

Social Psychology Fall 2016

Course Syllabus

Course Information

PSY 3352.501 – Social Psychology FALL 2016

Meeting day and times: **Mondays 7:00 – 9:45, GR 4.301**

Welcome to Social Psychology! This semester I invite you to join me on a fantastic journey. A journey where we will travel to exotic and exciting places and visit lands that others have dared to consider humdrum and common place rephrases of things we *knew all along* and thus could have *easily predicted*. I'm talking about traveling to dangerous, intriguing places such as the land of *prejudice* (that most people refer to as a thing of the past) and the land of *love* (a land many dare to venture to, but some never return from). Have you ever argued that you would never succumb to *naïve realism*, *the illusion of objectivity*, or *the overwhelming power of the situation* (**Do you even know what these things are?**) I would argue that you succumb more often than not, but through no fault of your own. Does it matter how we interpret events and explain the behavior of ourselves and others? If so, what does the influence of other people have to do with these explanations and our interpretations?

This course is an introduction to the fascinating world of social psychology. Social psychologists attempt to answer questions such as: Why would seemingly *normal* people engage in behavior that would appear to be *completely abnormal*? How does what we *think* in social situations relate to how we *behave*? What happens when our need to feel good about ourselves conflicts with our need to be accurate?

We will examine theory, research, and practical applications to social problems. Not only will we learn how social psychologists do research to answer the questions they have, but we will also learn how we think about the social world, how we come to understand ourselves and others, and the importance of social influence, cultural influence, and perspective taking in interpersonal relationships. By the end of this course I hope you will have as much appreciation for what social psychology can contribute to your happiness, your success in life, and your understanding of interpersonal relationships as I do!

This course should appeal to all who are social beings and as Aristotle proclaims, that should be all of us, "*Man is by nature a social animal; an individual who is unsocial naturally and not accidentally is either beneath our notice or more than human. Society is something that precedes the individual. Anyone who either cannot lead the common life or is so self-sufficient as not to need to, and therefore does not partake of society, is either a beast or a god.*" — Aristotle

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or other restrictions

None

YES I AM APPROACHABLE

Professor: Dr. Dawn Brinkley	Phone Number: 972-883-4746	Email: dawn.brinkley@utdallas.edu
Office Location: GR 4.818	Office Hours: Mon. 2:00 – 3:00; Wed. 10:30 – 12:30; or by appointment.	
Other Information: <u>Email</u> is the <u>fastest and most reliable</u> way to get a hold of me. I typically respond within 24 – 48 hours. Please put “SOC” in the subject line, and email from your UTD email address or using the eLearning mail system.		

Teaching Assistant Contact Information

TA: Saniya Wu
Email: sxw151230@utdallas.edu
Office hours: By appointment only via email
Office Location: JO 2.302

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1.1 Identify and describe contemporary theories of social psychology.
- 2.1 Weigh support for conclusions and identify weak, contradictory, and inappropriate assertions.
- 2.2 Demonstrate an attitude of critical thinking that includes tolerance for ambiguity and intellectual engagement in processing literature related to the course.
- 3.1 Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media and scholarly literature.
- 3.2 Demonstrate how psychological principles can explain and inform clinical issues, social issues, organizational issues, and public policy.
- 4.1 Demonstrate effective writing skills in summarizing and evaluating technical reports.
- 5.1 Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings to issues in everyday life.
- 5.2 Identify appropriate applications of psychology to mental health and organizational problems.
- 6.1 Demonstrate professional behavior by meeting deadlines and with conscientious completion of responsibilities.
- 6.2 Demonstrate competence in effectively collaborating with others.
- 80.1 Explain and apply major theoretical and scholarly approaches, empirical findings, and historical trends in a social/behavior science.
- 80.2 Explain and apply basic research methods in social/behavioral science.
- 80.3 Apply modes of critical thinking used in social/behavioral science.

Required Textbooks and Materials

1. Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., Akert, R. M., & Sommers, S. R. (2015) Social Psychology (9th Edition). Pearson (ISBN 978-013-393654-4)
2. Each exam will require a Pearson Scantron #229630 (pink form) and a #2 pencil, both available in the UTD bookstore and free at the off-campus bookstore. **You are required to provide your own scantron and pencil for each examine.**
3. eLearning will be an important resource throughout the semester. Your grades will be posted through eLearning, supplemental readings will be provided, and homework assignments will be submitted this way. Make sure you have access to eLearning.
4. **A Turning Point clicker is required for this course. NO LAPTOPS OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

If you experience any problems with **eLearning**, please call the eLearning Helpdesk at 866-588-3192. If you experience any problems with your UT Dallas account you may email assist@utdallas.edu or call the UT Dallas Computer Help Desk at 972-883-2911.

My goal is for you to do well in this course. **Please see me for help any time!** I am here to answer any questions you might have and provide any assistance you might need, however, if you wait until the end of the semester or after exam 4, there is *nothing* I can do!

IMPORTANT: To get the most benefit from your time in this class, read the material to be discussed **before** you come to class. You will find classes to be much more interesting and involving if you come prepared to discuss each day's topic.

PSY 3352.501 Social Psychology Fall 2016 Schedule

MONDAYS		
Date	Topic	Reading
8/22	Introduction - Course overview Ch. 1 What is social psychology	pgs. 1-22
8/29	Ch. 2 Research Methods in Social Psychology... <i>How to "DO" Social Psychology Science</i> Ch. 3 Social Cognition: How We Think (<i>Can you Say Automatic Pilot? How about Heuristic Dependency?</i>) Clickers needed as of today. Be sure to register your clicker in eLearning	pgs. 23-50 pgs. 51-83
9/5	LABOR DAY....No Class ENJOY!	
9/12	Eyewitness Testimony... <i>Do you see what I see or he sees or she sees? Do we even know what we saw?</i> Ch. 4 Social Perception... <i>How we "Think" we Understand People</i>	pgs. 496-508 pgs. 84-117
9/19	EXAM 1: Chs. 1,2,3,4 and pgs. 496 - 508	
9/26	Ch. 5 The Self... <i>Do I Know "Me"? Do I See the "Me" that you see?</i> Ch. 6 The Need to Justify.... <i>But let me explain!</i> Assignment #1 Due	pgs. 120-156 pgs. 157-187
10/3	Stress and Health... <i>Don't let life consume you, TAKE CHARGE</i> Ch. 7 Attitudes and Attitude Change... <i>Tell us what you really think! Attitudes reflect behavior don't they?</i> Conveying and Changing Social Norms	pgs. 477-490 pgs. 189-225 pgs. 462-468
10/10	EXAM 2: Chs. 5,6,7 and pgs. 462-468, 477-490	
10/17	Ch. 8 Conformity.... <i>When in Rome, We do What We're Told, Going along to get along</i>	pgs. 226-268
10/24	Ch. 9 Group Processes... <i>The more the merrier or is it?</i> Juries: Group Processes in Action.. <i>The power of group influences</i>	pgs. 269-302 pgs. 509-515
10/31	Ch. 13 Prejudice... <i>Can't we all just get along?</i> Assignment #2 Due	pgs. 413-454
11/7	EXAM 3: chs. 8,9,13, and pgs. 509 - 515	
11/14	Ch. 10 Interpersonal Attraction... <i>All You Need is Love, Birds of a feather, The more we get together</i> Ch. 12 Aggression... <i>We all get a little mad sometimes</i>	pgs. 303-343 pgs. 375-411
11/21	FALL BREAK...No Class ENJOY!	
11/28	Ch. 11 Prosocial Behavior.. <i>Thank you that was very thoughtful, now what do you expect in return?</i> Happiness and a Sustainable Lifestyle... <i>Live your life to the fullest, you only get one(or do you?)</i> Assignment #3 Due	pgs. 344 - 374 pgs. 469-473
12/5	EXAM 4 Chs. 10, 11, 12 and pgs. 469-473	
	FINALS WEEK Dec. 9 - Dec. 15 Final EXAM DATE TBA	

Note: Final course grades will be viewable in Orion by Fri. Dec. 16

Disclaimer: Because your learning is my top priority and my commitment to you is ensuring that you have the best learning experience possible changes to this syllabus are at my discretion, particularly if the changes facilitate learning for you! Changes would include assignments, exams, timelines, etc. however all changes will be discussed in class.

