

PSYC 231: Social Psychology – Section 001

Spring 2021

Online

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Office hours: By appointment Skype Meeting or Phone calls (Email Me)

Course Description: We intend to cover foundational concepts of Social Psychology. Students will be asked to critically apply concepts through in and out of class activities.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Critically reflect on social situations
- Identify social psychological mechanism in their everyday lives
- Communicate and explain basic social psychological principles in everyday language, drawing from everyday examples

Mason Core Learning Outcomes

- Explain how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors;
- Demonstrate awareness of changes in social and cultural constructs;
- Use appropriate methods and resources to apply social and behavioral science concepts, terminology, principles and theories in the analysis of significant human issues, past or present

Required Text

Aronson, E. & Aronson J. (2018). *The Social Animal* (12th edition)

ISBN: 9781464144189

Class Structure: The class will consist of four modules. Within each module there will be lectures and accompanying assignments. Each module will be available for a window of time. Students are to complete the module within the designated window.

Classroom Policies:

Attendance/Completion: Due to this class being held online and semi-asynchronously, attendance will not be taken. However, students will be graded for completion/keeping up with the materials (See Grading Policy).

Make up/Late Assignments: If you are unable to complete the assigned assignments or quiz before the assigned date, you must email me at most 3 days before with an explanation of your situation. After assessment of your situation you will be either denied to do the assignments late or allowed to complete the assignments late, but for partial credit.

Technology: This class is online. I expect you to use technology. However, students **are not to use google/internet searching as aid on the quizzes**. I am trusting you all to follow through. If I suspect students of cheating, we will switch to using LockDown Browser for exams.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity refers to honest and ethical behavior in all aspects of academic activity. This includes: not cheating on exams or homework assignments (e.g., copying

the work of others), not passing off someone else's ideas as your own (plagiarism), not engaging in dishonesty of any kind with regard to your class participation and assignments.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the *unacknowledged* use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, or another person's assistance. Unless otherwise stated in class, all work done for courses is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will fail the assignment, and, depending upon the severity of the violation, you may fail the class.

Honor Code: George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for detailed information.

Classroom Needs: If you have any specific needs (e.g., related to vision, hearing, learning, or medical conditions) or any religious or cultural practices, please let me know by the second week of class so that I can make the appropriate arrangements. Disabilities must be documented by the Office of Disability Services (703-993-2474) for reasonable accommodations to be provided.

Official Communications via GMU E-mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. In the event that class is canceled, I will notify you via email; this email will include information about making up the missed class.

Title IX: George Mason University is committed to providing a learning, living and working environment that is free from discrimination and a campus that is free of sexual misconduct and other acts of interpersonal violence in order to promote community well-being and student success. We encourage students who believe that they have been sexually harassed, assaulted or subjected to sexual misconduct to seek assistance and support. University Policy 1202: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct speaks to the specifics of Mason's process, the resources, and the options available to students. Any faculty or staff member at Mason is required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's Title IX Coordinator, but please know that such reports will result only in someone reaching out to you directly to let you know about available services and to determine if you wish to take any action. That said, you can also contact the Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380) to speak to someone confidentially, as individuals who work in those offices are not required to report disclosures. You may also seek assistance directly from Mason's Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu).

Assignments and Grading:

4 Quizzes (20% - 5% each)

At the end of a set of topic modules, there will be a quiz. You are to complete all the topic modules and the quiz for them by the due date for the set. Each quiz will cover all the topics in the module. They will be 20 questions. ~ 3 questions (15%) of the quiz will be exclusively from the textbook readings and will not be in the lectures. If you choose to not read the textbook, you should only confidently expect an 85% (4.25/5) on each quiz and a 17% in your quiz grade at the end of the semester.

4 Video Assignments (40% - 10% each)

For each module you will record a 4 to 5-minute video or voice recording. If you would not like to record yourself, you may schedule to meet with me online. Your job is to describe an event either in your personal life or generally in the world and describe how it relates to the topics covered in the module.

4 Discussion Board Posts (40% - 10% each)

For each module, there will be several options of discussion board content for you to explore and respond to. You will pick one prompt, engage with the assigned content, and write a discussion post responding to the prompt. Your discussion post must be a minimum of 250 words.

Grade Breakdown:

A+	100% - 90%	C+	79% - 77%	D+	69% - 67%	F	< 60%
B+	89% - 87%	C	76% - 70%	D	67% - 60%		
B	86% - 80%						

Enrollment: Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes (available from the Registrar's Website: registrar.gmu.edu.).

Final Drop Deadline (no tuition penalty)	February 12
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only) (100% tuition liability)	March 2 – April 1

After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures

Class Schedule:

Module 1 – Jan 25 - Feb 12

Lectures to Watch

- Syllabus
- Intro to Social Psych
- Social Cognition
- Self-Justification

Assignments Due

- Video 1
- Quiz 1
- Discussion Board

Module 2 – Feb 12 - Mar 12

Lectures to Watch

- Conformity
- Mass Communication & Propaganda
- Persuasion

Assignments Due

- Video 2
- Quiz 2
- Discussion Board 2

Module 3 – Mar 12 - April 9

Lectures to Watch

- Prejudice
- Systematic/Institutional Oppression

Assignments Due

- Video 3
- Quiz 3
- Discussion Board 3

Module 4 – April 9 - April 30

Topics

- Human Aggression
- Liking, Loving, Connecting

Assignments Due

- Video 4
- Quiz 4
- Discussion Board 4

Instructor Note: Topics and due dates listed in this syllabus are tentative and therefore subject to changes made by the instructor. Attending class is the only way to ensure that you stay current with all due dates, topics, and assignments.