

SV 371: Social Psychology

Spring 2019

1 Course information

Class Schedule Section 01: M/T/Th/F 3:00–3:50 pm
 Section 02: M/T/Th/F 4:00–4:50 pm
 Room O257

Instructor Alan Jern
 Office: B103A
 Email: jern@rose-hulman.edu

Office hours Tuesdays 1:00–2:50 pm and by appointment

Textbook Aronson, Wilson, Akert, & Sommers. *Social Psychology*, 9th edition
 (E-book acceptable)

2 Overview

Social psychology is the study of how people interact, how people think about other people, and how people influence one another's behavior. Some of the questions we will consider are:

- How accurate are our first impressions of others?
- What effect do advertisements have on our attitudes about brands?
- Is it possible to influence someone to do something they don't want to do?
- How do people represent themselves online?
- Do violent video games promote aggressive behavior?
- Why are people prejudiced against certain groups of people?

As this list suggests, social psychology has numerous applications to everyday situations. Throughout this course, we will explore the theoretical and experimental basis of social psychology, but also consider many real-life situations in which social psychology principles are at work.

3 Assessment

Component	Weight
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Assignments (4)	40%
Reading responses (7)	10%
Participation	5%
Total	100%

3.1 Exams (45%)

There will be three non-cumulative exams. All exams are closed-book and closed-notes. There will be no final exam.

3.2 Assignments (40%)

Assignments will require you to apply some of the principles you learned in class in some way and reflect on your experiences.

3.3 Reading responses (10%)

On some class days, we will discuss additional readings not in the textbook. To encourage you come to class prepared to discuss each article, I will post a question or prompt about the article on Moodle that you must respond to before class that day. Your reading responses should be no more than a few paragraphs.

3.4 Participation (5%)

This class would be boring for all of us without any interaction. Accordingly, I expect you to be an active participant. Participation refers primarily to asking and answering questions in class. There will be many opportunities for this.

I will assign participation scores 2–3 times over the quarter. Your final participation score for the quarter will be the average of these scores.

3.5 Final grade

Your final grade will be rounded to the nearest tenth of a percentage point. Grades will then be assigned as follows.

Percentage	Grade
$\geq 90\%$	A
87–89%	B+
80–86%	B
77–79%	C+
70–76%	C
67–69%	D+
60–66%	D
$< 60\%$	F

For example, a 79.94% would be a C+ and a 79.95% would be a B.

4 Course policies

4.1 Late assignments

For the entire course, you will have **two free late days** that can be used for **assignments ONLY** (i.e., not reading responses). Assignments will be considered one day late if they are submitted any time after the submission deadline up to 24 hours later. Assignments will be considered two days late if they are submitted any time between 24 and 48 hours after the submission deadline. You don't need to notify me in advance if you plan to use one of your late days—I will keep track of your late days and notify you by email when you have no late days remaining.

Any assignments submitted after your using your late days will not be accepted. The purpose for this policy is to ensure that I can grade your homework and post keys in a timely fashion.

4.2 Academic integrity

Academic misconduct will be addressed according to the policies described in the Rose-Hulman student handbook. Academic misconduct includes: (1) submitting work that is not your own; (2) copying ideas, words, or graphics from any source without appropriate citation; (3) misrepresenting your work or yourself (i.e., deliberately submitting the wrong assignment or lying to explain a late assignment); (4) collaborating with other students when this is not permitted; and (5) submitting the same work for credit in two courses without prior consent of both instructors. If you are unsure whether something qualifies as academic misconduct, please check with me before engaging in the behavior.

5 Course schedule

The following schedule lists topics, readings, and due dates for the whole term. **The page numbers refer to the 9th edition of the textbook.** I don't anticipate any major deviations from this schedule, but it is subject to change. Schedule changes will be announced in class and will be posted online. I will give you plenty of notice when such changes are made.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
1	3/4	Introduction	pp 2–19	
	3/5	Methods	pp 30–41	
	3/7	Social cognition	pp 61–69	
	3/8	Social cognition	pp 53–61	
2	3/11	Social cognition	Gladwell	Response
	3/12	Attribution	pp 97–106	
	3/14	Attribution	Taylor & Fiske	Response
	3/15	Attribution		
3	3/18	The self	pp 125–139	
	3/19	The self	pp 106–108, 146–153	Assignment 1a
	3/21	Review		Assignment 1b
	3/22	Exam 1		
4	3/25	Dissonance	pp 157–168, 177–184	
	3/26	Dissonance	Shu, et al	Response
	3/28	Attitudes	pp 189–194, 199–209	Assignment 2
	3/29	Attitudes	pp 195–198, 210–218	
5	4/1	Persuasion	Cialdini	Response
	4/2	Persuasion		
	4/4	Persuasion	pp 219–222, 249–253	
	4/5	Conformity	pp 227–232, 235–248	
6	4/15	Conformity	pp 256–265	
	4/16	Conformity	Burger	Response
	4/18	Review		Assignment 3
	4/19	Exam 2		
7	4/22	Groups	pp 270–275	
	4/23	Groups	Blum; Zimbardo	Response
	4/25	Groups	pp 275–282	
	4/26	Groups	pp 283–296	
8	4/29	Relationships	pp 304–319	
	4/30	Relationships	pp 329–340	
	5/2	Aggression	pp 376–393	
	5/3	Aggression	pp 394–398	
9	5/6	Prejudice	pp 414–429	Assignment 4
	5/7	Aggression		
	5/9	Prejudice	pp 430–447	
	5/10	Prejudice	Singal	Response
10	5/13	TBD		
	5/14	Review		

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
	5/16	Exam 3		
	5/17	Conclusion		