

Social Psychology

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| PSY 350 101 | TR 11AM - 12:15PM |
| Instructor: Dr. Samantha Sabin Watts | SPRING 2024 |
| Office: Tarpley 307 | Classroom: Lawson 104 |

Purpose of the Course

This course examines major theories and research traditions in social psychology. Topics include attitude formation and change, conformity, aggression, interpersonal attraction and group dynamics.

Prerequisites

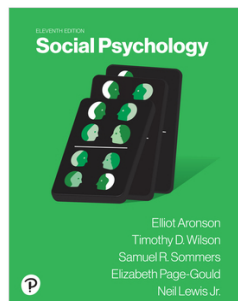
PSY 101 with a grade of C or better or permission of Instructor

Credit Hours

(3 hours) Over 15 weeks, students will spend 150 minutes per week in lectures and class discussions (37.5 hours for the semester). Out-of-class work includes homework and preparation for quizzes and is estimated at around 300 minutes per week (75 hours for the semester).

Required Text

Social Psychology, 11th edition
ISBN-13: 9780137633647



Course Objectives

To demonstrate how psychologists think about social interactions and social influence.

What questions do social psychologists ask?

How do they go about trying to answer these questions?

What have they learned?

The goal is to teach you how to think like a social psychologist. By the end of the course you should be able to apply such approaches to novel situations relevant to your own experiences.

Course Evaluation

Social Issues Term Paper

Your Social Issues term paper will comprise 40% of your overall grade for this course. This is an opportunity for you to explore a social issue that you are personally interested in. You will begin by choosing an issue of the [Journal of Social Issues](#). Each journal issue contains 8-10 articles covering a current social issue. Recent issues have examined social psychological

approaches to studying hate crimes, the role of race in police shootings, euthanasia, affirmative action, youth violence, and inequalities in higher education. Each issue begins with an article prepared by the editors of that particular issue. This introductory article provides background on the social issue and on key social psychological perspectives that are relevant to the problem. Then the introductory article provides a brief summary of the contents of each article in the issue.

Your first assignment is to choose an issue that you would like to examine for your paper (due 1/23/2024). Next, you will choose 5 articles from the issue to read and summarize, using the social issues paper part 1 template provided in Canvas (due 2/20/2024). You will then use your article summaries to write a literature review, using the social issues paper part 2 template in Canvas (due 3/21/2024). You will then use the feedback that you receive from your peers and from my critiques to comprise a final draft of your term paper (due 4/18/2024). Lastly, you will present your topic and your findings in an in-class presentation on 4/23/2024.

Detailed instructions for each portion of the term paper will be included in the Canvas assignments.

In-Class Participation

In general, I feel course grades should reflect student's mastery of material and not the ability to simply be present. Having said this, attendance (and more importantly active participation) is critical to success in my classes. You are expected to attend class, be present for the full class period, and have read the assigned material **before** you come to class. Therefore, 10% of your final grade will be based on your commitment to attending class and being engaged. Being engaged means that you are actively listening, engaging in discussions, and **not distracted by technology** during class time. I request that you refrain from using your phone or computer (except to take notes) during class.

The remaining 10% of your in-class participation grade will come from peer reviews of your classmates' term paper drafts. We will have two peer-review days where you will read and provide feedback for your classmates. You will upload your reviews to Canvas.

Chapter Quizzes

There will be a quiz for each chapter that we cover. The due dates are listed on the schedule below. Each quiz will consist of 10-12 multiple choice questions. The quizzes will be available in Canvas.

Late Assignment Policy

Chapter Quizzes will open approximately one week before they are due and close at 11:59pm on the date that they are due. Once a quiz is closed, it will not be reopened. No late quizzes will be accepted. Failure to complete a quiz before the due date will result in a 0% grade.

The due dates for the individual components of your Social Issues Term Paper are listed in the course schedule. There will be Canvas assignment drop boxes for each component. The drop boxes will close at 11am (the beginning of class) on the due date listed. Failure to turn the assignment in on time will result in a 10% reduction of your grade on the assignment. An additional 10% will be deducted for each week an assignment is late until it is turned in. If you

do not turn in your drafts in time for the peer review days, you will not be able to receive the valuable feedback that you need for your final draft.

Disability Services

Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which accommodations are sought.

