PSYC 231: Social Psychology – Section 001

Fall 2021

Monday & Wednesday 12pm to 1:15pm

Buchanan Hall – D005

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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 mechanisms 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:

Classroom Policies:

***Attendance:*** Coming to class is important. Material will be presented in class that is not covered in the book and you will be held responsible for that information. If an absence is excused will be determined on a case-to-case basis. Please email me with your last name and ABSENT in the subject bar of the email (Example: Young ABSENT) if you are going to be absent.

***Make up/Late Assignments:*** If you are absent from a lecture day, you will not be able to make-up any participation/attendance points from that day unless excused. If excused, you will not be penalized for that day. If you are absent from an activity day, you will not be able to make-up the assignment points from that day unless excused. If excused, you will have one week to do a supplemental assignment based on the content area of the missed class.

***Technology:*** I encourage the use of technology for note taking and resource collection. Regarding electronic devices (such as laptops, cell phones, etc.), please be respectful of your peers and your instructor, and attempt to minimally engage in activities that are unrelated to class. All classes will require the use of a laptop or smartphone, so even if you plan on note taking by hand, please bring one electronic device to class.

***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 Disability Resources Center (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:

 *Attendance* (25% - 1% each)

Using Blackboard, attendance will be taken at the beginning of all regular class days (Not on Exam days). I will release the check-in code to be inputted on blackboard and students will have 7 minutes to input the code from the time it is announced, or they will be marked absent. Students who are late will need to email or check-in with me after class to be given attendance credit. Each day attended is 1% of your overall grade.

 *Activity Day Participation (50% - 5% each)*

Using various methods depending on the nature of the activity, participation in Activity Day activities will be assessed. Each activity day is 5% of your overall grade.

 *3 Quizzes (15% - 5 % each)*

Three quizzes will be taken in-class administered through blackboard. The quizzes will cover two to three chapters and will be between 15 and 20 multiple choice questions. Each quiz is 5% of your overall grade.

 *Final Exam (10%)*

You will have a 5-minute oral exam as your final. You will meet with me or submit a video and discuss a real-life event (personal, in the media, etc…). Your job is to describe the event and the social psychological underpinnings to the event. You may schedule your final at any time during the semester for my office hours. Doing your final the week after a topic you’re interested in is highly encouraged. There will be slots for all students to do their finals during finals week, but many will have to be done outside of the allocated finals time.

Class Schedule:

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Lab topics/Activities** |
| 1 | 8/23 | **Syllabus Day /** Intro to Social Psych  |
|  | 8/25 | Social Cognition |
| 2 | 8/30 | Social Cognition Activity |
|  | 9/1 | Self-Justification |
| 3 | 9/6 | **Labor Day – No Class** |
|  | 9/8 | Self-Justification Activity |
| 4 | 9/13 | **Quiz 1** |
|  | 9/15 | Quiz 1 Return – Review – Content Check  |
| 5 | 9/20 |  Conformity  |
|  | 9/22 | Conformity Activity |
| 6 | 9/27 | Mass Communication, Propaganda, & Persuasion |
|  | 9/29 | Mass Communication, Propaganda, & Persuasion Activity  |
| 7 | 10/4 | **Quiz 2**  |
|  | 10/6 | Quiz 2 Return – Review – Content Check  |
| 8 | 10/11 | **Fall Break – NO CLASS** |
|  | 10/12 | **Fall Break Make-Up Day – NO CLASS** |
|  | 10/13 | Human Aggression |
| 9 | 10/18 | Human Aggression Activity |
|  | 10/20 | Prejudice |
| 10 | 10/25 | Systematic/Institutional Oppression |
|  | 10/27 | Systematic/Institutional Oppression Activity |
| 11 | 11/1 |  **Quiz 3** |
|  | 11/3 | Quiz 3 Return – Review – Content Check  |
| 12 | 11/8 | Liking, Loving, and Connecting |
|  | 11/10 | Liking, Loving, and Connecting Activity |
| 13 | 11/15 | Special Topic 1 – Classes Choice |
|  | 11/17 | Special Topic Activity |
| 14 | 11/22 | Special Topic 2 – Classes Choice |
|  | 11/24 | **Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASS** |
| 15 | 11/29 | Special Topic Activity |
|  | 12/1 | Grad School and Future Plans |
| Final | 12/10 | **Final Due: 12/10** |

Instructor Notes: 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.

**Grade Breakdown:**

A+  100% - 90%  B+  89% - 87% C+ 79% - 77% D+ 69% - 67%

 B  86% - 80%  C 76% - 70% D 67% - 60%

F < 60%

**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.).

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| Final Drop Deadline **(no tuition penalty)** | September 7th |
| **Selective Withdrawal Period** (undergraduate students only) **(100% tuition liability)** | September 28th – October 27th |

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