Psychology ♥️

Social

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**Social Psychology Fall 2025 (PSY-235-002)**

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| **Professor**: Dr. Mark Brandt (he/him)**Email**: brandt15@msu.edu**Office**: Psych Building 247 **Office hours**: Tuesdays 3pm to 4pm | **Teaching Assistant**: Hyewon Yang (she/her)**Email**: yanghyew@msu.edu **Office**: <https://calendly.com/hyewon1161/psy-235-hyewon-office-hour> **Office hours**: Fridays noon to 1pm **Undergraduate TA**: Zoe Larson (she/her)**Email**: larsonz2@msu.edu  |
| When emailing me or the TAs **always** include PSY-235 in the subject line of the email |
| **Course Location**: Psychology Building 118**Course Time**: Tuesday/Thursday 410p-530p |
| Email, office hours, or before/after class are the best ways to contact the TA and myself. Plan at least 2 business days for email responses; however, sometimes the responses will be faster and sometimes it will be slower. I do not typically check emails on the weekend. Before emailing or meeting, check the syllabus. Pro-tip: Use control-f (or command-f on a Mac) and search for key terms that are relevant for your question. |

**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 the optional reading suggests, it is in fact optional. All textbook readings (labeled with “textbook”) have associated online quizzes that are required. There are no online quizzes for the optional reading or the peer-reviewed journal articles.*

