

## Course Information

- PSY235: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
- Asynchronous Online Course: No live lectures, recorded lectures posted on d2l
  
- Professor: Joseph Cesario
- Professor Office Hours: Virtual, Fridays 11:00-12:00
- Link to office hours: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/98693055355>
  
- \*\*\*Send all course emails to: psy235cesario@gmail.com\*\*\*
- Website: d2l.msu.edu

## Course Overview

- 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. So, there is much applicability for the principles you will learn in this course. However, rather than providing a list of topics and research findings, this course is structured around the intra- and inter-personal systems that regulate social behavior. My hope is that this provides a more cohesive and engaging presentation compared to simply describing topic after topic in a disconnected way.
- There is no honors option for the course.

## Email & Contact

- **Use the email address psy235cesario@gmail.com for all emails.** You will not receive a response if you ask a question that could have been answered by reading this syllabus. Please take care in writing your emails; treat them as professional correspondence.
- If you are having difficulties with the material or would like to talk about the course for any reason, please feel free to come to office hours or email for an appointment. I cannot stress this enough: *do not wait until the last minute to seek help*. I cannot do anything to help you if you wait until one week before the final exam to seek help.

## Course Objectives

- One objective of this course is to demonstrate how psychologists think about social interactions and social influence. What questions do social psychologists ask? What have they learned? A second, more important, objective is to teach you how to think like a social psychologist. By the end of the course you should be able to apply these approaches

to novel situations relevant to your own experiences.

## Lectures: Format

- The class is online asynchronous. There are no live, scheduled lectures to attend. I will post lecture recordings on d2l so you can view them at your convenience.
- There are two lectures per week, so the class mimics a MW or TTh course schedule. I will post both lectures for the week at the beginning of each week.
- You are free to view the lectures according to your preferred schedule (e.g., twice weekly, all at once the day before the exam, at random times, etc.). However, research on goal setting and self-regulation **strongly** suggests that the optimal way for you to stay motivated and to complete the course successfully is to set aside specific times each week and then stick to those times every week. For instance, set aside Monday 10:20-11:40 and Wednesday 10:20-11:40 for watching lectures and stick to that schedule *every week*.

## Lectures: Tips

- During lecture, I use slides to display figures, graphs, and a summary of main points. Let me emphasize that I create slides to facilitate the lecture and not to present the bulk of the material. **You must take detailed notes during lecture!**

## Required Reading

- There is no required textbook. You have already paid for the research presented in textbooks at least two times: Your taxes are used to fund social psychology research, and your tuition pays for MSU Library access to the journals in which that research is published. I will not ask you to pay a third time for a textbook summary of that research, while also paying me to provide a summary in lecture format. Instead, you will read original source material (posted on d2l).
- If you want additional readings on any of the topics presented in the course, please do not hesitate to ask me. I'm happy to send you further readings.

## Evaluation

### 1.1 Philosophy

- Your evaluation is based on how successfully you master and are able to apply the approaches and methods of social psychology that we cover in the course. As important as it is to learn the findings of social psychology research, it is just as important that you understand the more substantive issues behind research: Why a researcher thought an experiment was important, why the experiment was designed the way it was, and the implications of the results for our understanding of human behavior. An understanding of the scientific process of psychological research is one of the most valuable things you can take away from this course. Long after you have forgotten the findings that have been established by social psychologists, you may still be able to use what you know about the

psychological approach to contemplate the behavior of those around you, as well as your own.

## 1.2 Exam Format

- There are five exams, each worth 50 points: one exam at the end of each of the four sections and one final exam. The first four exams are not cumulative; the final exam is cumulative. **Only your top four of five exam scores count toward your final grade.** Consistent with the philosophy described above, examinations will focus both on the extent to which you are able to remember *what* social psychologists have found and on the extent to which you are able to understand and apply *how* they went about finding it.
- Exams will be administered through d2l in the section Assessments... Quizzes. All questions are multiple-choice or true/false.
- Each of the four section exams will be open for a 1hr, 20minute window for you to finish the exam. The final exam will be open for a 2hr window. These windows will be available to you *anytime during the three-day exam periods* (see calendar below for dates). *Anytime* between 12:01am on the first day of the exam window to 11:59pm on the final day of the exam window, you can log into d2l and take the exam. However, once you begin the exam, the countdown for the exam window begins and you must finish the exam within that window; you cannot start the exam and then return to it at a later time.
- The final exam will consist questions similar to those found in the four section exams.

