

Psychology 830:321:01
Social Psychology, Fall 2019
M/W 1:40-3:00
TILLET 232

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Course Description

The goal of social psychology is to understand how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, and implied presence of others. At the heart of social psychology is the recognition that our responses are dramatically influenced by social situations. Perhaps you have laughed at a joke you didn't get because others around you were laughing. Maybe you have noticed you act one way when you are around one group of people, say your family, but act a different way when you are around others, like your friends. Our responses are not simply the products of our individual personalities but rather are shaped and molded by the social context around us, often times without us even realizing it.

This course will provide students with an overview of research and theory in social psychology. Not only will students learn about interesting, relevant, and timely research findings, they'll also learn *how* social psychologists have discovered this evidence. What makes the social psychological approach to understanding human behavior different from, say, a philosophical or historical approach is that social psychology is a *science*. It applies the scientific method to the study of the human condition. In this course, we'll learn about the psychological science of topics such as attitudes, persuasion, conformity, obedience, perceptions of others, stereotyping and discrimination, romantic relationships, aggression, and helping behavior. The course emphasizes an understanding of important scientific methods, findings, and principles in the field of social psychology, which it then applies to everyday life and to broader societal problems.

Course Format and Requirements

Class Format: We'll meet twice a week for 80-minute classes. Classes will consist of lectures, videos, activities, extra credit exercises, guest speakers, and discussions. Because exams will include information that is covered in class that is NOT in the reading material, I strongly recommend attending every lecture or getting notes from a classmate if you miss a class.

Textbook: The required text for the course is: Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H.R. (2017). Social psychology (10th edition). Belmont, CA: Cengage. A hardcover copy is available in the NJ Books/Rutgers University Bookstore. For students who prefer an electronic textbook, check out the following link for a (much cheaper) e-book version and for opportunities to rent the book rather than purchase it outright: <https://www.cengage.com/c/social-psychology-10e-kassin/>

Readings: It will be extremely helpful if you read the assigned textbook chapters BEFORE the class where we will cover them. My lectures will review what is covered in the text, but I will also expand upon those topics and introduce new concepts and ideas. You'll find lectures much easier to follow if the terms and concepts are already familiar to you from the readings.

Course Site: If you are registered for this course, you will have access to our course site on Sakai. There you will find the syllabus, PowerPoint slides, Gradebook, and announcements related to the course. You can also utilize the Forums or Chat Room features to ask questions of your classmates and communicate broadly with the class. Please note that the lecture slides that I post in Sakai (under Resources) will have blanks in them. To fill in the relevant info, you'll have to come to class or get notes from a classmate. Under no circumstances will I share completed lecture slides with students.

Extra Credit: You have SIX (and only six!) opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester:

- Throughout the course of the semester, I will introduce FIVE in-class extra credit opportunities. These won't be announced in advance. Because missing an extra credit opportunity cannot lower your grade, and because these are part of in-class activities for the day, in-class extra credit assignments **cannot** be made up or turned in late, regardless of the reason for your absence.

- You can receive ONE additional point of extra credit if you upload a video to Sakai at some point throughout the semester. It can be a video you've found that is related to something we learned/discussed in class, or just a viral feel-good video that made you smile or laugh. With your video, please include a description of why you thought the video would be appropriate for our class or what you liked about it. Please submit via the "Extra Credit Video" assignment on Sakai. You have until 5:00pm on the last day of class (Dec. 11th) to upload your video.
- Each extra credit opportunity will be worth one point toward your final grade (e.g., if your total points earned from exams is 220 (88%) and you do all six extra credit opportunities your total points will be 226 and your grade will be raised to 90.4%). You should check Gradebook to make sure you received your extra credit for participating. If you notice you did not receive credit for participating, you have **ONE WEEK** to contact either the professor or TA to discuss it. After one week, considerations for students claiming to be missing the extra credit point will not be made.

Exams: There will be three regular exams and one cumulative final exam. The exams will cover readings as well as lecture material and videos shown in class. Exams will be multiple choice format and will be administered during the class times designated on the schedule below. The three regular exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions covering just the previous section's material. The final exam will consist of 100 multiple choice questions and will cover material from the entire semester. Exams will not be returned; if you would like to review your exams to see what you got wrong, you can do so with the TA during office hours.

Make-up Policy: If you must miss an exam for a university-approved reason (e.g., religious holiday), please contact me as soon as possible to discuss a make-up option. If you miss an exam *without* contacting me ahead of time, you will only be allowed to take the make-up exam with proper documentation (e.g., note from doctor with the date of your visit). REGIS reporting is not sufficient to warrant a make-up exam. In all cases, you MUST receive prior approval from me in order to receive an opportunity to take the make-up exams. All make-up exams must be taken within one week of the exam's scheduled date. Please note that MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL CONSIST ENTIRELY OF OPEN-ENDED/ESSAY QUESTIONS.

Grading

Your grade in this class will be based on your performance on the regular exams, the cumulative final exam, and any extra credit you earn. Grades will not be "curved"—in other words, everyone in the class could get an A, or everyone could get a C. Your success in the class does not affect anyone else's and vice versa. You will get the grade that you, and you alone, earn in this course.