Withdrawal policy: Failing to show up for class does not officially withdraw you from the course

Last day to withdraw without a "W" – Wed. Sept. 7	Approval required – Thurs. Sep. 8 thru Thurs. Oct. 27
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Grading Policy

Final course grade will be based on the following criteria. Grades will be reported as percentages and will correspond to the letter grades listed below.

Although grades will be posted in eLearning, please do not use eLearning to calculate your grade.

	Points	% of final grades
Cell Phone Free Zone Participant	5	
Exams (4 at 50 pts. Each)	200	60% combined
Final Exam 75 pts	75	20
Class Participation (10 @ 2 pts)	20	6
Assignments (3 at 10 pts. Each)	30	14% combined
TOTAL	325	100%

Points Earned	Percent	Letter Grade
301 – 325	93 – 100%	A
291 – 300	90 – 92%	A-
285 – 290	88 – 89%	B+
269 – 284	83 – 87%	B
259 – 268	80 – 82%	B-
252 – 258	78 – 79%	C+
236 – 251	73 – 77%	C
226 – 235	70 – 72%	C-
220 – 225	68 – 69%	D+
210 – 219	65 – 67%	D
0 – 209	0 – 64%	F

*I encourage you to make the effort to take an interest in your grade early in the semester (i.e., long before the last week or last day of class). By the end of the semester it is simply too late for me to give extra assignments, particularly when you are provided opportunities throughout the semester to take an active role in your success in this course. Please come to me or your TA **EARLY** in the semester if you are having trouble keeping up or are concerned about your progress. We are here to help you.*

Classroom Etiquette and Expectations

- There are NO stupid or insignificant questions. We are all here to learn and want to create an environment that is conducive to doing so. One of the ways we can accomplish this is by being able to comfortably ask questions.
- Be polite and respectful to one another, particularly when engaged in discussion. In addition, we want to create an open environment; however, be mindful of over sharing.
- Do not carry on conversations with others during lectures.

- **Be mindful of the investment you or someone else has made in you!** This includes taking the time to read, study, and do your own work. Attend class regularly, carefully consider all your course material and take the time to engage with your classmates. The course is designed, ON PURPOSE, to encourage class attendance to assist with both academic and life skills. **Absences beyond what is outlined in the syllabus will negatively affect your overall grade.**
- We are here to work together to create a COMMUNITY of LEARNERS. I hope you are as excited about this as I am. WELCOME!

Course & Instructor Policy

NO LAPTOPS or other electronic devices will be allowed to be used during class time. This includes cell phone, notebooks, and tablets. I have found that these items tend to distract from your learning and the learning of others around you. In addition, studies show that taking notes on a lap top reduces learning when compared to taking handwritten notes. Failure to comply with this policy will result in you being asked to leave the classroom and you will not get credit for class participation on that day.

Extra Credit: Extra Credit: No individualized extra credit will be given out; however you have an opportunity to earn 5 extra credit points. You will have an opportunity to spend your class period “**cell phone free**”. This extra credit assignment is explained in detail on **pg. 7** of this syllabus. Please spend your time working on the material assigned and reading your text. If you find that you are experiencing difficulties in the class, please talk to me so we can discuss strategies to help you succeed at learning the material.

Late Work: All assignments are due by 7:00 PM on the due date listed in the class schedule. **Late work will not be accepted so please refer to the course schedule and plan accordingly.**

Attendance & Class Participation: **Classroom attendance and participation is required and necessary for success in this course.** Class meetings will consist of lectures, discussions, supplemental readings, and demonstrations using YouTube clips and films that complement our course of study. Content covered in the course will frequently include material that is not covered in the textbook.

Please take note that “**attendance**” refers to **physically being in the classroom** and attending to the material being presented. Your Class Participation grade will also be based on participation in class discussions, in-class activities, as well as coming to class. **Think about this:** Obviously you cannot participate if you are not present! Participation will be assessed using Clickers; therefore, you must remember to bring your Clicker to class every class session. Not having your Clicker, arriving to class late, leaving early may affect your participation points for that day.

Treat your college courses as you would a professional position. Attending class, showing up on time, and class participation are not only an indication of your commitment and professionalism, but these things also enhance your classroom experience and add to your success in the course.

