

PSY 260 A: Social Psychology

Greene Hall 308 | MTWRF: 1050a – 1205p | Summer Session I - 2018

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Course Goals and Objectives

Social psychology is a topic to which every person can relate. The theories covered in this course will apply directly to your everyday experiences (including your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors) and your relationships with others. Because social psychology is so accessible, one common misconception about it is that it is mostly common sense. Social psychological theories are based on scientific research. Thus, as a science, it separates the false myths from the fundamental truths about human nature. One major focus of this class will be on the scientific method as a tool for uncovering these truths and providing answers to important questions about how and why people function the way they do. We will also discuss how social psychological theories relate to everyday life and the functioning of society as a whole.

The goals of this course are:

- 1) to provide an introduction to theories, methods, and findings from social psychology,
- 2) to familiarize students with the scientific method and to foster critical thinking, and
- 3) to explore how social psychology relates to your lives and to society as a whole.

****The contents of this syllabus are subject to change if required by circumstances occurring during the semester. If this does occur, announcements will be made both in class and on the course web page.****

Required textbook Baumeister, R. F. & Bushman, B. J. *Social Psychology & Human Nature, 4th Edition*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Prerequisite Introductory Psychology (PSY 151)

Other materials The course website will be on Sakai (<http://sakai.wfu.edu>). You are responsible for checking Sakai every day! Talk to me if you have any problems accessing the website.

Attendance

Some parts of the lectures will not be covered in the textbook. You are responsible for attending class and for learning the material that you miss when you are not in class (including announcements). If you miss a lecture, you do not need to notify me with an excuse. However, you are responsible for getting up to speed with the class. You should get to know at least a few other students in the class with whom to study and exchange notes. While I will be happy to answer specific questions, I will not go over an entire lecture with you if you miss it.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may require accommodation for taking this course, please contact the Learning Assistance Center (LAC) within the first two weeks of the semester:

Website: <http://lac.wfu.edu>

Phone: 336.758.5929

Location: 117 Reynolda Hall

Grades

Grades will be determined by exams and papers, which are described below. There are 420 total points to be earned in the class. Most of those points (300) will come from the exams. Remaining points (120) will come from three assignments: a paper (50 points), an applied assignment (35 points), and an article review (35 points).

Grading Scale

Grades will be determined by adding up points earned on all exams and papers and dividing by the total possible points. Grades will be assigned as follows:

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

Grade Posting

To protect your privacy, grades will not be posted publicly. You can access your individual grades by logging on to Sakai. Grades are usually posted within one week following an exam. If you have specific questions about exam content or would like to see your exam, make an appointment to meet with me in my office.

Exams

There will be three unit exams, meaning each will test on an isolated unit in class. There will be no cumulative exams. Each of the exams will be worth 100 points. The exams will cover lecture material and may include some topics from the book that are not covered in lecture. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and free response questions. The exams will span the topics designated below.

Exam 1: "Intro to social psychology" through "Emotion and affect part 1"

Exam 2: "Emotion and affect part 2" through "Groups"

Exam 3: "Stereotyping and prejudice through "Unconscious mind and conscious thought"

Assignments

Students will complete three assignments that will be worth 120 points altogether. One of these assignments will be a paper, which will be worth 50 points. Students will be able to select a topic for the paper from a list of potential topics. Details concerning the papers can be found later in this document.

Another of these assignments will be an applied assignment, meaning students will apply course content to some real-world problem. This assignment will be worth 35 points. Students will be able to select an applied assignment from several options. Details concerning applied assignments can be found later in this document.

The third of these assignments will be an article review. Students will find an article to read, summarize, and respond to. This assignment will be worth 35 points. Details concerning article reviews can be found later in this document.

All assignments will be due by July 5th 11:59pm.

Make-ups and Absences

Make-up exams require a University approved absence. These include:

- holy days of obligation
- student athlete absences
- health and other emergencies

Any kind of event or appointment scheduled during class time is NOT a valid excuse for a makeup. If you miss an exam because of a University approved absence or illness, you may be required to give me documentation from your doctor or your athletic advisor as soon as possible. If you have to miss an exam due to a holy day of obligation or a student athletic event, it is your responsibility to notify me at least one week in advance.

Academic Honor Code

Students are expected to uphold the Wake Forest University Honor System (<http://www.wfu.edu/studentlife/judicial/honor.html>) at all times and in all situations. This code is based on the premise that each student agrees not to deceive (lie to) any member of the community, not to steal from one another, not to cheat on academic work, not to plagiarize academic work, and not to engage in any other forms of academic misconduct. Violations of these responsibilities include (but are not limited to): copying from other classmates during a test, using notes or other materials during a test, using unfair methods to learn what is on a test before it is given, submitting the work of another person as their own or providing assistance to another

person engaging in academic dishonesty. Students who violate their responsibilities will be liable for disciplinary action by the University, in accordance with WFU policies on academic integrity.

