Social Psychology Syllabus
Spring PSYC-231-DL2

Instructor
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Phone: 703-713-2442
Office: Online/Phone/Text
Office Hours: Mondays 9:00-10:00 or other times by appointment

Description
This course provides students with a survey of the topics covering the social bases of behavior. Social psychology is the scientific study of how people think about one another, influence one another, and relate to one another. We will examine some of the historical and philosophical foundations of social psychology, as well as theories and models of various social phenomena. Through text reading, online lectures, writing assignments, and exams, you will learn about empirical studies of these phenomena, understand how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors, and think about applications of that research to your life. This course is part of the social and behavioral sciences general education core. Accordingly, this course will have the following learning outcomes:
● Recognize and recall key concepts, terminology, principles or theories within the field
● Describe and explain methodological approaches used in social psychological research
● Use appropriate methods and resources to apply social and behavioral science concepts, terminology, principles, or theories to your life

Required Materials
Revel: You are required to purchase the Revel version of Aronson, Wilson, and Sommers, Social Psychology, 10e for this course. I will assign reading, writing, and other homework activities in Revel.

While access to Revel is required, the printed version of this text is optional - see purchasing options below. There are two ways to purchase Revel access. Choose the option that works best for you:

Option #1: Purchase a Revel access code from the campus bookstore.

Option #2: Online Instant Access: If you decide not to purchase Revel from the bookstore, you can purchase Revel access online. You will see this as an option after clicking on the course invite link listed below.

When you register (via access code or online instant access), you also have the option of adding the print upgrade for $19.95 extra (no shipping cost).
Follow these steps to get started or watch a short video (at the bottom of the page at https://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/students/registration/index.html) on how to register for Revel:

- Enter your Course Invite Link in your web browser. Please use a recommended browser like Google Chrome or Safari

  **COURSE INVITE LINK:** will be sent separately.

- If you already have a Username and Password for another Pearson technology (i.e. MyMathLab), go ahead and sign in. If you do not have one, you’ll need to create one using a valid email that you check regularly, like your school email address. Once you’ve signed in or created your Pearson Account, you’ll immediately be directed to your Revel account. Here you’ll see your course appear.

- To access Revel throughout the semester log onto http://console.pearson.com. Make sure to bookmark this URL and NOT the course invite link. Remember to always use the same username and password to logon.

- If you encounter any issues, support materials are available at https://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/students/support/. In addition, the call-in number: 855-875-1801.

- Access to a computer or mobile electronic device (tablet or smartphone) with internet access is required to complete your Revel assignments.

**Grading**

**Introductory Video**
Within the first week of class you are to submit a short (2-4 minute) introductory video that will be viewed by just the professor regarding what topics you look forward most to covering, whether you’ve taken an online course in the past, and your strategy for successfully keeping up with the coursework. Submitting this video counts towards 5% of your final grade.

**Quizzes**
Three quizzes will be given for this course. Students are responsible for all material covered in assigned readings and posts on Blackboard and Revel. **The lowest quiz score will be dropped in calculating your final class grade. Any missed quizzes will be used for this drop.**

Each quiz will be made of multiple-choice questions. Quizzes are taken online with the Respondus Lockdown Browser. I will leave the quiz open for a minimum of 48 hours. **You will need a computer with a webcam;** the program uses AI to detect potential cheating behaviors, and I
will review any suspicious activity. To keep everything unambiguous, it is suggested that you do not do anything else while taking an exam. Please see this link for instructions on how to download the Respondus Lockdown Browser before the quizzes, as well as for more help.

**Final Exam**

The cumulative final exam will cover the entirely of the course, and will be given online. The exam will be open for a period of at least 48 hours around the date of 5/10. I will use Respondus for the final exam, as well as for the quizzes. Please see the above directions for how to download Respondus.

**Reaction Papers**

One of the learning outcomes for this course is to apply the concepts of social psychology to your life. Accordingly, one component of your course grade will be based on the completion of reaction papers where you will use your knowledge of dissonance, attitudes, social influence, and scientific methodology to provide recommendations to change attitudes and behaviors that impact a social issue of your choosing.

Both papers should follow APA format, including having a cover sheet and a references page. In APA style, margins are 1” and font is Times New Roman 12-point font. If you have not used APA style before, see https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html. More details will be given later in the semester.

- Reaction Papers #1 (worth 8%) should not be longer than 3 double spaced pages. This paper violates a social norm of your choosing (after checking with me first). You must describe your norm violation, report others’ reactions, and discuss relevant psychological principles.

- Reaction Paper #2 (worth 12%) should not be longer than 4 double spaced pages. This paper involves discuss how psychological principles are evidenced on social media sites.

**Research Participation**

Students are required to earn 3 SONA credits, which are equivalent to 3 hours of research participation. You can participate in any number of research projects, but the SONA credits assigned to this course must total to 3. (The number of credits for a study may range from .5 credit hours upward). For students who choose not to participate in an experiment, attendance at alternative lectures (which can be accessed through SONA) or completing an alternative writing assignment meet this requirement. You must notify me by 4/1 if you opt for the alternative writing assignment.

