# PSY 3331-001: Social Psychology
## Fall 2013
## [Tues & Thurs, 10:00-11:15 pm, Room GR 4.428]

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## Course Descriptions/Objectives

This course provides an introduction to social psychology. Social psychology is the scientific study of the way people think, feel, desire, and behave in social situations. It involves understanding how people influence others and how people are influenced by others around them. A primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the perspectives, research methods, and empirical findings in the field of social psychology. Equally important is the goal of cultivating your skills in analyzing the social situations and events that you encounter in your everyday lives. Finally, throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on developing critical and integrative ways of thinking about theory and research in social psychology.

## Required Readings

**Textbook**: Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2012). *Social Psychology 3rd*

## eLearning Course Website

You can find additional readings on the eLearning webpage. In addition, outlines of the lecture notes will be available on the eLearning webpage by 9am before each lecture. Some students find it helpful to print out the lecture outlines to facilitate their note-taking.

## Course Requirements

**Exams**: There are four closed-book exams in this course. All exams, including the last one, are *non-cumulative*. They will cover materials from both the lectures and the assigned readings across the specified dates. Some materials in the lectures will not be in the books; some materials in the books will not be covered in lectures. You are responsible for all of it. You should therefore make arrangements to borrow notes from another class member should you miss a class. These exams will be all multiple-choice. The exams are scheduled in-class on the following dates: *September 12, October 8, November 5, and December 10*. (There is no exam during the final exam period.) As a general rule, make-up exams will not be given. Exceptions to this rule are made only in dire, unavoidable circumstances (e.g., serious illness or emergency) that are fully documented (e.g., with official correspondence from physicians and/or Deans) and preferably with advance arrangement made.

**Class participation/in-class assignments**: You are expected to attend every lecture. Note that if you miss lecture, you will miss what is taught in the class. There will be no other source for lecture material. In addition, during class time there will be various activities that will be counted as participation points. These may include videos, group exercises, experiments, etc. You must be in class and turn in in-class assignments to receive these points. Note that if there is an in-class assignment the day you miss class you miss out on those points. There will be absolutely no make-up for missed assignments.

**Thoughts Paper**: Since one of the main goals for this class is to convince you of the usefulness and everyday value of social psychology, you will be asked to complete six brief thought papers on topics of your choice. For each paper you will choose one social psychological topic or theory, briefly explain this concept, and then apply it to either a relevant current event or a relevant personal experience. You should be able to fulfill these requirements adequately in about one typed page. ***These papers will be due BY September 5, September 26, October 15, October 29, November 14, & December 3.***

**Research Exposure Credits**: All students enrolled in Core psychology courses must earn research exposure credits. Details about this requirement appear on the separate handout distributed on the first day of class. The handout is posted in eLearning (https://utdallas.sona-systems.com/).

**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:**

After completing the course, students will:

1.1     Describe and explain the nature of social psychology as a scientific discipline.
1.2     Describe and analyze major theoretical perspectives and overarching themes of social psychology and their historical development.
1.3     Understand, apply, and analyze social psychology as a specific content area within psychology.
2.1     Identify and explain different research methods used by social psychologists.
3.1     Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media and scholarly literature.
3.3     Engage in creative thinking by evaluating new ideas with an open but critical mind.
4.1     Demonstrate effective writing skills in various formats and for various purposes.
4.3     Demonstrate basic computer skills, proper etiquette, and security safeguards.
5.1     Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings to issues in everyday life.
5.2     Identify appropriate applications of psychology in human service, education, business, and other professions.
5.3     Demonstrate how psychological principles can explain social issues and inform public policy.
80.1    Explain and apply major theoretical and scholarly approaches, empirical findings, and historical trends in a social/behavioral science.
80.2    Explain and apply basic research methods in a social/behavioral science.
80.3    Apply modes of critical thinking used in a social/behavioral science.

**Grading**

Your final grade will be based on your achievements on course requirements weighted in the following manner:

| | |
|---|---|
| Exam #1 | 20% |
| Exam #2 | 20% |
| Exam #3 | 20% |
| Exam #4 | 20% |
| Thought Papers | 15% |
| Class participation/in-class assignments | 5% |

Assignment of letter grades is as follows:

| Percent | Letter Grade |
|---|---|
| 93-100% | A |
| 90-92% | A$^-$ |
| 88-89% | B$^+$ |
| 83-87% | B |
| 80-82% | B$^-$ |
| 78-79% | C$^+$ |
| 73-77% | C |
| 70-72% | C$^-$ |
| 68-69% | D$^+$ |
| 65-67% | D |
| 0-64% | F |

**UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.   Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.

***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***

# Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Exams

| Week 1 |
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August 27 (Tue) Chapter 1: An invitation to Social Psychology
August 29 (Thur) Chapter 1: n invitation to Social Psychology & Chapter 2: The Methods of Social Psychology

| Week 2 |
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September 3 (Tue) Chapter 2: The Methods of Social Psychology
**September 5 (Thur) Chapter 3: The Social Self**

| Week 3 |
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September 10 (Tue) Chapter 3: The Social Self & Exam Review
September 12 (Thur) **\*\*\* Exam #1 \*\*\***

| Week 4 |
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September 17 (Tue) Chapter 4: Social Cognition
September 19 (Thur) Chapter 4: Social Cognition

| Week 5 |
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September 24 (Tue) Chapter 5: Social Attribution
**September 26 (Thur) Chapter 5: Social Attribution**

| Week 6 |
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October 1 (Tue) Chapter 6 Emotion
October 3 (Thur) Chapter 6 Emotion & Exam Review

| Week 7 |
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October 8 (Tue) **\*\*\* Exam #2 \*\*\***
October 10 (Thur) Chapter 7 Attitudes, Behavior, and Rationalization

| Week 8 |
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**October 15 (Tue) Chapter 7 Attitudes, Behavior, and Rationalization**
October 17 (Thur) Chapter 8 Persuasion

| Week 9 |
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October 22 (Tue) Chapter 9 Social Influence
October 24 (Thur) Chapter 9 Social Influence & Chapter 10 Relationships and Attraction

| Week 10 |
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**October 29 (Tue) Chapter 10 Relationships and Attraction**
October 31 (Thur) Review

| Week 11 |
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November 5 (Tue) **\*\*\* Exam #3 \*\*\***
November 7 (Thur) Chapter 11: Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination

| Week 12 |
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November 12 (Tue) Chapter 11: Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination
**November 14 (Thur) Chapter 12: Group**

| Week 13 |
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November 19 (Tue) Chapter 12: Group
November 21(Thur) Chapter 13: Aggression

**### Fall Break & Thanksgiving###**

| Week 14 |
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**December 3 (Tue) Chapter 14: Altruism and Cooperation**
December 5 (Thur) Chapter 14: Altruism and Cooperation & Exam Review

| Week 15 |
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December 10 (Tue) **\*\*\* Exam #4 \*\*\***