

## Course Syllabus Psychology 306: Social Psychology

Summer 2020 Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 – 11:50am, Remote

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays 11am – noon	Thursdays 11am - noon
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom (939 3973 3903)	Zoom (958 2926 4483)

### Course Description

Social psychology is the scientific study of the way in which individuals' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the real or imagined presence of others. Social psychology aims to understand individuals' subjective experiences of their social context and the way those experiences impact their behavior. Social psychology creates new knowledge by applying experimental methods to human thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. One of the greatest things about studying social psychology is that it is relevant. After this course you should be able to answer questions such as "Do opposites really attract?", "What is the effect of negative stereotypes on achievement?", "How do companies persuade us to buy their products?" and others like them. Be prepared to challenge some of your long-held assumptions about human behavior. This course covers topics such as social judgments, relationships, discrimination, persuasion, conformity, aggression, and cooperation.

Research about learning has shown that students learn and retain material better in a situation in which learning is active rather than passive, and cooperative rather than individual. We have incorporated some of the principles of active and cooperative learning into the course and are sensitive to the various types of learning styles that exist among students. To this end, we will do active learning exercises in this course that involve your participation. Additionally, there will be group discussions on the Thursdays indicated in the syllabus.

### Course Objectives

The aims of this course are to familiarize you with the concepts, theories, and methods of social psychology and to help you recognize the influence of the environment on behavior, thoughts, and feelings.

### **Expected Learning Outcomes:**

- Learn important theories and research findings in social psychology.

- Learn how social psychology uses science to create new knowledge.
- Become a more thoughtful consumer of research in your daily life.
- Develop your skills as a critical thinker about all topics, not just psychology.
- Understand the roots and consequences of collective identities, including stereotyping, intolerance, and conflict.
- Learn psychological perspectives on social judgments and attributions, persuasion and social influence, individual and collective identity, emotion and motivation, attraction and close relationships, and aggressive and cooperative behavior, and more.

**Estimated Student Workload:** When you complete this course, you will earn 4 credits toward your degree. Four credits is the equivalent of 120 hours of work across the term, or 15 hours per week for 8 weeks.

- **Class time (T/Th 10-11:50am).** You will spend 4 hours in class each week. Those four hours consist of watching lecture videos and completing weekly discussion board and Zoom activities. While you can watch videos outside of class time, discussion board and zoom activities require you to be present during class hours. If you absolutely cannot meet during class hours, please reach out to the instructors during the first week of class, and we can give you alternative assignments to make up the credit.
- **Readings, quizzes, and exams.** Readings will comprise the majority of your work outside of class (4-5 hours per week). For best results, each reading should be completed before watching the associated lecture videos. The rest of the hours will go towards preparing for and taking a weekly quiz (1-2 hours) and preparing for midterm and final exams.

### **Required Readings**

**Text:** Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Nisbett, R. E., & Chen, S. (2018). *Social Psychology* (5<sup>th</sup> edition). W. W. Norton. (Available at the Duck Store as well as a copy on reserve at Knight Library). *The e-book or previous editions are acceptable.*

### **Course Requirements**

Your grade for this class will be based on 4 components.

1. **Exams:** There will be a midterm exam and a final exam on Canvas 10-11:50am on the Thursday of Week 4 and Week 8. The exams will include questions taken from the lectures and readings. It is impossible to cover all of the information contained in the textbook during lecture, so doing well on the exams will require that you keep up with the readings as well. The exams will require that you be able to apply the general principles from class to novel, specific examples. Exams will contain 50 multiple choice questions and 2 free response questions. The exams are open book and open note. In other words, you can consult your notes and the

textbook during the exam. The final exam will not be cumulative. A study guide will be released 1 week prior to each exam.

**2. Quizzes:** It's important to keep up with the readings and lecture videos to get the most out of this course, so you will be tested with a weekly quiz available on Canvas. The quizzes will be made available after class on Thursday and will be due Sunday at 11:59pm. The quizzes will be 20 questions and will be timed (30 minutes or 1.5 minutes per question). You may use your notes and the textbook during the quiz.

**3. Discussion boards:** On Tuesdays at 10am, unless otherwise stated on the syllabus, a discussion board will become available on Canvas. For the discussion board assignments, you will write one response to the prompt (about 100 words) and respond to two of your classmates (about 60 words each). The discussion board activities should take you about 45min - 1 hour. Of the 10 points of credit per activity, 4 points will be rewarded for the original post and 3 points for each of the two responses. No points will be rewarded if responses are disrespectful or dismissive to other students in the class. The discussion board will expire at the end of the class period (11:50am).

**4. Zoom activities:** On Thursdays at 10am, unless otherwise stated on the syllabus, we will meet for an activity on Zoom. The activities will be associated with the material for the week and will include small group activities. The activities will take about 45min-1 hour. Full credit will be awarded for attendance.

**Extra credit:** You can earn up to 3% extra credit by participating in 3 credits of research through the Human Subjects Pool. You will receive 1% extra credit for every 1 credit of participation completed. Note that credit will not round up, so 1.5 credit would earn 1% extra credit, 2.75 credit would earn 2% credit, and so on. Go to <https://uopsych.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx> to sign up.

