**Spring 2023―Psychology 231 (DL2): Social Psychology**

# Instructor: Todd B. Kashdan, Ph.D. Day: T R

**Office: David King Hall 2048 Time: 1030am – 1145am**

**Phone: 703-672-1331 Place: Lecture Hall 2**

**Office Hours: 930am on Tuesday**

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**Course Description**

In 328 B.C., Aristotle wrote that “man [*sic*] is by nature a social animal.” Since then, countless philosophers, poets, and stand-up comedians have mused about the intricacies of human social behavior. This course will give you a sampling of the core theories and topics of modern social psychology, including research on conformity and obedience, altruism and aggression, attitude formation and change, and interpersonal and intergroup perception. The goal of the course is to give you a broader understanding of how deeply our behavior is influenced by our social surroundings and how a scientific approach to explain human social behavior can provide insight into the causes of (and perhaps even some cures for) a variety of current social problems.

**Course Materials**

Textbook: Myers & Twenge, *Social Psychology* 14th Edition with CONNECT Access Card.

McGraw Hill CONNECT website:

[**https://connect.mheducation.com/class/t-kashdan-olc-aligned-course-configuration-2022**](https://connect.mheducation.com/class/t-kashdan-olc-aligned-course-configuration-2022)

See last page of syllabus for information on CONNECT registration and technical assistance. The e-book version of the textbook is available on the CONNECT website along with the mandatory SmartBook adaptive reading assignments. Tech support is available 24/7, so please use this resource before contacting me for assistance with the website. You have to register for the first time and there is a free period as you decide whether to remain registered in this class.

**Classes**

Attendance and participation are required. You may miss up to two classes for any reason (e.g., sick, scheduling conflicts) without it affecting your grade. Classes will include a variety of activities that will serve to enhance your experience in the course. These include activities from the CONNECT website, journal readings, review of lectures and textbook materials, and pre-exam reviews.

**Assignments**

**SmartBook.** For each chapter in the textbook, there is a corresponding SmartBook adaptive reading assignment. These assignments are mandatory. SmartBook enables you to read the textbook online and answer questions about the material. You may either read the chapter in its entirety and then complete the questions or answer the questions as you read. If you get questions wrong, SmartBook will direct you to the relevant portion of the text for further review. Note that, while completion of the SmartBook assignments constitutes 20% of your grade, your performance on the questions will not be graded—SmartBook is meant to be a learning aid and not an assessment instrument.

**Critique paper.** You will write a 2-page, double-spaced critique of an original research paper in social psychology; you will be given a choice of articles to critique. More information about the critique paper will be forthcoming in recitations.

**Exams**

There will be 2 exams—an **in-class midterm on 4/1** and **final on 5/11 (12:30-1:45pm)** each covering a different portion of the course materials. The final is non-cumulative and can therefore be considered a second midterm. Tests will consist of multiple-choice questions. All material covered in the lecture, textbook, and recitation is fair game on the exams. For the exams, you will be given a 24-hour window to complete the test. If you are in a different time zone, don’t worry. You can take the test at a time that is convenient for you (within this 24-hour window). Except in very extreme, documented circumstances, make-up exams will not be given (see below for make-up policy).

**Extra credit**

Many students are interested in improving their grades. There is an extra credit written assignment. The extra credit assignment will be worth **.5% of your course grade** (e.g., if you have 92%, if will bump you to 92.5%, so from an A- to an A). It is due by **May 4**, **no exceptions**. The assignment is to try to go 48 hours without accessing social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc) and then write a one-page journal about your experience. Yes, you can check your email. Yes, you can use your phone for calls. If there’s any emergency and you need to text someone, you can do it. You can also warn your friends of your impending absence (“Hey, I won’t be allowed to text you tomorrow, so if you text me I will call you back”). The idea is to remove your social interactions that take place over social media, for two days. Try it, and then write one page about the experience. What was the hardest part? Did you enjoy it or hate it? When everyone was sitting on their phones at dinner and you were not, did it feel weird? Detail your day, from start to finish, including failures along the way. You will upload the journal on Classes.

**Grading Accuracy**

It is each student’s responsibility to monitor their grades online and report any discrepancies *within one week* of the contested assignment’s grade release. You will be able to review your exams during recitations. Please do not request any grade changes that are not based on clear factual errors. In the past, students have requested changes because they want to get into medical school, because they want to keep a scholarship, because their parents paid a lot of money in tuition, and many other reasons that have nothing to do with this course. It would be **unfair and** **unethical** to change your grade or offer you additional assignments that are not offered to all the other students.

**Make-up Exams**

Make-up exams can only be arranged in advanceand only if **proper documentation** of an acceptable reason for the absence is provided, like an official doctor’s note (e.g., a note that you’ve visited the Student Health Center is not sufficient unless the doctor can verify that you were too ill to take the exam). Please notify me that you need to arrange a make-up exam as soon as you know you have a conflict. All requests must be received prior to the start of the exam.

**Academic Honesty**

All work must be your own. No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. All suspicions of academic dishonesty during exams or weekly recitation assignments will be reported to and adjudicated by the Office of Academic Integrity. If a case of academic dishonesty is confirmed, it will result in a penalty that is *at least as* severe as receiving a 0 on the assignment or exam. Academic dishonesty includes all forms of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): copying or paraphrasing from someone else’s work (another student, an online source, or a journal article), turning in someone else’s work as your own, or presenting someone else’s ideas (a student, online source, scholar, or use of Artificial Intelligence) as your own.