I know, however, that anyone can have a "bad day." To help reduce the impact of a bad exam day, you will have the opportunity to replace the LOWEST of your three regular exam grades with the HIGHEST of your three regular exam grades. This allows you to potentially make up for a bad exam grade by studying extra hard for another exam.

Your grades are based on the total number of points earned in accordance with the university grading scale below. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** There is absolutely no end-of-semester negotiation period where students can plea and barter for a better grade in the class. If you are dissatisfied with your performance in the class, discuss the situation with the professor or the TA early to talk through strategies for bringing up your grade.

<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
250 – 225	100% - 90%	A
224 – 218	89.9% - 87%	B+
217 – 200	86.9% - 80%	B
199 – 193	79.9% - 77%	C+
192 – 175	76.9% - 70%	C
174 – 150	69.9% - 60%	D
149 – 0	59.9% - 0%	F

Standards for Conduct

Attendance Policy: I won't monitor attendance. As an adult, it's your decision how you use your time. But lectures are designed to help you learn, and I'll do my part to make sure that they are fun and interesting. I will elaborate on concepts from the readings, introduce new material, conduct demonstrations, and show videos. Your exams will be based on all of this material, so regular

attendance at the lectures will help you earn a higher grade on exams. Also, as noted above, extra credit exercises occur in class and cannot be made up. So while you don't lose points by skipping class, you may miss the opportunity for bonus points. In short, it will be difficult to earn a good grade in this course if you do not come to class. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out *from a classmate*, not from the instructor or the TA, what occurred in class.

Class Etiquette: Please come to class on time and wait until the lecture is over to start packing up (you may think you're being quiet, but when 150 people start shuffling and zipping bags, it can be quite disruptive!). You can use laptops for note-taking, but please put your phones away during class. Most importantly, this class aims to foster a learning environment that promotes and values respect for others and their viewpoints. The topics we learn about in this class are easily relatable to everyday life, making students inclined to share their own anecdotes and experiences. I welcome and encourage that—indeed, that's one of the most exciting and unique aspects of this class. But it is imperative that students behave in a respectful and considerate way to their fellow classmates during class discussions. Inappropriate, disruptive, or offensive interpersonal behavior is not acceptable and you will be asked to leave the classroom.

Academic Misconduct: Students are expected to follow the University Policy on Academic Integrity. Cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: having a cell phone or other electronic device during an exam, attempting to or leaving the classroom with a copy of the exam, looking at another student's exam, or taking pictures of the exam (during office hours, make-up exams, or in class). You will receive an automatic zero on exams for cheating, and other disciplinary action for a violation of academic integrity will follow University policy. If you are not familiar with the University's policy, you can find more information here: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>.

Academic Accommodations

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, the disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with me **as soon as possible** so we can discuss accommodations.

Student Support Resources

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling, and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff, and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Course Schedule

(As much notice as possible will be given if scheduling changes occur.)

Date	Topic	Reading
Weds, Sept 4	Introduction to the course and syllabus review	
	<i>Section 1: Social Perception</i>	<i>Chapters 1-5</i>
Monday, Sept 9	Intro to Social Psychology, Research Methods Part 1	Chapter 1 & 2
Weds, Sept 11	Research Methods, Part 2	
Mon, Sept 16	Social Self, Part 1	Chapter 3
Weds, Sept 18	Social Self, Part 2	
Mon, Sept 23	Perceiving Others, Part 1	Chapter 4
Weds, Sept 25	Perceiving Others, Part 2	
Mon, Sept 30	Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination, Part 1	Chapter 5
Weds, Oct 2	Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination, Part 2	
Mon, Oct 7	Catch Up Day	
Weds, Oct 9	Exam Review (optional)	
Mon, Oct 14	***EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-5)***	
	<i>Section 2: Social Influence</i>	<i>Chapters 6-8</i>
Weds, Oct 16	Attitudes, Part 1	Chapter 6
Mon, Oct 21	Attitudes, Part 2	
Weds, Oct 23	Conformity, Part 1	Chapter 7
Mon, Oct 28	Conformity, Part 2	
Weds, Oct 30	Group Processes	Chapter 8
Mon, Nov 4	Catch Up Day & Exam Review	
Weds, Nov 6	***EXAM 2 (Chapters 6-8)***	
	<i>Section 3: Social Relations</i>	<i>Chapters 9-11</i>
Mon, Nov 11	Attraction & Close Relationships, Part 1	Chapter 9
Weds, Nov 13	Attraction & Close Relationships, Part 2	
Mon, Nov 18	Helping Others, Part 1	Chapter 10
Weds, Nov 20	Helping Others, Part 2	
Mon, Nov 25	Aggression	Chapter 11
Weds, Nov 27	**NO CLASS, FRIDAY SCHEDULE**	
Mon, Dec 2	Catch Up Day & Exam Review	
Weds, Dec 4	***EXAM 3 (Chapters 9-11)***	
	<i>Section 4: Applying Social Psychology</i>	<i>Chapter 12</i>
Mon, Dec 9	Applying Social Psychology: Law	Chapter 12
Weds, Dec 11	Catch Up Day & Final Exam Review	
Weds, Dec 18 8:00-11am	***CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM***	