Two specific rules about participation:

- Students can miss up to **two (2)** classes with no penalty to their Class Participation grade. **There will be no opportunities to make-up missed Class Participation credit, regardless of the reason,** so use your freebies wisely. I highly recommend saving up your freebies for unforeseen circumstances that may indeed arise.
- You do not need to submit any documentation for missed days of lectures, the first two missed days will simply be dropped, **and all subsequent missed days will result in a deduction, regardless of the reason missed (*this does not apply to Exams; see below*).**

ON THAT NOTE! Please be sure to acquire missed lecture notes, assignments, handouts, and announcements **from a classmate—NOT from me.** YOU are responsible for **all** information given in class. *This includes any changes to the syllabus, content and format of exams, and details given regarding assignments.*

Detailed Descriptions of Graded Course Content: Exams, Class Participation, and Assignments

Exams:

1. **Four non-cumulative exams worth 50 points** each will cover all material since the previous test and a **75-item cumulative final exam** will be given to assess your mastery of the course material as a whole. The exams will focus on material covered in the textbook and lectures, supplemental readings and classroom activities. Tests will consist of multiple choice questions (with the exception of make-up exams).
2. You must be present for all exams. Make-up exams will be given **only** if: (a) you were seriously ill with verifying documentation, (b) you were unavoidably detained the day and time of the exam, or (c) you made arrangements prior to the exam for an urgent family matter (e.g., a funeral). In any of these cases, **you must notify me in advance of the time of the exam (even if that simply means leaving a voicemail, 972-883-4746).** Appropriate documentation will be required prior to taking the exam. Missing an exam for any other reason will result in a “0” for that test. You must contact me **before** the scheduled time of the exam. **If you wait until after** to contact me, **you will not be allowed to make-up the exam and you will receive a “0” for that test.**

IMPORTANT:

For an approved absence with proper documentation, you will have **1 week** to make up the test. It is your responsibility to get in contact with the Professor about arranging the make-up. Keep in mind that make-up exams are intended to be more comprehensive to compensate for additional study time. Make-up exams will not necessarily be multiple choice format.

3. Reading, comprehending the material, and reviewing your notes is the best advice I can give you in reference to studying for the exams. It will also help if you complete the end of chapter activities found in your textbook as this will reinforce concepts introduced throughout the course. In addition, you can see me or the TA (if applicable) before the exam with any questions you might have related to the content we have covered. It will help if you have reviewed the material and come to us with specific questions.
4. **If you are concerned about an exam grade, please contact me or the TA within one week of the grades posting to schedule a time to discuss the issue.**

CLICKERS AND CLASS PARTICIPATION (Be sure to register your clicker or your responses will not be recorded). Our course channel is “45”

1. This course will require the use of a clicker. A clicker is an audience response device that resembles a small calculator. This allows you to provide real-time feedback to your instructor during class. Class summary results are displayed graphically, providing students and the instructor a gauge as to how well the class is grasping the material. You can purchase (and sell back) your clicker at the UTD Bookstore.
2. Class participation will be monitored by your responses to clicker questions. The use of the clickers will also assist me in gauging whether or not students are comprehending class material and to measure class opinions or perspectives. In addition, responses to clickers will assess whether or not you have read the material and paid attention to the lectures and discussions.
3. Clicker credit can only be obtained by using the Clicker (**i.e., you cannot write the answer on a piece of paper and turn it in**). If you forget your Clicker, it runs out of batteries, etc., you can use that as one of your “free” days.

4. You must have attempted a minimum of 80% of the clicker response opportunities to earn **any** participation credit. **This means that you cannot earn half credit by attending half of the class sessions.** If you do not attempt a minimum of 80%, your participation grade **will be affected**-no points for participation may be earned. Clicker response participation is worth 6% of your final grade.

Assignments:

Three writing assignments will be assigned throughout the semester. Each essay will address a particular topic based on classroom discussions and supplemental readings. Assignments might involve a brief supplemental reading and a 2-3 page response paper. The specifics of the assignments, including a rubric for grading criteria, will be posted on eLearning. Assignments are due by **7:00pm** on the day listed on the Schedule below (however I welcome early work). **All submitted assignments must be original work.**

Keeping Track of Your Progress

It is your responsibility to keep up with how well you are doing throughout the course. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to keep track of your grades throughout the semester. Feel free to contact me or your TA to verify grades in our offices, not during class time. It would be helpful if you have checked eLearning first and then come see us for any clarification, verification, or any additional assistance needed. Please let me know if you would like for me to review a grade within **two weeks** of the grade being posted. It is much easier to clarify grades at that time as clarification becomes more difficult as the semester progresses. Please do not wait until the end of the semester.