To sign up for an experiment/lecture, you must log on to: http://gmu.sona-systems.com. Enter all the required information – you will need your GMU e-mail account as a user ID and also your student ID number. You will also need to select this course (PSYC231-DL2) during registration. Failure to assign your SONA credits to the correct course and section by the
deadline will result in a zero for the research participation requirement. Please be aware that each SONA credit can only be assigned to one course.

**Grading Disputes**
All grades will be posted on blackboard, and you will be notified when grades are up. Once grades are posted, you will have a week to contact me if you feel that your grade is incorrect. **For the final exam, this period is shortened to 24 hours.** After that point, there will be no changes to the grades on blackboard.

**Late Work**
All work is expected to be turned in on time. For every day that an assignment is late, 10% will be deducted from the possible grade. For example, if an assignment that would have received a grade of 80 points is turned in one week late it will be worth 65% of the original grade (52 points). After a week, late assignments will not be accepted. Non-penalty extensions will be considered in the case of a family or medical emergency with proper documentation.

**Grading Breakdown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory video</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>20% (10% for each exam-the lowest of the three will be dropped)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative final</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction papers</td>
<td>20% (8% for the first, 12% for the second)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revel assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>SONA studies</td>
<td>5%</td>
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**Letter Grade**
Based on the percentages that you receive on your exams and assignments, your final letter grade will be calculated using the following:

- A+ = 97-100%
- B+ = 87-89%
- C+ = 77-79%
- D = 60-69%
- A = 93-96%
- B = 83-86%
- C = 73-76%
- F = <60%
- A- = 90-92%
- B- = 80-82%
- C- = 70-72%

**Technology**
- Blackboard – Lectures, grades, announcements, supplementary readings and other miscellaneous information will be posted on Blackboard. Please check Blackboard frequently.
- Email - Most communication will be completed by email. I can only respond to gmu.edu email addresses, so please only use your Mason email in correspondence with me.
• Revel Readings and Assignments – Readings, assignments, and short quizzes on your readings will be done via the Revel digital environment. Please see the above section on required materials for details.
• Quizzes and Final Exam – All quizzes and the final exam will be given online using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. You will need a computer with a webcam; the program uses AI to detect potential cheating behaviors, and I will review any suspicious activity. To keep everything unambiguous, it is suggested that you do not do anything else while taking an exam. Please see this link for instructions on how to download the Respondus Lockdown Browser before the quizzes, as well as for more help.

Honor Code
Academic Integrity: It is expected that students adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code as it relates to integrity regarding coursework and grades. The Honor Code reads as follows: “To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal and/or lie in matters related to academic work.”

More information about the Honor Code, including definitions of cheating, lying, and plagiarism, can be found at the Office of Academic Integrity website a
As the instructor for the course, I reserve “the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an Honor Code violation.” Violations of the honor code include (but are not limited to) lying, cheating, plagiarism, as well as turning in or accepting credit for work that is not yours. I take this very seriously. For more information, go here.

Disability Accommodations
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Office (703-993-2474). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Please make these arrangements with sufficient time before the first exam to allow for making the necessary accommodations.

Add/ Drop/ Withdraw Deadlines
Last day to add: Tuesday January 29th

Last day to drop with full refund: Tuesday February 5th

Drop dates (with no refund): Wednesday February 6th-Tuesday February 12th

Student self-withdrawal period: Wednesday February 13th-Friday February 25th

Selective Withdrawal Period: Saturday February 26th-Monday March 25th
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>1/22-1/27</td>
<td>Syllabus/ Course Intro/ Social Psych Intro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>1/28-2/3</td>
<td>Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research</td>
<td>Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>2/4-2/10</td>
<td>Social Cognition: How We Think About the Social World</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>2/11-2/17</td>
<td>Social Perception: How We Come To Understand Other People</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>2/18-2/24</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context</td>
<td>Chapters 1-4</td>
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<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>2/25-3/3</td>
<td>Cognitive Dissonance and the Need to Protect</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>3/4-3/11</td>
<td>Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feeling</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td><strong>3/11-3/17: SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>3/18-3/24</td>
<td>Conformity: Influencing Behavior</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>3/25-3/31</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;Group Processes: Influence in Social Groups</td>
<td>Chapters 5-8</td>
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<td>Social Psychology and the Law</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>SPA 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>4/1-4/7</td>
<td>Interpersonal Attraction</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td><strong>Reaction Paper 1 due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>4/16-4/21</td>
<td>Aggression: Why Do We Hurt Others?&lt;br&gt;Prejudice: Causes, Consequences, &amp; Cures</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>4/22-4/28</td>
<td><strong>Exam 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;Achieving a Sustainable and Happy Future</td>
<td>Chapters 9-13</td>
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<td>SPA1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>4/28-5/5</td>
<td>Social Psychology and Health &lt;br&gt;<strong>Reaction Paper 2 due</strong></td>
<td>SPA2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>5/10</td>
<td><strong>Cumulative Online Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 1-13</td>
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I reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus.