Introduction to Social Psychology, PSY 2350 CRN 44909 Section 006

Fall 2023

**Location: 308 Pawley Hall**

**Time:** Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 – 4:47 pm

**Instructor:** Tara DeLecce, Ph.D.

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**Office:** 213B Pryale Hall

**Office Hours:** 1:00 – 2:30 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays and by appointment

**Course Description**

This 4-credit course explores the social psychological processes underlying human social behavior.

Social psychology is the study of behavior as it is influenced by other people and by the social environment. The major aim of the course is to provide an overview of the wide-ranging concerns characterizing social psychology from both a substantive and a methodological perspective. Topics include social cognition, attitude change, interpersonal attraction, conformity, prosocial behavior, group dynamics, aggression, and prejudice. In addition, the course is designed to introduce students to methodological concerns in social-psychological research. These are topics that affect each of us as individuals, and I expect students to relate class materials to personal experience. However, the primary goal is to examine these topics as scientists, evaluating the theoretical and empirical evidence. This course can be applied toward either a major or minor in psychology.

**Required Text**: Baumeister RF & Bushman B. *Social Psychology and Human Nature*, *5th* *Edition*. Cengage Advantage Books.ISBN# 9780357122914

**Course Objectives**

After completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the field of social psychology and the contributions that social psychologists make in research and practice.
2. Critically evaluate research findings and their application to psychology.
3. Identify the role of individual differences and the social environment in influencing human social behavior.

The class will be a mixture of lecture and class discussion. I will cover the main themes in the text; however, I will not repeat everything of importance. Material will be covered in class that is not in the textbook. You are expected to do the readings *prior to class* so that you can maximize what you learn from class sessions and contribute to class discussions. I will post lecture slides on *Moodle*. However, class attendance is strongly encouraged and simply studying lecture slides will not be of much use because not all information presented and discussed during lectures will be on the lecture slides. Use these slides as a supplement to regular class attendance.

**Course Requirements**

Your grade will be based on 4 components: 1) exams, 2) quizzes, 3) reaction papers, and 4) participating in class discussions. The final page of this syllabus provides an overview of the entire semester.

**1. Exams (360 points)**

There will be **3** exams: The first two exams will be worth **120 points** each. The final exam (non-cumulative) will be worth **120 points**. All exams will consist of multiple-choice and short answer/essay questions. Exams will be based upon textbook readings, additional assigned readings, **and** lecture. You are responsible for all the assigned readings (even if not reviewed in class) and all the content covered in class (even if not included in the text).

During exams and quizzes, nothing will be allowed on your desk except the exam, Akindi form, and pencils. You will not be allowed to use any electronic device including phones, tablets, laptops, etc. Tardiness is always inconsiderate; however, it is particularly problematic on exam days. No one will be allowed to start the exam after the first person has completed it and left the room. This will result in a zero grade for the exam.

Failure to be present for the exam without a documented legitimate excuse (e. g. medical issue) will result in a zero for the exam. Make-up exams will be given only under the most compelling of circumstances. Except for genuine emergencies (e.g., unscheduled emergency surgery), I must be contacted **at least 24 hours** ***before*** the exam. This policy will be strictly enforced. Make-up exams must also be completed **within 1 week of the regularly scheduled date or your grade for that exam will be a zero.**

**2. Quizzes (100 points)**

There will be 10 quizzes during the semester. These will typically be given at the beginning of class (and you cannot start the quiz after others have finished). The quizzes will cover class material learned for the week. Each quiz will be worth **10** points. *Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.*  **Make-ups are not allowed** for quizzes under any circumstances! All the rules described above regarding exams also apply for quizzes.

**3. Reaction Papers (100 points)**

There will be 4 reaction papers throughout the semester (about 1 per month). Each paper will be worth 25 points for a total of 100 points. For each of these papers, you will be assigned to read an additional paper beyond the textbook material (usually an empirical research article), and then you will have to write a reaction in response to reading that paper. Reaction papers will consist of two sections: a section in which you summarize the content of the paper **in your own words** to demonstrate your comprehension of the material, and a second section in which you write your own personal reaction to the paper. What did you like about the paper? What did you not like about the paper? How do you think the research could have been improved? Expanded upon? The summary section should be 1-2 pages and the reaction section should be 1-2 pages, meaning that reaction papers should range from 2-4 pages total in length. Again, all reaction papers should be written in your own words, with no use of copy and pasted or directly quoted material. Also, **late reaction papers will be accepted up to 3 days late for only 50% of their point value.** Any reaction papers turned in past this 3-day period will get a zero. It is your responsibility to keep track of due dates for papers.

