**Course Syllabus**

**Social Psychology, Psych 231 section DL3, Spring 2021**

**Professor:**  John H. Riskind (DK Hall 2043, 993-4059, [jriskind@gmu.edu](mailto:jriskind@gmu.edu)  **Office Hours** **Tues** 2:00 – 3:00 pm on Zoom or phone, or by appointment. Please email if you can to alert me that you want to speak to me.

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**Course Objectives:** This course provides an introductory overview of issues, theory, and research in the field of social psychology.

**Required Text:** Aronson, Wilson, Akert, & Sommers (2019). ***Social Psychology*** (10th ed.). Pearson Publishing.

The book is available in multiple formats. You can rent the book, and purchasing an ebook or clothbound book format is also a cost-effective alternative. The brand new hard cover edition (which is far more expensive) is between $400 and $500. If you can afford it, you can get the Revel for Social Psychology format that requires an access card because it is interactive. You can probably find used books online. You may also be able to find used copies of the 9th edition at much cheaper prices. Warning: That will not cover some of the material covered on the exams so you will lose points.

**Technology**

* **Official Communications via GMU E-mail**:
* instructors, 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.
* Grades, as well as some lecture slides and assignments, will be posted on Blackboard.
* **Class Cancellation Policy:** This class will entail frequent use of email, blackboard, PowerPoint, etc. Please check blackboard and your email regularly. If exams or postponed or changed on their dates, I will notify you by email/blackboard.

**Format of Online Class Lectures**

**This online teaching is new to all of us. There are bound to things that don’t go smoothly. Please be patient with all this and be sure to follow the lectures and read the book. Social Psychology is an interesting subject and the book is well written. But there is a lot of information in the book to read and understand.**

If you want to talk to me on Office Hours, make sure you have met the tech requirements .

Look up Zoom help center/zoom support for the tech requirements you need on your computer

* What I’m expecting and you should expect:

* The zoom lectures will be uploaded on Blackboard later so you can see them.
* Note that in some instances, lectures may be done by means of Kaltura Capture videos viewed on Blackboard.
* **You cannot and should not share recordings with someone who is not in the class**

**Last Days to /Add/Drop**

**Last day to add classes**—**Monday February** 1st

**Final Drop Deadline —Tuesday February 12th**

**Accommodations:** Disability Statement: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Services (DRS) at 703-993-2474.

**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. It is every student’s responsibility to familiarize himself or herself with the Honor Code. The Honor Code is available at: http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/ All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.
* I will be looking at patterns of right and wrong answers to identify individuals who are cheating**.**

**Grading**

Although a B- is a satisfactory grade for a course, students must maintain a 3.00 average in their degree program and present a 3.00 GPA on the courses listed on the graduation application.

**Assignments:** The **final course grade** in this class is based on the following:

* Regular Exams. 60% of your final course grade will depend on the average of your grades on each of three regular exams (primarily consisting of 50 to 60 multiple-choice or True False questions on each). There may be some short essay questions.
* Final Cumulative Exam. 40% of your course grade will depend on your grade on a final cumulative exam (consisting of at least 100 questions).

Extra *credit for experimental participation.* You can earn up to 7 extra bonus points toward your final exam grade (1 point for each hour experimental credit) by participating in psychology experiments through the SONA website (<http://gmu.sona-systems.com>). The bonus points for SONA will be added to the points on your final exam. Many students benefit from these extra points by getting a latter grade above what they would have earned without them. Being in experiments also gives you insight into psychological research.

**Make-up Exams:** There are no make-up exams without supporting documentation of a medical emergency or other activity excused by university policy. Students who must miss exams as a consequence of their religious observance or for participation in a university activity will be provided a reasonable alternative opportunity, consistent with class attendance policies stated in the syllabus, to make up the missed work.

It is the obligation of students to provide me, within the first two weeks of the semester, with the dates of major religious holidays on which they will be absent, and the dates for which they are requesting an excused absence for participation in any university-sponsored activity scheduled prior to the start of the semester, and as soon as possible otherwise. Students requesting an excused absence for participation in a university- sponsored activity must provide me a letter from a university official stating the dates and times that participation in the activity would result in the student missing class.

Class Cancellations: The university announces classes that are cancelled due to inclement weather or other uncontrollable conditions. You will receive **notification of any other cancelled classes** if any occur by emails that I send to the class. Any make-up classes that need to be scheduled for such reasons will be announced by email.

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING EMAILS AND ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ANY CHANGES IN EXAM DATES OR ASSIGNMENTS**

## SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC 231) TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Dates and scheduled topics are tentative and somewhat flexible. Some topics are covered over more than one date.

Date Topic Assigned Chapters

Tues., Jan. 26th Introducing Social Psychology 1

Thurs Jan. 28th How Social Psychologists Do Research-I 2

Tues Feb 2 Social Cognition: How We Think about the Social World-I 3

Thurs Feb 4 Social Cognition: How We Think about the Social World-I 3

Tues Feb 9 Social Cognition: How We Think about the Social World-I 3

Thurs Feb 11 Social Cognition: How We Think about the Social World-II 3 and

carefully read this:

https://www.apa.org/monitor/2021/03/controlling-misinformation?s=04&fbclid=IwAR190oTRu8q\_dyzcdLJo7-xru5Lo2G4O5oXy2NwtK7zArfqgk07\_\_F2rz98

Tue Feb 16 **Exam #1 on Chapters 1, 2, 3**

Thurs Feb 18 Social Perception: How We Understand Other People-I 4

Tues Feb 23 Social Perception: How We Understand Other People-II 4

Thurs., Feb 25 The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context-I 5

Tue., March 2 The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context-II

Thurs. March 4 The Need to Justify Our Actions- I 6

Tues March 9 The Need to Justify Our Actions- II 6

Thurs, March 11

Tues March 16  **Exam #2 on Chapters 4, 5, 6**

Thurs, March 18 Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings Tues March 23

Thurs, March 25 Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings 7

Tues, March 30 Conformity: Influencing Behavior-II

Thurs, April 1 Group Processes-I (**no class b/c of election** **but I’ll post lecture** 9

Tues., April 6 Group Processes-II 9

Thurs, April 8 Exam #3 on **Chapters 7, 8, 9**

Tues, April 13 Interpersonal Attraction-I & 2 10

Thurs, April 15 Prosocial Behavior: Why Do People Help?- I 11

Tues, April 20 Prosocial Behavior: Why Do People Help?-II 12

Thurs, April 22 Aggression: Why Do We Hurt Other People? -I

Tues April 27 Aggression: Why Do We Hurt Other People?-II 12

Thurs, April 29h  Prejudice: Causes and Cures 13

**This is last day of classes**

**Cumulative Final Exam. Tuesday, May 6th. ( 40% of questions on chapters 1-9 and any additional readings; 60% on chapters 10 – 13)**