**PSY 235-003H: Social Psychology - Honors**

Course Syllabus – Spring 2023

**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**

C304 Snyder Hall

TTH 10:20-11:40pm

**Instructor**

Prof. C. David Navarrete

Office Hr: T, 12:00p-1:00p

Location: 247 Psychology

Email: cdn@msu.edu

**Course Materials**

*Textbook:*

Kenrick, D.T., Neuberg, S.L., & Cialdini, R.B. (2019). *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 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 or an iClicker student account. Information on clickers is here: https://tech.msu.edu/service-catalog/teaching/student-response/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:

22-Jan. 5-Feb.

19-Feb. 11-Mar

1-Apr. 15-Apr

Class will not meet on 28-Feb.

**Exams and Assignments**

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). Exams are administered in our usual meeting room on the dates posted below.

*Class Participation:* Participation is registered via iClicker accounts (20 pts. Total)

*Homework Assignments:* There are six (6) online homework submissions for 40 points total.

*Writing Assignments:* There are two writing assignments worth 30 points each totaling 60 pts., (12.5% of grade). Instructions for these assignments are on the Lessons tab in D2L. The first writing assignment is due Mar. 27, and the second is due Apr. 21.

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.

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Pts. Each** | **#** | **Pts. Total** |
| **Homework** | 4-12 | 6 | 40 |
| **Clicker** | 2 | 20 | 20 |
| **Writing Assgn** | 25 | 2 | 60 |
| **Exams** | 100 | 3 | 300 |
| **Total** |  |  | 420 |

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

**Grading**

The grading scale is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Percent** | **Pt. Min.** | **Grade** |
| **90%** | 378 | 4.0 |
| **85%** | 357 | 3.5 |
| **80%** | 336 | 3.0 |
| **75%** | 315 | 2.5 |
| **70%** | 294 | 2.0 |
| **65%** | 273 | 1.5 |
| **60%** | 252 | 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 = 10 HPR credits and 10 class points).

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 instructor during/after class, via email (cdn@msu.edu) or during office hours.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Content Schedule (Homework Weeks in Bold)** | | | |
| *Text* |  | *Kenrick* | *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: Tue. 14-Feb.

Exam 2: Tue. 21-Mar.

Exam 3: Thu. 27-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 are below.

**University Policy and 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 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. 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 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 Responsibilites (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

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 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.

**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/).