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| **Date & Topic** | **Assignment Due** |
| Tuesday, August 26, 2025Introduction to Social Psychology | *Optional Reading* [An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology](http://noba.to/s64y5c2m) |
| Thursday, August 28, 2025Research Methods | *Readings* (Quizzes from textbook chapters due)Textbook: [Research Methods in Social Psychology](http://noba.to/zjn2aty5)Textbook: [Conducting Psychology Research in the Real World](http://noba.to/hsfe5k3d) (sections: Introduction, Rationale for Conducting Psychology Research in the Real World) |
| Tuesday, September 2, 2025Social Development: Evolution & Culture | *Readings* (Quizzes from textbook chapters due)Textbook: [Evolutionary Theories in Psychology](http://noba.to/ymcbwrx4)Textbook: [Culture](http://noba.to/y9xcptqw) |
| Thursday, September 4, 2025Social Development: Childhood and Relationships**Note**: September 5th @ 9am is the deadline for choosing the mandatory attendance policy (see below) and receiving the maximum number of extra credit points | *Readings* (Quizzes from textbook chapters due)Textbook: [Attachment Through the Life Course](http://noba.to/s3kj9ufv)Textbook: [Social and Personality Development in Childhood](https://nobaproject.com/modules/social-and-personality-development-in-childhood) |
| Tuesday, September 9, 2025How to Read a Journal Article**Note**: **We will not meet in person**. I have a prescheduled work meeting that I need to attend. I will post a video lecture to replace this class period. This lecture is not part of the mandatory attendance.  | *Reading*[This PDF](https://www.ameliahoovergreen.com/uploads/9/3/0/9/93091546/writing-guide.pdf), but just the section “How to Read” (pages 7-9…it’s short, but really helpful!) |
| Thursday, September 11, 2025Social Development: Evolution & Culture Peer Reviewed Reading | *Reading* Li, C., Zuckerman, M., & Diener, E. (2021). [Culture moderates the relation between gender inequality and well-being](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0956797620972492). *Psychological Science*, *32*(6), 823-835. |
| Tuesday, September 16, 2025Social Development: Childhood and Relationships Peer Reviewed Reading | *Reading*Moors, A. C., Conley, T. D., Edelstein, R. S., & Chopik, W. J. (2015). [Attached to monogamy? Avoidance predicts willingness to engage (but not actual engagement) in consensual non-monogamy](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0265407514529065). *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, *32*(2), 222-240. |
| Thursday, September 18, 2025Social Development: Catchup and Review | Come to class prepared to review |
| Tuesday, September 23, 2025Exam Day | Exam 1: From Start of Course till Now |
| Thursday, September 25, 2025Social Cognition: The Self | *Reading* (Quiz from textbook chapter due)Textbook: [Self & Identity](http://noba.to/3gsuardw) |
| Tuesday, September 30, 2025Social Cognition & Attitudes | *Reading* (Quiz from textbook chapter due)Textbook: [Social Cognition & Attitudes](http://noba.to/6xanb4j9) |
| Thursday, October 2, 2025Social Cognition: The Effects of Others | *Reading* (Quiz from textbook chapter due)Textbook: [Theory of Mind](http://noba.to/a8wpytg3) |
| Tuesday, October 7, 2025Social Cognition: The Effects of Others**Note**: October 8th @ 9am is the deadline for choosing the mandatory attendance policy (see below) and receiving a maximum of 7 extra credit points | *Reading* (Quiz from textbook chapter due)Textbook: [Social Comparison](https://nobaproject.com/modules/social-comparison)  |
| Thursday, October 9, 2025Social Cognition: The Effects of Others Peer Reviewed Reading | Rogers, T., & Feller, A. (2016). [Discouraged by peer excellence: Exposure to exemplary peer performance causes quitting](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0956797615623770). *Psychological Science*, *27*(3), 365-374. |
| Tuesday, October 14, 2025Social Cognition: Catchup and Review*March 3 is the last day to drop with no grade reported* | *Article Analysis Due* Be prepared for exam review |
| Thursday, October 16, 2025Exam Day | Exam 2: From Exam 1 till Now |
| Tuesday, October 21, 2025Fall Break | No class, no office hours |
| Thursday, October 23, 2025Emotions: Functions and Culture | *Readings* (Quizzes from textbook chapters due)Textbook: [Functions of Emotions](http://noba.to/w64szjxu)Textbook: [Culture & Emotion](http://noba.to/gfqmxtyw) |
| Tuesday, October 28, 2025Emotions: Functions and Culture Peer Reviewed Reading | *Reading*Andersen, M. M., Schjoedt, U., Price, H., Rosas, F. E., Scrivner, C., & Clasen, M. (2020). [Playing with fear: A field study in recreational horror](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0956797620972116). *Psychological Science*, *31*(12), 1497-1510. 🎃 |
| Thursday, October 30, 2025Social Influence: Persuasion & Conformity | *Readings* (Quizzes from textbook chapters due)Textbook: [Persuasion: So Easily Fooled](http://noba.to/y73u6ta8)Textbook: [Conformity and Obedience](http://noba.to/hkray8fs) |
| Tuesday, November 4, 2025Social Influence: Groups | *Reading* (Quiz from textbook chapter due)Textbook: [The Psychology of Groups](http://noba.to/trfxbkhm) |
| Thursday, November 6, 2025Catchup and Review | *Application Assignment Due* Be prepared to review |
| Tuesday, November 11, 2025Exam Day | Exam 3: From Exam 2 till Now |
| Thursday, November 13, 2025Conflict: Prejudice & Discrimination | *Reading* (Quiz from textbook chapter due)Textbook: [Prejudice, Discrimination, & Stereotyping](http://noba.to/jfkx7nrd) |
| Tuesday, November 18, 2025Conflict: Prejudice & Discrimination Peer Reviewed Reading | *Reading*Leitner, J. B., Hehman, E., Ayduk, O., & Mendoza-Denton, R. (2016). [Blacks’ death rate due to circulatory diseases is positively related to whites’ explicit racial bias: A nationwide investigation using project implicit](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0956797616658450). *Psychological Science*, *27*(10), 1299-1311. |
| Thursday, November 20, 2025Cooperation | *Reading* (Quiz from textbook chapter due)Textbook: [Cooperation](http://noba.to/d7y9esw4) |
| Tuesday, November 25, 2025Positive Relationships: Helping and Love | *Readings* (Quizzes from textbook chapters due)Textbook: [Helping and Prosocial Behavior](http://noba.to/tbuw7afg)Textbook: [Love, Friendship, and Social Support](http://noba.to/s54tmp7k) |
| Thursday, November 27, 2025Thanksgiving Break | No class, no readings, no lectures 🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃🦃 |
| Tuesday, December 2, 2025Catchup, Review, Wrap-up | Be prepared to review |
| Thursday, December 4, 2025Exam Day | Exam 4: From Exam 3 till Now***Reminder****: Meme extra credit is due on December 5th. No exceptions.* |
| WEDNESDAY, December 10, 2025, 8pm\*\*You might be wondering, do I like that our exam is at this time? Did I get to choose this time? And the answer to both of those questions is “no”. | Final Exam: Entire Course! |