**Email Policy**

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. If you are going to miss class, notify me ahead of time and provide behavioral evidence on why class was missed. Please do not email me or the class email listserv if you missed class and want to know what you missed – your task is to find someone to contact in class and ask them. You are responsible for content that you missed. Simply get the lecture materials from other students. Include “SOCIAL PSYCH” in the subject line of your email.

**Late Policy (for web assignments and critique paper)**

All assignments must be submitted on time unless there are extenuating circumstances. For your web assignments, unless otherwise specified, this means every Tuesday before the start of the next unit (e.g., assignment for Ch. 1 is due right before the first lecture for Ch. 2).

**Students with Special Concerns:** If you are a student with a disability and need academic accommodations please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office**.**

**Last Day to Add: January 30**

**Last Day to Drop: February 6**

**Grading**

Grades will be based on the points you earn. A curve will not be used in this course, and therefore the points that other students earn will not affect your grade.

* Midterm: 25%
* Final: 25%
* SmartBook assignments: 30%
* Research critique 10%
* Recitation attendance/participation: 10%
* Extra credit “48 hours no socials” 0.5%

The grading scale is as follows (I reserve the right to make it less stringent if necessary):

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+ = 67-69

D = 60-66

F = less than 60

**Course Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Lecture Date** | **Topic** | **Reading Due** |
| Part 1: Groundwork | | |
| 1/24 | What is social psychology? |  |
| 1/26 | How do we “do” social psychology? | Text Ch. 1 |
| Part 2: Basic Ingredients | | |
| 1/31 | The self in a social world | Text Ch. 2 |
| 2/2 | The self in a social world (cont’d) |  |
| 2/7 | Social beliefs and judgments | Text Ch. 3 |
| 2/9 | Social beliefs and judgments (cont’d) |  |
| 2/14 | Behaviors and Attitudes | Text Ch. 4 |
| 2/16 | Behavior and Attitudes (cont’d) |  |
| Part 3: Webs of Influence | | |
| 2/21 | Genes, culture, and gender | Text Ch. 5 |
| 2/23 | Genes, culture, and gender (cont’d) |  |
| 2/28 | Conformity and obedience | Text Ch. 6 |
| 3/2 | Conformity and obedience (cont’d) |  |
| 3/7 | Persuasion | Text Ch. 7 |
| 3/9 | Persuasion (cont’d) |  |
| **3/14** | **SPRING BREAK 3/13 – 3/19** |  |
| 3/21 | Group influence | Text Ch. 8 |
| 3/23 | Group influence (cont’d) |  |
| 3/28 | \*\* MIDTERM (in class) \*\* |  |
|  | Part 4: Coming Together and Apart |  |
| 3/30 | Prejudice | Text Ch. 9 |
| 4/4 | Prejudice (cont’d) |  |
| 4/6 | Aggression | Text Ch. 10 |
| 4/11 | Aggression (cont’d) |  |
| 4/13 | Attraction and intimacy | Text Ch. 11 |
| 4/18 | Attraction and intimacy (cont’d) |  |
| 4/20 | Helping | Text Ch. 12 |
| 4/25 | Helping (cont’d) | Paper due (Classes) |
| 4/27 | Social Psychology in the Clinic | Text Ch. 14 |
| 5/2 | Social Psychology in the Clinic (cont’d) |  |
| 5/4 | **PSYCHOLOGY X** | **Extra Credit due** |
| 5/10 | **FINAL EXAM** |  |

**Student Instructions:**

**How to register and sign into Professor Kashdan’s**

**Spring 2023 Social Psychology course using CONNECT**

Options for purchase:

1. Buy the access code from the GMU bookstore. In the bookstore or online at the bookstore website (sometimes they’ll send codes via e-mail).
2. You can purchase when logging into the connect section the first time.

\*Be careful about purchasing the book somewhere else. You cannot get tech support if you purchase from a third-party website (amazon/chegg/etc…)

If you do the “temporary 2-week courtesy access” at the end of the two weeks you’ll receive a notification saying time to purchase a code. You can then go to the bookstore or directly purchase from the website prompts.

1. **Go to the course CONNECT website:**

[**https://connect.mheducation.com/class/t-kashdan-olc-aligned-course-configuration-2022**](https://connect.mheducation.com/class/t-kashdan-olc-aligned-course-configuration-2022)

1. **Enter your GMU e-mail address, then click “Begin.”**
2. **If you have a CONNECT account, enter your password; if not, create an account.**
3. **Enter access code for CONNECT that comes with the book purchased in the**

**campus store or buy directly online for all-digital option.**

1. **Once registration is completed and you have successfully joined the class, you can access CONNECT through GMU blackboard – where you will find assignments in folders.**

* **NOTE: The adaptive reading assignments will be worth 30% of your course grade**

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* **NEED ONLINE HELP? Visit the 24-hour online support: www.**[**mhhe.com/support**](http://www.mcgrawhillconnect.com/support)
* **PHONE HELP @ 800-331-5094** 
  + **Monday – Thursday, 24 hours**
  + **Friday, 12am – 9pm**
  + **Saturday, 10am – 8pm**
  + **Sunday, 12 noon – 12 midnight**

**When you speak to a TECH SUPPORT agent, they will give you a case number; keep that handy as that is your receipt in our system that we have assisted you.**