often has an effect on you or them (or the whole family and relatives), or if smiling at strangers, the cashier, or children has an effect on you, them, or others. Feel free to be as creative as possible. You can conduct one experiment that counts for 10 points. The points are only assigned when the proposal and the report are submitted on time.

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## House Rules

I value open discussion of all of the relevant topics related to that day’s class. I want to hear your thoughts and for you to feel comfortable expressing them in 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.

## Quizzes, Exams, Due Dates, and Points

	Due Date	Points
<b>Attendance</b>		
Lecture Participation	All lectures (see schedule; you can miss 4 lectures)	20
<b>Total Attendance</b>		<b>20</b>
<b>Assignment</b>		
Summary of Research Article	Oct 27	15
Summary of Research Article	Dec 8	15
<b>Total Assignment</b>		<b>30</b>

## Quizzes

Quiz 1	Sept 15	10
Quiz 2	Oct 4	10
Quiz 3	Oct 20	10
Quiz 4	Nov 8	10
Quiz 5	Dec 6	10
<b>Total Quizzes (after dropping the lowest score)</b>		<b>40</b>
<b>Exams</b>		
Mid-term exam	Oct 27	60
Final exam	Dec 6	90
<b>Total Exams</b>		<b>150</b>
<b>Extra Credits</b>		
Study Participation (or Alternative Assignment)	15-week participation, 2 points per week (or due on Dec 8)	30
Social Experiment	Dec 8	10
<b>Total Extra Credits</b>		<b>40</b>
<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>		<b>240</b>

### Distribution of Points for Grades

Total Points	Grade	
215+	4.0	Aim for this
203-214	3.5	
191-202	3.0	Be happy with this
179-190	2.5	
167-178	2.0	
155-166	1.5	Try to avoid this
143-154	1.0	

### Schedule and Reading

All readings are required and will be included in the quizzes and exams except for the reading explicitly listed as optional, which is in fact optional.

Class	Date	Topic	Assignment	Attendance points
#1	Sept 1, 2022	Introduction to Social Psychology	Optional Reading <a href="#">An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology</a>	
#2	Sept 6, 2022	Research Methods	Reading <a href="#">Research Methods in Social Psychology</a>	1

			<a href="#">Conducting Psychology Research in the Real World</a> (sections: Introduction, Rationale for Conducting Psychology Research in the Real World)	
#3	Sept 8, 2022	Understanding the Self and Others: Self and Identity	Reading <a href="#">Self and Identity</a>	1
#4	Sept 13, 2022	Understanding the Self and Others: Social Cognition and Attitudes	Reading <a href="#">Social Cognition and Attitudes</a>	1
#5	Sept 15, 2022	<b>Quiz 1</b> Catch-up, Review, and Questions		1
#6	Sept 20, 2022	Groups and Group Processes: The Psychology of Groups	Reading <a href="#">The Psychology of Groups</a>	1
#7	Sept 22, 2022	Groups and Group Processes: The Family	Reading <a href="#">The Family</a>	1
#8	Sept 27, 2022	Groups and Group Processes: Culture	Reading <a href="#">Culture</a>	1
#9	Sept 29, 2022	Groups and Group Processes: Social Comparison	Reading <a href="#">Social Comparison</a>	1
#10	Oct 4, 2022	<b>Quiz 2</b> Catch-up, Review, and Questions		1
#11	Oct 6, 2022	Emotions: Functions of Emotions	Reading <a href="#">Functions of Emotions</a>	1
#12	Oct 11, 2022	Emotions: Culture and Emotion	Reading <a href="#">Culture and Emotion</a>	1
#13	Oct 13, 2022	Social Influence: Conformity and Obedience	Reading <a href="#">Conformity and Obedience</a>	1
#14	Oct 18, 2022	Social Influence: Persuasion	Reading <a href="#">Persuasion</a>	1
#15	Oct 20, 2022	<b>Quiz 3</b> Catch-up, Review, and Questions		1
	Oct 25, 2022	Break		
	Oct 27, 2022	Mid-term Exam	<b>Assignment #1 due!</b>	
#16	Nov 1, 2022	Conflict: Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping	Reading <a href="#">Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping</a>	1

#17	Nov 3, 2022	<b>Uploaded recording (no in-person class)</b> Conflict: Aggression and Violence	Reading <a href="#">Aggression and Violence</a>	1
#18	Nov 8, 2022	<b>Quiz 4</b> Catch-up, Review, and Questions		1
#19	Nov 10, 2022	Positive Relationships: Helping and Prosocial Behavior	Reading <a href="#">Helping and Prosocial Behavior</a>	1
#20	Nov 15, 2022	Positive Relationships: Cooperation	Reading <a href="#">Cooperation</a>	1
#21	Nov 17, 2022	Positive Relationships: Positive Relationships	Reading <a href="#">Positive Relationships</a>	1
#22	Nov 22, 2022	Positive Relationships: Love, Friendship, and Social Support	Reading <a href="#">Love, Friendship, and Social Support</a>	1
	Nov 24, 2022	Holiday		
#23	Nov 29, 2022	Positive Relationships: Attachment Through the Life Course	Reading <a href="#">Attachment Through the Life Course</a>	1
#24	Dec 1, 2022	Positive Relationships: Relationships and Well-being	Reading <a href="#">Relationships and Well-being</a>	1
#25	Dec 6, 2022	<b>Quiz 5</b> Catch-up, Review, and Questions		1
	Dec 8, 2022	Final Exam	<b>Assignment #2 due!</b>	

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## 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](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu)) and/or the [MSU Web site](#) ([msu.edu](http://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](http://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](#).)

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## 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.

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## 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](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 will be honored whenever possible.

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## Disruptive Behavior

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.