

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCH 280
Fall 2012**

Section 009

Wednesday 9am-11am
269 Dennison

Section 011

Thursday noon-2pm
229 Dennison

GSI: Josh Wondra

Office: 3233 East Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday 10am-noon or by appointment

Email: jdwondra@umich.edu

Phone: (734)764-3292

Website: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jdwondra/html/main.html> (updated monthly)

A discussion section website is available in CTools.

Contact

The best way to get in touch with me is by email. I respond to emails by the end of the business day (i.e., not weekends and holidays) after they are received. That means if I receive an email at 12:04am on Tuesday, then I will respond before 12:00am Thursday.

Office Hours

Students may visit my office during regular office hours or they may schedule an appointment to meet with me at another time. If a student stops by my office at any other time while the door is open, he or she may ask if I am available to answer questions about the course. During my normal office hours I will be available to answer brief questions in CTools chat if I am not meeting with another student.

Purpose of the Discussion Section

The purpose of the discussion section is to promote a greater understanding of the course content by providing opportunities to discuss the material in a smaller setting, ask questions of your GSI, and participating in other activities. Students will benefit most from the discussion section if they show up to every class and complete the assigned readings before class. Students should avoid only memorizing concepts from class. Instead, the discussion section should provide opportunities for students to relate concepts to each other, to things that are familiar, and to students' own experience to facilitate successful learning.

Discussion Section Policies

1) Participation Points. 20 of your participation points are awarded in the discussion section. You will receive participation points for coming to class. You are allowed to miss one class meeting with no questions asked, though you should meet with me during office hours the following week to catch up on course material. For subsequent absences, you must contact me by email within 24 hours of class and provide some documentation explaining the absence or else you will lose 5 participation points.

2) Cell phones. You may bring cell phones to class but they should be turned off or silenced. If you need to take an emergency phone call, please step outside of the classroom to do so. If your cell phone is disruptive to the discussion, then I will ask you to leave the classroom and you will receive an unexcused absence for the day (which will affect your participation grade).

3) Computers. You may bring laptops to class. If your use of the laptop is disruptive to the discussion, then I will ask you to leave the classroom and you will receive an unexcused absence for the day (which will affect your participation grade).

4) Writing assignments. Students may submit writing assignments by email or by hard copy. Writing assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class on the day that they are due. I will write a short response to all email submissions by the end of the day that they are due. If you believe that you submitted a writing assignment by email that I did not receive, then please see me so that we can resolve the problem.

Ground Rules for Discussion

In order to have productive, educational discussion, it is necessary to establish some rules and guidelines:

1) Allow others to ask questions, express opinions, and support their statements with evidence.

2) Ask “stupid questions” and respect “stupid questions.” Students often have questions about points that seem basic, obvious, or otherwise unnecessary to ask. Students usually do not ask these questions because they do not realize that the instructor may not have been clear and other people in class have the same question. It is common for students to think that the reason they have the question is because they are not intelligent enough to know the answer already. In my own studies, I have made it a specific goal to ask “stupid questions” because they are the gateway to “smart questions.” I encourage you to do the same.

3) Do not disrupt your classmates while they are speaking. This includes interrupting others to make a statement about the topic of discussion, engaging in side conversations, or any other behavior that hinders your classmates’ ability to contribute ideas to the discussion.

4) Respect others’ rights to disagree with you. This includes the right to come to a different conclusions based on the available evidence, offer alternative hypotheses or explanations, and to challenge your own opinions by asking for evidence supporting them.

5) Engage the argument, not the person. When disagreements arise, it is important to keep the discussion focused on the material under discussion. Disagreements should not turn into personal attacks.

6) No slurs. There will be zero tolerance for slurs based on gender, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, age, or any other group membership. Students who use slurs will be dismissed from the class and will lose all participation points.

Accommodations

Please see me or email me if you require special accommodations due to learning disabilities, religious practices, physical requirements, medical needs, or any other reasons. Please note that the university deadline to informing me of absences for religious holidays is September 26.

Counseling Resources

In my experience, many if not most students experience extreme stress at some point during their years in college. It is very common for students to experience depression, anxiety, family stress, the loss of a loved one, memories of childhood trauma, sexual assault, the loss of important relationships, financial problems, and other major stressors. It is normal for students to seek the service of mental health professionals to provide them with support and skills to cope with these experiences and have a successful academic career during their time in college. I have provided a list of some of the mental health services available to University of Michigan students so that you will know where you can go if you or a friend would like to take advantage of these resources.

University of Michigan Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

Michigan Union
530 S. State Street
Room 3100

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-7pm, Friday 8am-5pm
(734)764-8312

<http://www.caps.umich.edu>

CAPS Urgent/Crisis Services

Call (734)764-8312

Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-6pm, Friday 10am-4pm

Examples of urgent/crisis need from CAPS website:

- *If you are not feeling safe*
- *If someone close to you has died recently*
- *If you have a difficult decision to make in the next 2-3 days*
- *If you have been sexually assaulted within the past 72 hours*
- *If you have been experiencing a lot of stress for a long time and feel like you really must speak with someone today*

UM Psychiatric Emergency

24 hours

(734)996-4747

Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center

24 hours

(734)936-3333

University of Michigan Community Provider Database

Database of off-campus mental health resources

<http://www.umcpd.org>

This syllabus is subject to revision. If revisions occur, then I will provide a revised version of the syllabus to all students at the following discussion section meeting and I will explain the changes verbally.