**Assignments, Due Dates, and Points**

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|  | **Due Date** | **Points** |
| **Assignments** |  |  |
|  Article Analysis Assignment  | October 14 | 20 |
|  Application Assignment | November 6 | 20 |
| *Total Assignment*  |  | 40 |
|  |  |  |
| **Online Quizzes** |  |  |
|  19 online quizzes (lowest 2 scores dropped) | Class period for assigned chapter | 3 each |
| *Total quizzes* |  | 51 |
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| **In Person Exams** |  |  |
|  Exam 1 | September 23 | 60 |
|  Exam 2 | October 16 | 60 |
|  Exam 3 | November 11 | 60 |
|  Exam 4 | December 4 | 60 |
|  Final Exam | December 10 | 60 |
| *Total Exams (after dropping two lowest scores)* |  | 180 |
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| **Extra Credit** |  |  |
|  Research Credits | December 5\* | 5 |
|  Memes | December 5 | 4 |
|  Mandatory attendance (Choice 2) | September 5 / October 8 | 14 / 7 |
| *Total Extra Credit* |  | 23 / 16 |
| **Maximum Points Possible (not including EC)** |  | **271** |

\* Do not wait until December 5 to complete this EC because studies will very likely no longer be available. See instructions later in the syllabus.

**Distribution of Points for Grades**

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| **Total Points** | **Grade** |  |
| 249+ | 4.0 | Aim for this |
| 230+ | 3.5 | Be happy with this |
| 216+ | 3.0 |
| 203+ | 2.5 |  |
| 189+ | 2.0 | Try to avoid this |
| 176+ | 1.5 |
| 162+ | 1.0 |  |
| <162 | 0.0 | Please not this |

**Note**: There will be no “rounding up” because all of these values are already rounded up. If you are writing an email asking me to round up or boost your grade, please know that the answer is always the same. There are no exceptions.

**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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| **Learning Objectives**:1. You will learn how psychologists think about social interactions, perceptions, and influence.
2. You will learn the research methods social psychologists use.
3. You will learn to think critically about conclusions made by social psychologists.
4. 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 app (to track attendance and participate in ungraded quiz questions in class)Access to D2L for quizzes, assignments, and additional readings |

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

* …reading textbook chapters written by expert social psychologists
* …reading and analyzing peer-reviewed journal articles written by expert social psychologists
* …participating in course lectures
* ….completing online quizzes
* …completing at least 3 out of 5 exams
* …applying social psychology to your own life

**Participation & Attendance Choices**

You are expected to complete all of the readings, attend all of the lectures, answer questions using iClicker, ask your own questions in class, participate in class 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.

**Material from lectures is not identical to the readings. Material from lectures will be on the exams.**

You have **two choices** for attendance policies depending on your preferences

**Choice 1**: This is the *default* choice. *If you want this option, you do not need to do anything*. For Choice 1, I do not take attendance and your attendance at lectures is not counted towards your grade. Come to as many lectures as you choose. Remember, I test on material covered in lectures and research shows that attending class is the best way to receive high marks in the class. So, you should come, but if you miss class it won’t *directly* affect your grade.

