**PSYC 231: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY—Section 001**

Spring 2022

Mondays & Wednesdays 10:30am - 11:45am

Planetary Hall 206

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Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00pm - 1:00pm; and by appointment

Office: David King Hall 1021

**Course Overview and Objectives**

My goal is that each of you will develop: (1) an understanding of the major theories driving social psychological research, (2) an understanding of the methodological strategies common to social psychology, (3) the ability to apply social psychological theories to answer questions on events going on around the world and in your own lives, and (4) enhanced critical thinking skills and oral communication skills.

**Textbook and Readings**

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2019). Social psychology, Fifth Edition, Norton

**Withdrawal and Refund Dates**

The final day to add or drop classes with no tuition liability is Monday February 7th. Final drop deadline is Monday February 14th.

**Inclusion**

I would like to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.) It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know if there is a way to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

You are to be respectful of others regardless of gender, age, race, culture, religion, ability, class, or sexual orientation. In all class communications, students are expected to engage in respectful dialogue. Individuals who violate this policy or engage in disruptive behaviors such as disrespectful or hostile comments may receive an F for the class.

Mental health concerns or stressful events (ex: a global pandemic) may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in class activities. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

A variety of student services are available at GMU:

* + Distance Education Services, University Libraries (<http://library.gmu.edu/distance>)
	+ Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>)
	+ Counseling and Psychological Services (<http://caps.gmu.edu/>)

**The Honor Code**

Students in this course are expected to always behave in a manner consistent with the GMU Honor System and Code. (<http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>). Students are encouraged to study together as much as possible throughout the course, however, no assistance, sharing of information, or discussion of test items or answers between students may take place. For all work, the name that appears on the paper must be the author. Violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated in this course and will be immediately reported according to GMU procedures. The instructor reserves the right to use software to determine the extent to which the work is the student’s. The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

Students may not reproduce (including uploading to the Internet) any portion of any test. Students who attempt to photograph or in any way capture information about tests for others’ use will be reported for an honor violation, even if the violation happens after the end of the term.

**Title IX**

As a faculty member, I am designated a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-993-3686). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703- 993-8730.

**Accommodations**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please email me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 709-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

**Class Cancellation Policy**

If I need to cancel class due to an illness or personal emergency, I will send an email to the class as soon as possible. If the university shuts down for any reason, I will send an email to the class confirming whether or not class will be held. If class is cancelled, any revisions to the syllabus or changes to class assignments will be announced in class and over email.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

**Class Attendance and Class Discussions (25%)**

Class attendance is reflected in your grade. You are expected to attend class and actively participate in class discussions. If you miss up to two classes, no worries. If you repeatedly miss classes, there will be inevitable holes in your experience, which will be reflected in your final grade. To aid you and your neighbors with focusing on the material at hand, in lecture you will only be allowed to use note-taking applications. 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, sharing observations, and engaging in thoughtful discussions.

**Quizzes (50%)**

Six classes (indicated by “\*” in the course schedule) will conclude with a short quiz to determine mastery of the topics discussed in lecture and in the assigned reading. Quizzes will include mostly short-answer questions and occasionally multiple-choice questions. You must attend (all of) class to take the quiz. You can skip one quiz (no questions asked), or if you take all 6 quizzes, I will drop the lowest score.

**Final Project (25%)**

You will present a 3-5-minute talk that discusses a real-life event (personal, in the media, etc.) and the social psychological underpinnings to the event. Your job is to describe an event either in your personal life or generally in the world and describe how it relates to a topic covered in class. If you strongly prefer to not present in person, please come see me. No late submissions will be accepted.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A 93-100 | 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 |  |  |

**Ways to Improve Your Grade:**

* **Read the Text Ahead of Time:** Give yourself time to read all of the assigned readings. Take notes. Bring questions and observations to class.
* **Come see me:** I’m here to help. In addition to regular office hours, I can schedule other times to meet.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS**

Please read assigned material **BEFORE** class

**\*Indicates quiz**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading** |
| **1/24** | **Introduction to Course: Goals, Structure, and Requirements** |  |
| **1/26** | **What is Social Psychology? Its Societal Value – The Replication Crisis** |  |
| **1/31** | **The Social Self** |  |
| **2/2** | **The Social Self Continued\*** | Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 3 |
| **2/7** | **Social Cognition: Thinking About People and Situations** | Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 4 |
| **2/9** | **Social Attribution: (Trying to) Explain Behavior** |  |
| **2/14** | **Emotion** | Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 6 |
| **2/16** | **Attitudes, Behavior, and Rationalization** |  |
| **2/21** | **Attitudes, Behavior, and Rationalization Continued\*** | Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 7 |
| **2/23** | **Persuasion** |  |
| **2/28** | **Social Influence** |  |
| **3/2** | **Social Influence Continued\*** | Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 9 |
| **3/7** | **Relationships and Attraction** |  |
| **3/9** | **Relationships and Attraction Continued** | Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 10 |
| **3/14 – 3/16** | **No Class. Happy Spring Break!** |  |
| **3/21**  | **Special Topic: Social Psychology and the Law**  |  |
| **3/23** | **Stereotyping, Prejudice and Discrimination** |  |
| **3/28** | **Stereotyping, Prejudice and Discrimination Continued** |  |
| **3/30** | **Stereotyping, Prejudice and Discrimination Continued\*** | Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 11 |
| **4/4** | **Groups** |  |
| **4/6** | **Groups Continued\*** | Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 12 |
| **4/11** | **Aggression** |  |
| **4/13** | **Aggression Continued** | Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 13 |
| **4/18** | **Altruism and Cooperation – Keys to a good life** |  |
| **4/20** | **Altruism and Cooperation Continued\*** | Reading: Gilovich, et al. – Chapter 14 |
| **4/25** | **No Class! AERA Annual Conference!** |  |
| **4/27** | **Final Project Presentations** |  |
| **5/2** | **Final Project Presentations** |  |
| **5/4** | **Final Project Presentations** |  |
|  | **Happy Summer!** |  |

\*The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus and its content. Any changes will be announced in writing.