

Syllabus: 1:830:321 H2

Social Psychology

Summer 2019

Mondays-Thursdays 10:30 – 12:20 pm

Tillett Hall 123

Course Overview

Instructor

Instructor: Melanie Maimon

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 PM Tillett 607

Course Description

The goal of social psychology is to understand how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, or 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 other people 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 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. Indeed, the current social situation can influence how we perceive, evaluate, remember, and act within our environments.

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 a philosophical or historical approach is that social psychology is a *science*. In this course, we'll learn 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 social problems.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the foundational concepts, major theories, and research findings that are important to the field of social psychology.

- Understand how to apply basic scientific methods used in social psychological research.
- Understand and apply social psychological theories and concepts to experiences in one's daily life and to a broader social and historical context.
- Critically evaluate social psychological research and theories.

Important Dates

The course begins on 7/8/2019 and ends on 8/14/2019, and the last day to drop the course without a "W" grade is 7/17/2019.

Course Materials

Required Text(s)

The required text for the course is: Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H.R. (2017). Social psychology (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Cengage. It is available through the Rutgers University Bookstore as well as on Amazon. For students who prefer an electronic textbook, check out the following link for a much cheaper e-book version:

<https://www.cengage.com/c/social-psychology-10e-kassin/>

Course Format

We will meet four days a week for 110-minute classes. Classes will consist of lectures, videos, demonstrations, in-class assignments, and discussions. Because exams will include information covered in class that is NOT covered in the textbook and there will be daily in-class assignments, I strongly recommend attending every lecture and getting comprehensive notes from classmates if you miss a class.

Assessment

Assignment Summary

Below are the assignments required for this course and the value of each assignment to the course grade as a whole. Please refer to the course schedule (below) for specific due dates. Dates are subject to change depending on the material we are able to get through each class and changes to schedule will be announced.

Assignment	Points
Participation	20
Homework	30

Midterm Exam	25
Final Exam	25
Total	100

See course schedule, below, for due dates.

Assignment Overview

Readings

- You are expected to read the assigned textbook chapters BEFORE the class where we will cover them. We will review what is covered in the text during lecture, but I will also expand upon those topics and introduce new concepts and ideas. It will be extremely helpful for you to keep up with the readings so that the terms and concepts are already familiar to you during lectures.

Participation (in-class assignments)

- Each day, you will complete an in-class assignment. These assignments will be given at random times during lecture. These assignments will be graded for **completion**. This means that I will not be grading for accuracy, as many of the assignments will not have one specific correct answer. However, you will need to ensure that you complete **all parts** of the assignment to receive full credit.
- There will be 22 classes, excluding the days of the exams, in the course. Each in-class assignment will be worth 1 point. Because your participation grade is out of 20 points and there are 22 classes, there is an opportunity to earn an **extra 2 points** toward your final grade should you fully complete all of the in-class assignments.
- You should check Gradebook at the end of each week to ensure you received credit for participation. If you participated and noticed that you did not receive credit, you must contact the professor **within a week** of grades being posted. Considerations for credit will not be made for students who claim to have missed the point more than one week after the grades were posted.

Homework

- There will be 5 homework assignments in this course completed on Sakai. Each assignment will be graded out of 6 possible points, for a total of 30 points making up your homework grade. Homework assignments will be announced during class on Mondays and made available after class. They will be due by **Thursdays at midnight** the same week they are assigned. Due dates are available in the "Course Schedule and Deadlines" section at the end of the syllabus.

- There are a few different types of homework assignments which I have detailed below. For each homework, I will announce which chapters and lecture material will be covered in the assignment.
 - **Short answer/open response assignments.** Some of the homework assignments will be composed of a series of short answer and open response questions. You should expect to write several paragraphs for these types of assignments.
 - **Multiple choice quizzes.** Some of the homework assignments will be composed of 12 multiple choice questions. These quizzes will typically be assigned in the weeks prior to exams in order to help you with your exam preparation.

Exams

- There will be a midterm exam and a final exam (non-cumulative). The exams will cover readings as well as lectures and videos shown in class. Exams will be multiple-choice format and will be administered during the class times designated on the schedule. The exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions covering just the previous section's material. There will also be two extra credit questions on each exam worth a half point each, yielding up to two extra credit points toward your final grade.
- If you would like to review your exams to see what you got wrong, you can do so during my office hours.

