**SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**PSYCHOLOGY 231-DL1**

FALL 2021

**Class Schedule**: Tuesdays 1:30-4:10pm (zoom link will be emailed to registered students prior to class)

**Professor:** June Tangney, Ph.D.

jtangney@gmu.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 12-1pm and 4:30-5:30, and by appointment (please email some times that will work for you)

Course Description: This is a course about *the science of social psychology*, designed for both majors and non-majors. The goals of this course are: (1) to provide students with an introduction to Social Psychology as it exists today in science and practice, (2) to develop skills in thinking critically and integratively about theories, evidence, and experience, and (3) to think creatively about the implications of social psychological theory and findings for (a) understanding yourself, (b) building a better world, and (c) possible nefarious misuse.

Course Structure and Requirements: This course is composed of readings, lectures, in-class demonstrations and discussion, 12 quizzes, and an optional Final Exam. The course outline includes the schedule of topics and readings. Please read the assigned readings before class so that we can make the most of class time by addressing your questions and sharing observations.

Class Attendance, Class Worksheets, and Class Demonstrations: Class attendance is reflected in your grade. Class worksheets and class demonstrations will not be posted on Blackboard. You may obtain them only by attending class and participating in the associated discussion. If you must miss one class, no worries. If you repeatedly miss classes, there will be inevitable holes in your experience, which will be reflected in your final grade.

**Two Ways to Get a Final Grade: Weekly Quizzes and the Final Exam**:

* **Weekly Quizzes:** Twelve classes will conclude with a quiz to determine mastery of the assigned reading. You must attend (all of) class to take the quiz. You have 2 degrees of freedom. You can skip two quizzes, or if you take all 12 quizzes, I will drop the 2 lowest scores.
* **Optional Final Exam:** If you cannot take 10 of the 12 quizzes, or if you are not happy with your final quiz-based grade, you may take an optional Final Exam. The Final Exam will be cumulative and will include material from the text as well as material from class. If you choose to take the optional Final Exam, I will calculate your Final Grade two ways -- based on quizzes and also based on the Final Exam. I will assign as your Final Grade the higher of the two.

Grading will be determined as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A+ 98-100 | A 93-97 | A- 90-92 | B+ 87-89 |
| B 83-86 | B- 80-82 | C+ 77-79 | C 73-76 |
| C- 70-72 | D 60-69 | F <60  |  |

**Four Ways to Improve Your Grade:**

* **Read the Text Ahead of Time:** These are hefty chapters. I can’t read them in one sitting. Give yourself time. Take notes. Bring questions and observations to class.
* **Come see me:** I don’t bite. I’m here to help. In addition to regular office hours, I’m flexible and can meet many other times to work with your busy schedules.
* **Extra Credit for Corrective Essays**: You may “upgrade” each of your quiz scores (with the exception of the last quiz) by submitting a “corrective essay” for one missed question you wish to “correct.” Corrective essays are worth up to 1 point and are due prior to the beginning of the class following the quiz. Corrective essays are submitted in Blackboard under Assignments. More detailed instructions and a sample corrective essay are provided on Blackboard. Please carefully follow these instructions.
* **Extra Credit for Hands-on Research Experience:** Extra credit can be earned by participating in experiments sponsored by the Psychology Department. You can receive up to 3 additional percent (3 hours max) added to your final grade. Participation is not a course requirement so non-participation will not reduce your final grade. To sign up for experiments access http://gmu.sona-systems.com/. If you did not create an account this summer, click on "Create a New Account". Enter your GMU email handle & the requested information to sign up. Choose Psych 231: Section DL1 for your course. Once you create the account you will be emailed a temporary password with which to login. Any problems, questions or concerns should be directed to psychlab@gmu.edu.

If you are a research assistant working with a psychology professor, post-doc, or graduate student, you are learning about psychological science directly and are probably not the ideal research participant. If you wish to receive these 3 extra credits, instead of participating through SONA, please have your advisor email me a confirmation that you are currently an RA along with a brief description of the nature of your involvement.

DROPPING/ADDING THE COURSE:The last day to add the course is August 30. The last day to drop the course with no tuition penalty is September 7. The final day to drop the course is September 27.

CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY: In the unlikely event that I need to cancel class for non-weather related reasons (e.g., illness), I will alert you by email, including information on how we will make up for missed time.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND THE 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 become familiar with the Honor Code, which 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. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all discussion will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions.

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.

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY**:** If you need academic accommodations, please let me know at your earliest convenience and also contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All accommodations must be arranged through that office.

OTHER USEFUL CAMPUS RESOURCES:

* **Writing Center:** A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; http://writingcenter.gmu.edu
* **University Libraries:** “Ask a Librarian” http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html
* **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** (703) 993-2380; http://caps.gmu.edu
* **University Policies:** The University Catalog, http://catalog.gmu.edu, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university affairs.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S. & Nisbett, R. E. (2019). *Social psychology* (5nd Edition). New York: W.W. Norton.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS**

Please read assigned material **BEFORE** class

**8/24 Introduction: Goals and Structure -- Requirements and Many Paths to Mastery -- What is Social Psychology?**

**Key Themes -- Social Psychology as a Science – The Replication Crisis**

(Review Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 1&2)

**8/31 The Social Self** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 3

**9/7 Social Cognition: Thinking About People and Situations** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 4

**9/14 Social Attribution: (Trying to) Explain Behavior** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 5

**9/21 Emotion** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 6

**9/28 Attitudes, Behavior, and Rationalization** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 7

**10/5 Persuasion** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 8

**10/12 No Class. (Tuesday is a Monday)**

**10/19 Social Influence** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 9

**10/26 “Free” Week – No readings, no quiz.**

 **Drawing on social psychology to enhance treatment of people incarcerated**

**11/2 Relationships and Attraction** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 10

**11/9 Stereotyping, Prejudice and Discrimination** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 11

**11/16 Groups** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 12

**11/23 Aggression** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 13

**11/30 Altruism and Cooperation -- Keys to a good life** Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 14 (no essays)

**12/14 1:30-4:15 pm Optional Final Exam**

**Enjoy Winter Break!**