**Choice 2**: This choice is a mandatory attendance policy. If you choose Choice 2, you receive extra credit points (see table below) for making the choice. You are then required to come to every class period where we take attendance (i.e. all non-exam class periods). If you miss a class period for any reason, you will lose 2.5 points per class period missed at the end of the semester. Please note that this means that if you miss enough classes you will lose points.

For the mandatory attendance policy, you have two “free” misses (e.g., when you are feeling ill) that won’t count against you. If you miss class due to a grief absence, religious observance, military leave, or official university sports, the absence will not figure into your participation grade. All other absences will be. **We start tracking attendance on September 2nd**.

The amount of extra credit you receive for making this choice depends on when you make the choice. The earlier you make the choice, the more extra credit you can receive. Note that if you make this choice later in the semester, absences from prior to your choice will figure into your participation grade.

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| **Choices Prior to** | **Amount of Possible Extra Credit** | **Missed Classes before Extra Credit Isn’t Worth it\*** |
| Friday, September 5 @ 9am | 14 points | 8 classes |
| Wednesday, October 8 @ 9am | 7 points | 5 classes |

\*includes the 2 free misses

Attendance is tracked with iClicker. It is your responsibility to make sure your iClicker works. The TAs and myself are not iClicker tech support. If your iClicker does not work, then you need to check in with the TA at the end the class (if you cannot stay until the end of class to check in, then you will not be counted). I do not accept emails as proof of attendance. Nor do I count attendance retrospectively. **If there is a problem with recording your attendance on iClicker, it needs to be addressed on the day of the problem. There are not exceptions**.

Sometimes the wifi in the room is bad and iClicker app does not work on my computer. If I am not able to launch the iClicker app in class, then we will just assume that everyone attended.

All attendance grades (including extra credit points and missed classes) will be factored into the grades at the **end of the semester**. They will *not* be visible in the D2L gradebook (the D2L gradebook does not have the necessary features to track this as we go). This is why it is important to ensure that your attendance is tracked accurately in iClicker.

To make this choice, complete the very short Qualtrics survey here: <https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b9QR74LE0pf0fmm>. You can complete the survey at any time, however the number of extra edit points chances depending on when you make the choice (see table above). Choices after October 8th will be ignored because the extra credit is no longer possible. Once you have made the choice, it is final. *However, if you regret the choice within one week after you’ve made it, let me know via email and I will change it for you.* You cannot change from Choice 2 to Choice 1 using the Qualtrics form. It just doesn’t work that way.

**Readings & Quizzes**

Part of learning is reading. This is especially the case at the university-level. There are two types of readings. *First*, there are chapters in the online textbook (links in schedule above). *Second*, there are peer-reviewed journal articles (also in schedule above).

All of these readings are required and information from all readings will appear on exams.

For each textbook chapter, there is a D2L quiz. You have two attempts for each quiz (note, questions will likely differ between attempts). Quizzes are available from the very start of the course. The quiz must be completed before the class period where we cover the topics of the chapter (note that this means that many days there are two quizzes, but on other days there are none).

There are 19 quizzes in total. Most of the quizzes have 6 questions and all quizzes are worth 3 points (57 points in total). You have 6 minutes for each quiz attempt. Your lowest *two* quiz scores (out of 19) are dropped. Because the quizzes are open for an extended period of time, because there are multiple attempts available, and because the lowest two scores are dropped **there are no make-up attempts for missed quizzes**. The only exceptions to this are if you miss quizzes due to a college-approved grief absence, a religious holiday, military leave, or official university sport. For the last three of these exceptions, you must make arrangements with me at least 2 weeks before the anticipated event.

**Assignments**

There are two assignments that ask you to experience social psychology in real life, think about social psychological concepts, or delve deeper into social psychological research. Each assignment is worth 20 points each. Information about the assignments are on D2L. Due dates for the assignments are on D2L and in the schedule below.