Course Evaluation:

Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Reinhardt University. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

Policy on Disruptive Behavior

Students who exhibit behaviors that disrupt this class or its learning activities will be considered under the Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior. Inappropriate classroom behavior includes, but is not limited to: sleeping, coming in late, talking/conversing during lecture/presentation, leaving early, interrupting others, talking out of turn or monopolizing class time with excessive comments, inappropriate behavior during group work, behaving disrespectfully to other students or to the instructor, or any other behavior that may be disruptive or disrespectful. All cell phones and electronic devices must be turned to silent during this class. Students who do not abide by these rules will be given a verbal warning. The second warning will be in writing and the student will meet with a designated faculty member and/or the Chair of the Department of Psychology.

Definition of Plagiarism

If a student uses or relies on others' work in preparing any academic materials (e.g. written assignments, posters, presentations) the student must cite the source correctly according to the directions provided by the instructor. Failure to do so is plagiarism. Copying and pasting even part of a sentence or phrase is plagiarism, even when the source is cited correctly. Paraphrasing a source in a way that copies the phrase or sentence structure of a source is also plagiarism. To avoid plagiarism, students are expected to properly paraphrase others' ideas. Quotes in scientific writing should only be used when the wording of the original source is critical to the student's argument. Whether quoting is appropriate in a given instance is at the discretion of the instructor, not the student.

Grading Scale

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| 90 - 100% | A |
| 80 - 89% | B |
| 70 - 79% | C |
| 60 - 69% | D |

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| 0 - 59% | F |
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| Chapter Quizzes | 40% | |
| In-class Participation | 20% | |
| | Peer Reviews | 10% |
| | Attendance/Engagement | 10% |
| Social Issues Term Paper | 40% | |
| | Topic Approval | 5% |
| | Part 1 draft | 5% |
| | Part 2 draft | 5% |
| | Final Draft | 15% |
| | Presentation | 10% |

Course Schedule (subject to change)

| Week | Date | Topic | Assignments Due | Important Dates |
|------|------|---|--|------------------|
| 1 | 1-9 | Syllabus and Introductions | | |
| | 1-11 | Ch1: Introducing Social Psychology | Chapter 1 Quiz | |
| 2 | 1-16 | Evaluating Research and Avoiding Plagiarism | Plagiarism Quiz | *End of drop/add |
| | 1-18 | Ch2: Methodology | Chapter 2 Quiz | |
| 3 | 1-23 | Ch2: Methodology continued | Social Issue Paper Topic due in Canvas | |
| | 1-25 | Ch3: Social Cognition | Chapter 3 quiz | |
| 4 | 1-30 | Ch3: Social Cognition continued | | |
| | 2-1 | Ch4: Social Perception | Chapter 4 quiz | |
| 5 | 2-6 | Ch4: Social Perception continued | | |
| | 2-8 | Ch5: The Self | Chapter 5 quiz | |

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| 6 | 2-13 | Ch5: The Self continued | | |
| | 2-15 | Ch6: Cognitive Dissonance and the Need to Protect our Self-Esteem | Chapter 6 quiz | |
| 7 | 2-20 | Peer Review Day | Social Issues Part 1 Draft due in Canvas | |
| | 2-22 | Ch7: Attitudes and Attitude Change | Peer Review Due in Canvas | |
| 8 | 2-27 | Ch7: Attitudes and Attitude Change continued | Chapter 7 quiz | |
| | 2-29 | Ch8: Conformity and Obedience | Chapter 8 quiz | |
| 9 | Spring Break | | | |
| 10 | 3-12 | Ch8: Conformity and Obedience continued | Chapter 8 quiz | *Final Day to Withdraw |
| | 3-14 | Ch9: Group Processes | Chapter 9 quiz | |
| 11 | 3-19 | Ch9: Group Processes continued | | |
| | 3-21 | Peer Review Day | Social Issues Part 2 Draft due in Canvas | |
| 12 | 3-26 | Ch10: Attraction and Relationships | Peer Review due in Canvas | |
| | 3-28 | Ch10: Attraction and Relationships continued | Chapter 10 quiz | |
| 13 | 4-2 | Ch11: Prosocial Behavior | Chapter 11 quiz | |
| | 4-4 | Spring Day- No Class | | |
| 14 | 4-9 | Ch12: Aggression | Chapter 12 quiz | |
| | 4-11 | Ch12: Aggression continued | | |
| 15 | 4-16 | Ch13: Prejudice | Chapter 13 quiz | |
| | 4-18 | Ch13: Prejudice continued | Social Issues Final Paper due in Canvas | |
| 16 | 4-23 | Social Issues Project Presentations | Upload presentation to Canvas | *Last Day of Classes |

