

Professor David Wilder
603/231 Tillett Hall
email: dawilder@psych.rutgers.edu
office hours: Zoom/webex meetings by appointment

Textbook: Myers, D. G., & Twenge, J. M. SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, McGraw Hill, 13th ed. (2019) ISBN 9781260397116 (bound edition); ISBN 9781259911040 (loose leaf edition) Note: 11th or 12th edition of this book can be substituted.

Overview

This course surveys the major topic areas within social psychology. Social psychologists study how the thoughts, feelings, and actions of individuals influence and are influenced by the behavior of others. The goal of the course is to introduce you to theories and research that explain social interaction among people.

Topics are organized into 4 units with an exam following each of them. The first unit covers the topics of self and social cognition (essentially how our social environment creates us and how we make sense of it). The second unit addresses social influence. The third and fourth units focus on interpersonal behavior. Specific topics, reading assignments, and exam dates are on page 5 of this syllabus.

The text covers more topics than I will have time to develop in class. Consequently, there will be some material presented in the text that I will not address in class. Similarly, I will develop some of the topics in greater detail than what is discussed in the text as well as introduce theory and research not touched on in the text. Class lectures and the text are adjuncts, not clones of one another.

Sakai course site: Power point slides with audio narration contain the same material that would be covered in the traditional face-to-face version of the course. Announcements will be posted at Sakai, and exam scores will be available at Sakai gradebook.

Online Meetings: I will be meeting online with the class weekly (times to be determined) to answer questions, to review material, and to conduct practice quizzes.

Evaluation: Your grade will be based on the total number of points accumulated from 6 quizzes plus a final exam worth a total of 150 points. There will also be a 10 point paper and 10 points of class surveys. Total points = 170.

Six quizzes (20 points each) plus final exam (30 points): Each of the 6 quizzes consists of 20 multiple choice items. The final will have 30 multiple choice items.

Paper (10 points): The paper is due no later than December 10 and should be submitted to the Assignment page at Sakai. Keep a copy of your paper for your records.

Select **one** of the following two options for the paper assignment. Paper length: minimum of 2 pages; maximum of 4.

1. Select an incident from your own experience and analyze it in terms of theories and research discussed in this course. (For example, you might examine how research on social influence helps to explain your reactions when you joined a social group. Or you might consider the fit between research on interpersonal attraction and how you became friends with another.....)

2. Select a news article and analyze it in terms of theories and research discussed in this course. (For example, you might select an article that describes political ads and talk about how those ads relate to persuasion research.) Attach a copy of the article to your paper.

The purpose of the writing assignment is to encourage you to think about applications of the course material to experiences outside of class. The paper should contain the following points: description of the incident or topic you intend to analyze and the application of relevant theories and research. The paper is intended to be a thought piece in which you apply what you have learned from this course. Use the material discussed in class and the text to back up your argument. No outside references are required.

The paper will receive full credit (10 points) if it is clearly written and your analysis is accurate. Evaluation of the paper will not be contingent on your analysis or experience fitting with social psychological research. For example, you might apply material from the course to your experience and find that there is a poor fit. If so, then consider in the paper some reasons why that might be the case. Once again, the purpose of the assignment is to encourage you to think, not to parrot what the text authors or I say. You will lose points on the paper if (a) you apply theory or research incorrectly or (b) your writing is unclear.

Class surveys (10 points): The first survey will be posted at Resources Sakai on September 1. It must be completed by the end of the add class period, Sept. 11, to receive credit. The second survey will be given at the final exam.

Grades: The grading rubric is a combination of a “curve” and fixed percentages. The total number of points that will be used for grading is 170. Based on my considerable experience with the course, it is highly unlikely that anyone will earn the full 170 points. Therefore, I base grade cutoffs on the highest number of points accumulated by the top cluster of students in the course. I then go down in 10% steps for the letter grades. Because I cannot forecast how well the class will do, I cannot give you a firm set of cutoffs at the beginning of the semester. But I can give you an example. Suppose the top scorers in the class accumulated 150 points. I would then use 150 as the 100% benchmark. 90% of 150 (135) would be the cutoff for an A; 80% of 150 (120) for a B; 70% of 150 (105) for a C; 60% of 150 (90) for a D.

Integrity:

Sample of a syllabus discussion of cheating and plagiarism. Copied (not plagiarized) from the spring 2010 syllabus for Andy Egan's 01:730: 252 Eating Right: The Ethics of Food Choices and Food Policies.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Short version: Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.

Longer version: Cheating on tests or plagiarizing materials in your papers deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on unacknowledged words or ideas that someone else originated. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. In this class we will take cheating very seriously. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be automatically referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and we will recommend penalties appropriate to the gravity of the infraction. The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy> I strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with this document, both for this class and for your other classes and future work. To help protect you, and future students, from plagiarism, we require all papers to be submitted through Turnitin.com.

Since what counts as plagiarism is not always clear, I quote the definition given in Rutgers' policy:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by

quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other nontextual material from other sources without proper attribution.¹

A SPECIAL NOTE: Students often assume that because information is available on the Web it is public information, does not need to be formally referenced, and can be used without attribution. This is a mistake. *All* information and ideas that you derive from other sources, whether written, spoken, or electronic, must be attributed to their original source. Such sources include not just written or electronic materials, but people with whom you may discuss your ideas, such as your roommate, friends, or family members. They deserve credit for their contributions too!

Judgments about plagiarism can be subtle. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask for guidance from me.

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

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 professional 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.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Class Topics</i>	<i>Text Chapter</i>
Week 1 (9/1)	Intro & Methods	1
2 (9/7)	Self and Self-Esteem	2
<i>TBA Quiz 1 weeks 1 and 2 (chapters 1 and 2)</i>		
Week 3 (9/14)	Social Cognition I, II	3
4 (9/21)	Social Cognition III, IV	
<i>TBA Quiz 2 weeks 3 and 4 (chapter 3)</i>		
Week 5 (9/28)	Conformity and Obedience	5, 6
6 (10/5)		
<i>TBA Quiz 3 weeks 5 and 6 (chapters 5 and 6)</i>		
7 (10/12)	Behavior and Attitudes	4
8 (10/19)	Persuasion	7
<i>TBA Quiz 4 weeks 7 and 8 (chapters 4 and 7)</i>		
Week 9 (10/26)	Group Influence	8
10 (11/2)	Aggression	10
<i>TBA Quiz 5 weeks 9 and 10 (chapters 8 and 10)</i>		
11 (11/9)	Prejudice and Conflict Reduction	9, 13
12 (11/16)		
<i>TBA Quiz 6 weeks 11 and 12 (chapters 9 and 13)</i>		
13 (11/23)	Interpersonal Attraction	11
14 (11/30)	Helping	12
15 (12/7)	Happiness	16 plus either 14 or 15

12/22 Tuesday 4 pm or 8 pm Final Exam: Material from weeks 13, 14, and 15 (chapters 13, 14 and either 15 or 16 – your choice) plus Survey 2