* Article Analysis (due: Oct 14)
* Application Assignment (due: Nov 6)

Both of these assignments are accepted without penalty up to one week after the due date (no questions asked). After one week, assignments are no longer accepted (no exceptions). To be clear, this means that if something unexpectedly arises during the one week extension and you are unable to complete the assignment within one week after the due date, I will not give you a further extension.

**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 during final exams’ week. ***All exams are in person***. More details will be made available as the time approaches.

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| *Important exam facts** All exams are 60 points each
* Your lowest two exam scores will be dropped
* All exams will be multiple choice
* All exams start at the start of the class time and last exactly 1 hour
	+ If you come to class late, you will have less time
	+ The start time of the final exam is slightly different (see schedule above)
* You may only have pencils and erasers on your desk during the exam. All other materials, including water bottles, notebooks, synthesizers, mobile phones, and yo-yos should say zipped up in your bag (or not brought to class to begin with)
* You will not be allowed to wear hats with a forward-facing brim, smartwatches, headphones/earbuds, or an entire suit printed with the text of the textbook during the exam
* You may only leave the exam room for emergencies, so use the restroom before
* Questions for the exam are not posted, but you may see your exams in office hours
* If you will miss the exam because of a grief absence, religious observance, military leave, official university sports, or because you are sick you need to email me AND the TA (Hyewon Yang) before the exam starts (Email subject: “PSY-235 Missing Exam [your name]”).
	+ Grief absence policy: <https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/GriefAbsence.aspx>
	+ Religious observance policy: <https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/ReligiousPolicy.aspx>
	+ Military leave policy: <https://reg.msu.edu/academicprograms/Print.aspx?Section=17063>
	+ The TA (Hyewon Yang) will schedule a make-up exam. Because no grades are posted until all exams are completed, we aim that all make-up exams take places within one week (or less) of the exam date. The exception to this is the final exam because grades are due shortly after the exam takes place.
* Please ensure that I am informed about any RCPD accommodations well in advance of the exam.
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**Do I Need to Take Notes?**

I mean, in the strictest sense, no. You won’t die or become ill if you don’t take notes. I also won’t check if you take notes. However, you will do better in the course and learn more from the course if you do take notes. So, I recommend that you take detailed notes on the lecture material (slides, discussions, videos) and the readings; 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. The slides are posted prior to the lecture, although they are not posted very far in advance. 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.

You may also enjoy, benefit, and or learn from the many resources the university has for improving study habits and your ability to learn. If you are struggling to study or stay organized, please check these out! <https://nssc.msu.edu/clc/>

**Extra Credit**

***The first type of extra credit*** is participation in psychology research. You will receive .5 points for every 1 hour of research participation, with a maximum of 5 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 5th at 5:00pm* (note that many studies will no longer accept participants this late in the semester. ***You must plan ahead***!)*.* Sometimes there are not many available studies, especially for students who are concurrently enrolled in other courses that require participation. If that is the case for you, I’m sorry. That means there is less extra credit available to you.

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 after the weekend of the last day of classes for the semester, I will upload your credits to D2L. I do not have access to your Sona credits until after that time.

***The second type of extra credit*** is creating a meme that illustrates a concept in the course. Meme is a word coined by Richard Dawkins’ in his book *The Selfish Gene* when discussing cultural evolution*.* Now it can refer to a number of things that might go viral on the internet. No one cares about Dawkins’ definition anymore. Interestingly, that’s an example of cultural evolution.

Anyways, I’m getting off track.



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. You should submit the meme with a short (e.g., 1 paragraph or about 6 sentences max) explanation for why it’s a good illustration of the course concept.

Each meme is worth 2 points. You can do this 2 times. Each concept needs to be different. They should be turned in by 5pm on Friday, December 5th, but can be turned in at any time. They should not be offensive and they should help illustrate the concept. That means just stating the topic with a funny photo doesn’t count.