Grading Scale

(Source: Rutgers standard undergraduate grade scale)

Points/Percentage	Grade
90 - 100	A
85 - 89.9	B+
80 - 84.9	B
75 - 79.9	C+
70 - 74.9	C
60-69.9	D
59.9 or below	F

Grading

Your grade in this class will be based on your participation, homework assignments, your performance on the midterm and final exams, and any extra credit you earn. I will not apply a curve to grades that would result in any grades being lowered. Depending on how the class performs on exams, I may decide to adjust exam grades. I will not know whether I will need to make these changes until after exams are graded. I will notify you of whatever choice is ultimately made for each exam.

There will be opportunities to earn up to 4 percentage points of extra credit throughout the class.

Final grades are based on the number of points earned (including extra credit) in accordance with the grading scale above, **no exceptions**. If you are dissatisfied with your performance in the class, discuss the situation with the professor early – don't wait until it's too late to bring up your grade.

Student Participation Expectations

The following is a summary of everyone's expected participation:

- **Completing required readings BEFORE CLASS**
Our time in class will be for learning, questions, and review. Please come to class prepared.
- **Come to class and ARRIVE ON TIME**
As a summer course, you will be asked to learn a lot of material condensed in a small period of time. Lectures are designed to help you learn, and to be 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 daily attendance at the lectures will help you earn a higher grade on exams. Additionally, you will complete a brief in-class writing assignment in each class that will be graded for completion as your "Participation" grade. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out **from a classmate**, not from the instructor, what occurred in class. You will find it difficult to earn a good grade in this course if you do not come to class.

Discussion and Communication Guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Emails and writing style:** Email etiquette is (unfortunately) important in life. When emailing and completing writing assignments, please be sure to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. You should address me as Professor Maimon, Professor M, or simply Professor. Please refrain from using all CAPITAL LETTERS, as this is often interpreted as shouting.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can communicate amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across. Treat your instructor and fellow students with respect at all times, and in all communications. Most importantly, this class aims to foster a learning environment that promotes and values respect for others and their viewpoints. The topics we'll 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 as such, it is imperative that students behave in a respectful and considerate way to their fellow classmates during the

discussions. Inappropriate, disruptive, or offensive interpersonal behavior is not acceptable.

- **General etiquette:** Please turn off your cell phone before class. Please come to class on time and wait until the lecture is over to start packing up (you may think you're quiet, but it can be quite disruptive when I am wrapping up lecture).

Support and Policies

Late Work and Make-up Exams

All homework assignments will be assigned and available on Mondays and must be completed within the week Thursday nights at midnight. You will receive regular reminders throughout the week that your homework must be completed. As such, no assignments may be submitted late, barring a verifiable emergency. It will not be possible to make up in-class participation assignments.

If you must miss an exam for a legitimate reason (e.g., religious holiday), contact me at least one week before the scheduled exam. 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., a note from a doctor). REGIS reporting is not sufficient to warrant a make-up exam. You must provide documentation or have received prior approval from me in order to receive an opportunity to take the make-up exam.

Please note that **make-up exams will include both multiple choice and essay questions.**

Faculty Feedback and Response Time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can email sakai@rutgers.edu or call 848-445-8721 if you have a technical problem.)

Grading and Feedback

For in-class assignments, you can generally expect to find your grade on Sakai within **5 days**. For homework assignments, you can typically expect to receive a grade and feedback within **7 days**.

Student Questions

I will be available during my office hours (Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12:30-1:30 pm) to answer questions. In addition to having your questions answered, this can be a good opportunity to see what questions other students are having. If you would prefer to ask your questions privately, you may contact me using a private message during this time. This is the quickest way to have your questions answered. You are also welcome to email me with questions anytime throughout the course. I will reply to e-mails within **24 hours on school days**.

Laptop & Phone Policy

The Research

- Students on laptops spend on average 40% of class time using the internet for nonacademic purposes (Ravizza, Uitvlugt, & Fenn, 2017)
- Taking notes by hand is more effective than doing so with a laptop (Mueller & Oppenheimer, 2014)
- Laptop users distract their classmates as peers with a direct view of their laptops suffer academically (Sana, Weston, & Cepeda, 2013)

The Policy

Research suggests that using your laptop during this class will be harmful to your learning. However, as adults it is your responsibility to decide how you would like to learn in this course. For this reason, you are allowed to use a laptop. However, laptop users are required to sit in the designated laptop sections so as to not distract their classmates. Students with laptops sitting in the designated “laptop free” zone will be asked to shut their computers. Similarly, phone use is distracting to both you and your classmates. You are not permitted to use your phone during class time.

Lecture Notes

I will, **under no circumstances**, email completed slides to students. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to meet with a classmate to figure out what you missed. If desired by a majority of the class, I will consider posting copies of the slides with blank spaces to be used as a study tool prior to the exams.