## 1.3 Application Assignment

- Three times during the semester you will turn in a 3-page (maximum), double-spaced report of your efforts to apply a concept learned in this course to any aspect of your life or the world. The possibilities for this assignment are endless, really. For example, you could:
  - Use a theory to make sense of your thoughts, behavior, or emotions. (Can evolutionary theory tell me why I find my girlfriend attractive?)
  - Use a social influence technique to get what you want. (If I make certain types of norms salient, can I get my roommate to pick up his underwear off the floor?)
  - Generally, apply a social psychology topic to any experience you have.
- Papers should include a detailed description of the concept/theory/technique you have chosen and a description of your attempted application. The paper will likely be about 1/2 description of the chosen idea and 1/2 description of your application attempt, but of course this will vary from student to student and paper to paper. You should write as much as you need to convey to me that you understand in detail the topic you've chosen, and then write as much as you need to convey to me the appropriateness of your application.
- Each assignment will be graded as check+ (5 points), check (3 points), or check- (1 point). Upload your assignment to the relevant dropbox (under the section "Assignments") in d2l **by 5:00pm on the due date**. It is your responsibility to check that the assignment has been uploaded. You can turn in any assignment before the deadline and you can write on any topic covered during the semester prior to (but not after) that deadline. There is no specific formatting requirement, but it should be written in a professional manner.
- This exercise not only allows you to demonstrate your understanding of the material but

also allows you to discover practical applications that would have otherwise gone unnoticed. This requirement is designed to contribute to your education and understanding of the material, not to be a piece of busywork that you begrudgingly complete for a grade. It should be enjoyable! Take this as an opportunity to exercise creativity in applying the material to your life.

## 1.4 Extra Credit: Human Participation in Research

- You can earn extra credit in this course by participating 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, December 10 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 November 1.** After November 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 December 10, I will upload your credits to d2l. I do not have access to your Sona credits until after Friday December 10.

## 1.5 Calculating Your Final Grade.

- This course is based on 215 points. *It is your responsibility to keep track of your grade.* Use these handy charts:

| <b><i>To get this grade:</i></b> | <b><i>You need this percent:</i></b> | <b><i>Which is this many points:</i></b> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 4.0                              | 90%                                  | 193.5                                    |
| 3.5                              | 85%                                  | 182.75                                   |
| 3.0                              | 80%                                  | 172                                      |
| 2.5                              | 75%                                  | 161.25                                   |
| 2.0                              | 70%                                  | 150.5                                    |
| 1.5                              | 65%                                  | 139.75                                   |
| 1.0                              | 60%                                  | 129                                      |
| 0.0                              | <60%                                 | <129                                     |

|                      |  |             |
|----------------------|--|-------------|
| Exam 1               |  | /50         |
| Exam 2               |  | /50         |
| Exam 3               |  | /50         |
| Exam 4               |  | /50         |
| Final Exam           |  | /50         |
| Application Ass. 1   |  | /5          |
| Application Ass. 2   |  | /5          |
| Application Ass. 3   |  | /5          |
| HPR extra credit     |  | /0          |
| <b>Total points:</b> |  | <b>/215</b> |

- The final calculated percentage will be rounded to the nearest whole number at 0.5% (e.g., 89.4% stays at 89.4%, but 89.5% rounds up to 90%). ***There will be no adjustments to your grade merely because you are close to the next grade.*** I will never, ever, *under any circumstance*, change your grade for any reason other than a calculation error, nor will I give you any special, unique-to-you assignment so you can get a grade higher than the one you earned. Please do not ask.

## Accommodations

- Students who need accommodations during class or exams should contact me immediately.
- 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 without sufficient lead time will not be honored.
- If you require testing accommodations you must contact me and ***present your VISA at least two weeks before the exam date.***

## Attendance & Make-Up Exams

- No makeup tests or exams will be given unless you have a valid, documented excuse. Any notes must explicitly state “This student was unable to take the test/exam on (dates) because \_\_\_\_\_.” If you cannot get a note or if your excuse involves something that is private, you must get a note from the Dean. **You must notify me that you have a valid excuse by the end of the day of the test period/exam or you will not be allowed a makeup.**
- If you cannot take the test/exam because of a university-scheduled event, a religious holiday, or some other acceptable event that you could have foreseen, you must notify me **at least one week before the test/exam.** (See the homepage of the Ombudsperson's office for acceptable non-emergency absences.) If you do not notify me within this time frame, you will not be allowed to take the makeup.