Copyright Statement

Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities with and for the duration of this course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading (do before class)
1	Wed	30-May	Intro to social psychology	
	Thurs	31-May	The self concept	Ch. 1 & 3
	Fri	1-Jun	***CLASS CANCELED***	
2	Mon	4-Jun	Self-esteem and self motives	
	Tues	5-Jun	Self-esteem and self motives	
	Wed	6-Jun	Motivation and self-regulation	Ch. 4
	Thurs	7-Jun	Motivation and self-regulation	
	Fri	8-Jun	Social cognition	Ch. 5
	Sat	9-Jun	Emotion and affect	Ch. 6
3	Mon	11-Jun	Exam 1	
	Tues	12-Jun	Emotion and affect	Ted talk: goo.gl/2l6Zyt
	Wed	13-Jun	Attitudes and beliefs	Ch. 7
	Thurs	14-Jun	Attitudes and beliefs	
	Fri	15-Jun	Helping	Ch. 9
4	Mon	18-Jun	Aggression and violence	
	Tues	19-Jun	Social influence and persuasion	Ch. 8
	Wed	20-Jun	Groups	
	Thurs	21-Jun	Stereotyping and prejudice	Ch. 13 and 14 (p. 508-527 only)
	Fri	22-Jun	Stereotyping and prejudice	
	Sat	23-Jun	Exam 2	
5	Mon	25-Jun	Attraction and exclusion	Ch. 11
	Tues	26-Jun	Relationships and sex	Ch. 12
	Wed	27-Jun	Relationships and sex	
	Thurs	28-Jun	Judgment and decision-making	Ted talk: goo.gl/zssgBY
	Fri	29-Jun	Unconscious mind and conscious thought	Bargh automaticity paper
	Sat	30-Jun	***CLASS CANCELED***	
Final	Tues	3-Jul	Exam 3 (at 9 am)	

Papers

Students will write a short paper to be submitted to me (via email to masicaej@wfu.edu) by July 5th at 11:59 pm. The paper will address one of the questions below.

The paper will be out of a possible 50 points and should be at least 1000 words long. Students should answer their chosen question by drawing on four concepts covered in the course. The concepts should come from at least two different sections within the course (i.e. two different lectures and/or book chapters). Five points will be subtracted if all four concepts are from a single section. Five points will be awarded for each relevant concept that is identified and accurately explained. Five additional points will be awarded for each concept that is correctly applied to the question. Ten points will be awarded for good writing (i.e. good spelling and grammar).

Points will stem primarily from doing two things: 1) explaining each concept and 2) applying the concept to the question. Explanations of concepts will earn five full points for being accurate and detailed and for including underlying causes at both a proximal level (e.g., goals, feelings, emotions, and/or social influences) and a distal level (e.g., functions and/or evolutionary pressures). Applications of concepts will earn five full points for being logical, accurate, and creative applications to the topic, and for invoking logical connections and offering insights beyond what is obvious or what was discussed in class, perhaps also by synthesizing across concepts.

Write to a general audience. Anyone (e.g., your friends or family) who does not have a psychology background should be able to read your papers and understand the concepts and applications of those concepts with ease. Even though I will be grading these papers, you should not address me (e.g., "As you talked about in class...") or refer to class (e.g., "In our textbook, one idea...").

You do not need to adhere to APA style in these papers, and you do not need to cite papers or have a references section. This paper assignment is a way for you to show me that you understand the course material, not to show me that you know how to do in-text citations. Therefore, the emphasis is on the ideas. These are essays, not research reports. Of course, you will not be penalized for using APA style or having a references section. It is simply not required. (And the references section will not count toward the 1000 words.)

Questions (pick one):

1. What makes people act differently in the presence of others?
2. Why do people care so much about what others think of them?
3. What makes people act in evil ways?
4. In what ways is human nature fixed and in what ways has it changed?
5. Is social media good or bad for society?
6. Are humans moral or immoral?
7. How and why are people motivated to achieve?
8. What contributes to a fulfilling life?
9. What causes group-based discrimination?
10. How do people choose their friends?

Applied Assignments

For the applied assignment, you will create a product (either a letter or a brochure) with the aim of promoting the mission of an office, center, or institute on campus. To complete the assignment, follow the three steps below:

Step 1. Educate yourself about one of the offices, centers, or institutes listed below. You can do this by visiting the website that is listed. Pay special attention to the stated mission of each office and to the various programs, events, and other activities that the office engages in.