Psychological Principles in Action –Eliminating Distractions and Providing Positive Reinforcement

You will have an opportunity to earn **5 points of Extra Credit** and experience psychological principles in action by participating in a **“Cell Phone Free”** classroom environment. Although cell phone use is not permitted and will not be tolerated during the course, I am offering students an opportunity to avoid the temptation of pulling out their phones by providing a **“cell phone free zone”** at the front of the classroom each class period. Research has shown that cell phone addiction is real and many of us are on a variable-ratio schedule of reinforcement when it comes to our cell phones. We have been conditioned to repeatedly check our phones. Let’s work toward eliminating distractions, changing a learned behavior, and earning extra points!

Extra Credit Requirements:

1. Students are given the opportunity to participate during each class period. Students will not be penalized for not participating, however, if I see you using your cell phone during the class period, **you will be asked to leave and you will not receive participation credit for that day.**
2. For each class period you participate, you are one step closer to earning the extra credit points toward your final grade. Students **must not have missed more than 1 class** to qualify for the extra credit and students must have participated in the **“cell phone free zone”** for a **minimum of 8 class meetings.**
3. At the beginning of each class period, students participating for the day will sign in and drop off their phones in the designated **“cell phone free zone”**. **I will take extra care to make sure that no phones are left behind by allowing a few minutes at the end of each session for students to retrieve their phone!**
4. At the end of the semester, students will complete a brief, anonymous, evaluation of the activity. Although the evaluation will be anonymous, students will be randomly assigned a unique 5-digit identifier that will be used to identify who participated and whether they completed the evaluation so that the extra credit can be properly awarded.
5. **Students must meet all three criteria to qualify for the extra credit:**
 - a. Must not have missed more than 1 class
 - b. Must have participated in the “cell phone free zone” activity for a minimum of 8 class meetings

- c. Must complete the activity evaluation
- d. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE REQUIREMENTS SO PLEASE DO NOT ASK.

Thank you in advance for your compliance with this non-negotiable request! ☺

Welcome! This is going to be an exciting journey!

Official University Business

Research Exposure Credit Requirement (REC):

One requirement of all students enrolled in this class is completion of two research exposure credits. This requirement provides students practical and direct experiences with research and is an important means to understanding behavioral research. Details about this requirement appear on the separate *Research Exposure Credit Requirement* handout distributed on the first day of class. “*Instructions for Research Exposure Credit Requirements*” are also posted on the BBS Information Center in eLearning (link on the left side under *Content*) and on the BBS website. There have been several policy changes effective Spring 2015; please be aware of these changes. Failure to complete the research exposure requirement will result in lowering your total grade in this class. The **deadline** for completion of these credits is **Dec. 1, 2016**.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the link below constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies

Official University Course Evaluations:

Please note that all students in the UT System are now required to complete online evaluations of every course that has an enrollment of five or more students. Course evaluations are valuable in helping faculty improve their courses and their teaching, affect faculty professional development, and influence overall evaluations of faculty at the institutional level. Students who complete course evaluations will have priority access to course grades, once grades have been officially submitted to the registrar. Students who do not complete course evaluations will not have access to course grades until the “Final Grades Viewable Online” date listed in the academic calendar.

Toward the end of the semester, you will receive an official university email that will contain links you may use to complete the evaluation forms for each of your classes. You also can log in to Course Lookup to complete the course evaluations. Evaluation responses are anonymous. **Thank you in advance for completing your course evaluation!**

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity and honesty are of the utmost importance. The work you do in all of your courses is expected to be your own. The penalties for violations of Academic Integrity (such as copying answers on an exam, plagiarism of your own or another’s work, giving your work to someone else, or using another student’s work) are severe. They include receiving a failing grade for the course, and sanctioning by the University Judicial Board. Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated.

Please refer to the following website for the full policy:

<http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/integrity/>

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.