## Academic Honesty

- The following is the academic honesty statement from the Office of the Ombudsperson; all students are required to adhere to this statement:
  - Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the Psychology department 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) Web site to complete any course work in PSY 342. Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including -- but not limited to -- 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 <https://www.msu.edu/~ombud/academic-integrity/index.html>)
- If you break the academic honesty agreement in any way, **you will receive a 0.0 for the course.** There are no exceptions.
- I encourage you to visit [honorcode.msu.edu](http://honorcode.msu.edu) to learn more about the Spartan Code of Honor:
  - “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.”

# Course Topics and Readings Calendar

- ***You must check d2l weekly for the current calendar!***

| <b><i>Date</i></b> | <b><i>Topic</i></b> | <b><i>Readings</i></b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|

*~~Part 1: Biological & Developmental System~~*

- |                               |   |  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| • Week 1: Sept. 1 - Sept. 3   | Course Introduction & Approach<br>Evolution |  |
| • Week 2: Sept. 7 - Sept. 10  | Evolution cont.<br>Life History Theory      | Cosmides & Tooby (1997)                |
| • Week 3: Sept. 13 - Sept. 17 | Delay of Gratification<br>Attachment Theory | Moffitt et al. (2011)<br>Fraley (2010) |

**Friday Sept. 17 - Sunday Sept. 19**

***Exam 1: Take on d2l anytime during this 3-day period***

*~~Part 2: Cognitive System~~*

- |                               |  |                           |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| • Week 4: Sept. 20 - Sept. 24 | Social Cognitive Foundations &<br>Principles of Knowledge Activation |                           |
| • Week 5: Sept. 27 - Oct. 1   | Categories & Expectancies: Foundations                               | Macrae & Boden. (2000)    |
| • Week 6: Oct. 4 - Oct. 8     | Where do stereotypes come from? &<br>Implicit Bias                   | Hamilton & Gifford (1976) |
| • Week 7: Oct. 11 - Oct. 15   | Stereotype Accuracy &<br>Categories & Expectancies: Conditions       | Jussim et al. (2009)      |

**Friday Oct. 15 - Sunday Oct. 17**

***Exam 2: Take on d2l anytime during this 3-day period***

**Monday Oct. 18**

***Application Assignment #1 Due by 5:00pm!***

*~~Part 3: Motivational System~~*

- |                             |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| • Week 8: Oct. 18 - Oct. 22 | Fundamentals:<br>Regulatory Focus Theory & Attribution | Brockner et al. (2004)<br>Yeager & Dweck (2012) |
| • Week 9: Oct. 27 - Oct. 29 | Attribution cont.                                      | Ryan & Deci (2000)                              |
| • Week 10: Nov. 1 - Nov. 5  | Motivated Reasoning &<br>Motivated Perception          | Festinger & Carlsmith (1959)                    |

**Friday Nov. 5 - Sunday Nov. 7**

***Exam 3: Take on d2l anytime during this 3-day period***

**Monday Nov. 8**

***Application Assignment #2 Due by 5:00pm!***

~~Part 4: Social System~~

- Week 11: Nov. 8 - Nov. 12  
Interpersonal Level: Attraction & Repulsion
- Week 12: Nov. 15 - Nov. 19  
Fundamentals of Us vs. Them
- Week 13: Nov. 22 - Nov. 24  
Being a Good Group Member: Roles, Ostracism
- Week 14: Nov. 29 - Dec. 3  
Being a Good Group Member: Roles cont., Ostracism
- Week 15: Dec. 6 - Dec. 10  
Being a Good Group Member: Social Influence Schulz et al. (2007)

**Friday December 10 - Sunday Dec. 12**

***Exam 4: Take on d2l anytime during this 3-day period***

**Monday December 13**

***Application Assignment #3 Due by 5:00pm!***

**Final Exam:**

**Take on d2l anytime in the 3-day period:**

***Tuesday December 14 - Thursday December 16***