All meme’s will be graded with this rubric:

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| 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 |

**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. Fun fact, if you read this sentence and send me a picture of your pet or some other cute animal, I’ll give you one extra credit point. Shhhh, this is a secret. In addition, smoking, fight clubs, dinosaur breading, and minotaur hunting are, tragically, forbidden.

### Inform Me of Any Accommodations Needed (please)

[From the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities](https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/get-started/faculty-departmental-resources/model-statements-disability-inclusion) (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](https://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.

### Commit to Integrity: Academic Honesty

Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/student-rights-and-responsibilities-at-michigan-state-university/article-2-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 PSY-235 adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in [General Student Regulations](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/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](https://ombud.msu.edu/academic-integrity/). See [Spartan Life Online](http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/) (splife.studentlife.msu.edu) and/or the [MSU Web site](http://www.msu.edu/) (msu.edu) for more.

You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, unless authorized, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including quizzes and exams, without assistance from any source (except as specified). This also means that you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. In addition, plagiarism of written work is forbidden. It includes taking the work of another individual or source and presenting it as your own. This is considered plagiarism even if the source has given you permission to use their work, or the work is in the public domain (e.g., on the web). **Additionally, the policy of this class is that you must be the creator of all work you submit for a grade. The use of others’ work or the use of intelligent agents, chat bots, or AI engines to create your work is a violation of this policy and will be addressed as per MSU codes of conduct.** Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course; and may be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Student Affairs. See also the Academic Integrity webpage (<https://ossa.msu.edu/academic-integrity>).

**Use of Turnitin**

Consistent with MSU's efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, I have chosen to use a tool called Turnitin to compare your papers with multiple sources. The tool will compare each paper you submit to an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a 'similarity score.' The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, I will make a complete assessment and judge the originality of your work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool. You should submit papers to D2L without identifying information included in the paper (e.g., name or student number), the D2L system will automatically show this information to me when I view the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin. If you forget and submit your paper with your identifying information on it, it will be retained in the Global Turnitin repository.

### 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 instructors, both 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 either of 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.

**Policy on Recordings and Sharing Course Materials (Don’t)**

Course materials such as lectures are the intellectual property of the instructor; additionally, it is important to safeguard the privacy of students taking this class and discussing complex issues. Recordings of the class, lecture notes, other materials created by the instructor, and screenshots of the class (including of online discussions) may not be shared with those not in the class or uploaded to other online environments. Impermissible use of class recordings and lecture notes or other material may subject the student to disciplinary action under the MSU Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy (<https://ossa.msu.edu/srr>).

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### Disruptive Behavior (i.e. be cool)

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.

**Policy on Religious Observations**

If you anticipate being unable to complete a graded portion of the course due to a major religious observance, please provide notice of the date(s) to me, via email, as soon as possible.

**Policy on grade changes**

Extra credit is the only way to increase your point total if you are concerned about falling on the wrong side on one of the grade cut-offs. All rounding has already been incorporated into the grading scale. At the end of the semester, if you believe that an error was made in calculating your grade, please let me know. Your grade will be checked and changed if an error was made. I always fix errors. This is the only circumstance under which your overall course grade will change.Under no circumstance will your grade be “bumped”, a special extra credit opportunity be given, or an old assignment re-graded (although, see grade appeal policy below). **Please don’t ask. It is an awkward email for you to write and you already know the answer. There will be no exceptions**.

**Grade Appeals**

If you believe your grade for one of the two assignments is *incorrect*, you may appeal the grade. All grade appeals must observe the following rules: 1) they must be typed; 2) you must clearly provide support for the appeal by citing relevant page(s) in the readings or the relevant lecture material; 3) appeals must be emailed to me (brandt15@msu.edu) within 5 days of the posted grade. Two tips. First, do not send the appeal as soon as you receive the grade. Sleep on it first. It is useful to take some time to process the information and to think about it. Second, the most successful appeals point out a factual error in the grade (for example, points were taken off because you didn’t include “x” when you, in fact, included “x”).