Intercultural Center
interculturalcenter.wfu.edu

LGBTQ Center
lgbtq.wfu.edu

Office of Sustainability
sustainability.wfu.edu

Office of Wellbeing
thrive.wfu.edu

Pro Humanitate Institute
phi.wfu.edu

Step 2. Create a product that advances the mission of one of the offices, centers or institutes. Select an office that interests you and create either a letter to the director or a brochure with the aim of advancing that office's mission. Whether you create a letter or a brochure, your aim will be to draw upon social psychological knowledge to help the office advance its mission.

Letter to the director

One option is to draft a letter to the director of the office. In the letter, you should make recommendations to the director for how their office can better promote its mission. This can include recommendations for new programming, events, ways of messaging, etc. The only requirement is that you have three recommendations that together draw on at least three separate concepts discussed in class. The letter should explain both what the recommendations are and why you think they would be effective. It is not necessary to use social psychology terms in the letter nor do you need to define social psychology concepts in the letter, particularly if it would seem awkward or like too much information to include in a letter to the director. In other words, treat the office's director as your audience. Write as if the office's director were going to receive this letter (not as if you were writing the letter to prove to Dr. Masicampo that you know what the concepts mean). Details about the concepts you are drawing from can be reserved for the explanation document described below.

Brochure

Another option is to create a brochure that the office can make available to students, faculty, and/or staff. The brochure should introduce the office and present to readers three distinct messages aimed at motivating readers (i.e. making readers care about the mission of the office) and/or inspiring readers engage in behavior change (i.e. by equipping readers with tips or recommendations that will help them to engage in behaviors and/or develop new habits that uphold the mission of the office). The brochure should contain three such messages that together draw on at least three separate concepts discussed in class.

Step 3. Submit your work and a supplementary explanation document

You will submit two items to me. First, you will submit your product (i.e. letter or brochure). Second, you will submit an explanation document in which you will describe the three social psychology concepts that you drew upon in your product. The point of this explanation document is to provide me with any supplementary information I need to see which three concepts you applied and how. If it is quite obvious from your document what the concepts are and how they're being applied, then there is no need to say much in the explanation document. However, if it is somewhat ambiguous in your product precisely what concepts you are applying and how, then the explanation document is the place to explain to me what your product is aiming to do. The explanation document may be quite short (e.g., simply a list of the concepts you used) or, if it is a bit longer, should be no more than a single page.

Email both the product and the explanation document to me (via email to masicaej@wfu.edu) by July 5th at 11:59 pm.

Article Review

For the article review, you will review an empirical article (i.e. an article that describes one or more studies in which data are collected and/or analyzed) from a peer-reviewed journal in social psychology. Specifically, you will review an article either from the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* or from *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.

Browse for an article

First, you will look for an article that interests you. You can do this in one of two ways. You can simply browse various issues of each journal until you find something you like. Or you can do this by deciding on a topic you find interesting and searching the journals for that topic.

Browse by journal

1. Go to zsr.wfu.edu
2. Click on the 'journals' link, which is immediately below the search field.
3. Search for either of assigned journals:
 - Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
 - Social Psychological and Personality Science
4. Click on 'View Journal in BrowZine'
5. You will see a list of article titles for the latest issue. Click on any titles that sound interesting to you to access that paper. Browse through older issues of the journal using the links to the left.

Browse by topic

1. Go to zsr.wfu.edu
2. In the search field where it says "What can we help you find?," type 'psycinfo' and hit Enter. This should take you directly to the psycinfo database. You should see three search fields.
3. In the first search field, type in the name of a topic you are interested in (e.g., 'self-esteem').
4. Next to that search field, where it says 'Select a Field (optional)', select 'AB Abstract'. This will return all articles that mention your search term in the abstract. You can also play around with this and switch it to Title, Keywords, or anything else.
5. In the second search field, type in the name of one of the journals (e.g., 'Journal of Experimental Social Psychology'). Next to that search field, where it says 'Select a Field (optional)', select 'SO Publication Name.'
6. Now hit the Search button. The results will be any appearance of your topic in the specified location (e.g., in the abstract) for all articles in the specified journal.

Get approval for the article

Once you've found an article you would like to review, download it in pdf form. Email the article to me for approval (at masicaej@wfu.edu).

Review the article

1. Write a summary of the article that includes the following:
 - a. The topic and/or problem that the article addresses
 - b. The hypothesis being tested, if there was one
 - c. How the hypothesis was tested (e.g., brief descriptions of experiments that were conducted)
 - d. The main results/findings
 - e. The conclusion/implications of the results/findings.
2. Respond to the article by reflecting on the following:
 - a. Your overall thoughts and attitudes about the article
 - b. Any criticisms you have of the article (e.g., shortcomings, confounding variables, limitations)
3. Link the article back to course content (e.g., by noting a concept or two that is consistent or inconsistent with the findings).

Your review should be approximately 1000 words (a bit shorter or longer than that is fine).

Submit your review

Email both your review and the article to me (via email to masicaej@wfu.edu) by July 5th at 11:59 pm.