**Grading:** Your final grade in the course is based on your total points. To summarize:

Exams (2; 130 points each)	= 260 points
Quizzes (6; 20 points each)	= 120 points
Discussion boards (6; 10 points each)	= 60 points
<u>Zoom activities (6; 10 points each)</u>	<u>= 60 points</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 500 points</b>

The following grid provides the letter grade associated with each percent:

A	93-100%	B	83-86.9%	C	73-76.9%	D	63-66.9%
A-	90-92.9%	B-	80-82.9%	C-	70-72.9%	D-	60-62.9%
B+	87-89.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D+	67-69.9%	F	59.9% or below

Please see the psychology department guidelines for a description of the type of achievement that each grade signifies:

<http://psychology.uoregon.edu/courses/department-grading-standards/>

### **Policies**

**Special Accommodations:** The UO works to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation, please notify me as soon as possible. If you have a documented disability, please request that a counselor at the Accessible Education Center (uoaec@uoregon.edu, tel. 541-346-1155) send a letter verifying the type of accommodation that is appropriate. For a list of resources provided by the Accessible Education Center, please see <http://aec.uoregon.edu>.

**Cheating/plagiarism:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including getting outside help on exams, having others falsify your Zoom attendance, and plagiarizing of any kind are not productive to your learning and therefore will not be tolerated in this class. We will follow all procedures to handle misconduct as outlined by the University. This means that instances of suspected cheating or plagiarizing will be reported to the University, and at the very least, you will receive a zero on the assignment. Please familiarize yourself with the University of Oregon's conduct code, found at <http://conduct.uoregon.edu>. You are responsible for behaving in accordance with this policy and continued enrollment in this class will be considered implicit agreement that you have read and accepted the terms of that policy. If you have questions about what is considered academic dishonesty for this course, please reach out and ask.

**Late/missed assignments.** Due dates for each assignment are listed in the schedule below. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior extension has been granted by an instructor. Please reach out beforehand if you feel like you may need an extension for whatever reason.

**Diversity and classroom climate:** A core value in academia is the free and candid exchange of ideas. To uphold this value, we must make sure that everyone in this class (students and instructors alike) has the opportunity to offer opinions, hear one another's opinions, and make arguments and challenge ideas. That is only possible in an environment of mutual respect. At

times students may disagree with other students, or we may disagree with you, and we expect that you will disagree with us. We believe that all of this can be consistent with, and even promote, the high value we place on intellectual exchange and mutual respect.

We also recognize that we are a group with diverse backgrounds and experiences, and we hope that the subject matter of this course will touch on the lived experiences of people in the class. If you do not feel comfortable participating in the class discussions or believe there is more we could do to promote a more effective learning environment, we urge you to come talk to us. We will always listen to your concerns with respect and open minds and will make adjustments when appropriate.

**Land acknowledgement:** We acknowledge that the University of Oregon is situated on Kalapuya Ili?i; the ancestral territory of the Kalapuya people. As a University, we should honour the traditional stewards of this land and pay respect to the elders, both past and present.

**Course Schedule (\*readings should be completed before watching lectures)**

Week	Topic	Date	Reading	Due
1	Knowledge creation in social psychology	T 7/21	Textbook Ch 1. An invitation to social psychology	
		Th 7/23	Textbook Ch 2. The methods of social psychology	Zoom activity 1
		Su 7/26		Quiz 1 due at 11:59pm
2	Thinking about and explaining the behavior of others	T 7/28	Textbook Ch 4. Social cognition: thinking about people and situations	Discussion board 1
		Th 7/30	Textbook Ch 5. Social attribution: explaining behavior	Zoom activity 2
		Su 8/2		Quiz 2 due at 11:59pm
3	Emotion and cognitive dissonance	T 8/4	Textbook Ch 6. Emotion	Discussion board 2
		Th 8/6	Textbook Ch 7. Attitudes, behavior, and rationalization	Zoom activity 3
		Su 8/9		Quiz 3 due at 11:59pm
4	Rationalization	T 8/11		Discussion board 3
		Th 8/13	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b> 10-11:50am on Canvas	
5	Persuasion, conformity, and obedience	T 8/18	Textbook Ch 8. Persuasion	
		Th 8/20	Textbook Ch9. Social influence	Zoom activity 4
		Su 8/23		Quiz 4 due at 11:59pm
6	Close relationships	T 8/25	Textbook Ch10. Relationships and attraction	Discussion board 4
		Th 8/27		Zoom activity 5
		Su 8/30		Quiz 5 due at

				<b>11:59pm</b>
7	Prejudice and aggression	T 9/1	Textbook Ch 11. Stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination	Discussion board 5
		Th 9/3	Textbook Ch 13. Aggression	Zoom activity 6
		Su 9/6		<b>Quiz 6 due at 11:59pm</b>
8	Helping and the limits of altruism	T 9/8	Textbook Ch 14. Altruism and cooperation	Discussion board 6
		Th 9/10	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> 10-11:50am on Canvas	