Academic Integrity

The consequences of scholastic dishonesty are very serious. Please review the [Rutgers' academic integrity policy](#) .

Academic integrity means, among other things:

- Develop and write all of your own assignments.
- Show in detail where the materials you use in your papers come from. Create citations whether you are paraphrasing authors or quoting them directly. Be sure always to show sources and page numbers within the assignment and include a bibliography in the back.
- Do not fabricate information or citations in your work.
- Do not facilitate academic dishonesty for another student by allowing your own work to be submitted by others.

If you are in doubt about any issue related to plagiarism or scholastic dishonesty, please discuss it with your instructor.

Other sources of information to which you can refer include:

- [Rutgers' Academic Integrity website](#)
- [Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity](#)

Academic Support Services

- Rutgers has a variety of resources for academic support. For more information, check the [Academic Support website](#).
- Rutgers has Learning Centers on each campus where any student can obtain tutoring and other help. For information, check the [Learning Center website](#).
- Rutgers also has a Writing Center where students can obtain help with writing skills and assignments. Learn more at the [Writing Center website](#).
- Many library resources are available online. Assistance is available through phone, email, and chat. For information, check the [Rutgers Libraries website](#).

Rutgers Health Services

- Rutgers Health Services is dedicated to health for the whole student body, mind and spirit. It accomplishes this through a staff of qualified clinicians and support staff, and delivers services at a number of locations throughout the New Brunswick-Piscataway area. For more information, check the [Rutgers Health Services website](#).

Statement on Sexual Violence and Identity-Based Harm

- This is an incredibly important part of the syllabus. It is important for you to know your rights and my goals and responsibilities as an instructor in relation to sexual violence and identity-based harm. If you have read this far, please send me a meme or GIF relevant to social psychology and you will receive half a point of extra credit.
- Rutgers faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sexual violence or identity-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, help and support are available. There are Rutgers staff members specially trained to support survivors in accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. Please be aware that I, your instructor, am required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the University. This means that if you tell me or any faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, we are

legally required to share that information with the University's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of resources in Appendix A to University Policy 10.3.12. For more information about your options at Rutgers, please visit endsexualviolence.rutgers.edu.

- If you have any such experience at any point during the semester, please do not hesitate to reach out to me so that I can 1) help you get caught up in class, 2) put you in contact with the appropriate resources and services, and 3) answer questions to the extent that I am qualified to do so. Additional resources can be found at <http://compliance.rutgers.edu/resources/student-resources/>

Accommodations for Accessibility

Requesting accommodations

If you would like to request academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, contact your instructor privately as soon as possible to discuss your specific needs. Discussions are confidential.

In addition to contacting the instructor, please contact the [Office for Disability Services](#) to register for services and/or to coordinate any accommodations you might need in your courses at Rutgers.

Go to the [Student section of the Office of Disability Services](#) website for more information.

Course Schedule and Deadlines

Date	Topic	Reading	Homework
Mon, July 8	Intro to the course and syllabus, Intro to Social Psychology	Chapter 1	
Tues, July 9	Research Methods	Chapter 2	
Wed, July 10	Social Self Part 1	Chapter 3	
Thurs, July 11	Social Self, Part 2		HW 1 due at midnight
Mon, July 15	Social Self, Part 3		
Tues, July 16	Perceiving Others, Part 1	Chapter 4	

Wed, July 17	Perceiving Others, Part 2		
Thurs, July 18	Stereotyping Part 1	Chapter 5	HW 2 due at midnight
Mon, July 22	Stereotyping, Part 2		
Tues, July 23	Stereotyping, Part 3		
Wed, July 24	Attitudes, Part 1	Chapter 6	
Thurs, July 25	Attitudes, Part 2		HW 3 due at midnight
Mon, July 29	Midterm Exam	Chapters 1-6	
Tues, July 30	Conformity Part 1	Chapter 7	
Wed, July 31	Conformity Part 2		
Thurs, August 1	Conformity (Obedience), Groups	Chapter 8	HW 4 due at midnight
Mon, August 5	Intergroup Relations		
Tues, August 6	Attraction and Close Relationships	Chapter 9	
Wed, August 7	Helping Others, Part 1	Chapter 10	
Thurs, August 8	Helping Others, Part 2		HW 5 due at midnight
Mon, August 12	Aggression	Chapter 11	
Tues, August 13	Exam Review		
Wed, August 14	Final Exam	Chapters 7 - 11	