**4. Discussion Participation (40 points)**

Throughout the semester, we will have discussions on additional readings of empirical research and other class activities that will require active participation. In fact, I will take attendance on days when reaction papers are due as those will involve class discussions on assigned readings. This means that you should be contributing to discussions and any class/group activities in a meaningful way. Successful participation is worth 40 points toward your total grade. If you miss out on such points by missing class, **you cannot make up these points!**

**Grading**

The final grade will be a combination of the points from all the sources of evaluation described above, with **600** being the highest possible score.

Grades will be based on 4 elements, which break down as follows:

**ELEMENT POINTS**

Quizzes (—2 lowest dropped) 100

Exams (3 @ 120 pts. each) 360

Reaction Papers (4 @ 25 pts each) 100

Discussion Participation 40

**TOTAL 600 POINTS**

**Note:** Extra credit is not offered in this course!

**Grading Scale**

The % grade will then be transformed to the official OU grading scale (0.0‐4.0). Percentage conversions to OU grades are presented in the table below:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **GRADE ENTERED INTO OU SYSTEM** | **PERCENTAGE RANGE (CLASS PERFORMANCE)** | **MERIT POINTS ON TRANSCRIPT** |
| A | 93 – 100% | 4.0 |
| A- | 90 – 92% | 3.7 |
| B+ | 87 – 89% | 3.3 |
| B | 83 – 86% | 3.0 |
| B- | 80 -82% | 2.7 |
| C+ | 77 – 79% | 2.3 |
| C | 73 – 76% | 2.0 |
| C- | 70 – 72% | 1.7 |
| D+ | 67 – 69% | 1.3 |
| D | 60 – 66% | 1.0 |
| F | ≤ 59% | 0.0 |

**Class Policies:**

**Instructor’s Expectations for Classroom Conduct**

Please show respect toward your classmates and toward the instructor by arriving to class on time, remaining until class ends, and avoiding distractions that make it difficult for others to concentrate. Once you arrive, please turn off cell phones and other noise making devices so that we are all able to concentrate during class. If you have job or family responsibilities that require you to remain accessible, place your device in vibrate or silent mode and take a seat near the door so you can quickly move outside. Talking to others (except when part of classroom activity) is also disruptive and inappropriate.

**“I didn’t know that…”:** It is your responsibility to know what is going on in class. Claiming to not know when assignments are due is not a valid excuse for missing assignments or turning in late assignments. If you miss a class, check for information on Moodle and with a fellow student *before* contacting the instructor. A convenient way to obtain a response is to *ask a question at the beginning of class or immediately after class*.

**Moodle:** You must use **Moodle** (moodle.oakland.edu) in this class to access the online grade bookwhich will be updated regularly. Course announcements are also made on this site. Emails sent to the entire class will also be sent through Moodle. This means that your access ID must be active and that you must regularly check your Oakland University email. If you do not use that address for your email, please arrange for your access ID email to forward to whatever email address you do use. If you are having trouble using Moodle, please contact eLIS or the IT Help Desk.

**If you are having trouble** understanding the course material, please come see me early in the semester. The longer you wait, the harder it will be to make up for lost points.

**Academic Conduct:** Oakland University students are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with the University’s standards of academic integrity and honesty. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct will be reported to the Dean of Students for appropriate action (Academic Conduct Regulations can be found in the Student Handbook, http://www.oakland.edu/?id=1610&sid=75 ). Some examples of misconduct relevant to this class include **cheating on** **examinations and quizzes**, and **unauthorized collaboration during online quizzes**. **Add or Drop the Class:** The University add/drop dates can be found on the website for the Office of the Registrar (http://www.oakland.edu/registrar). It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of course drop deadlines. There will be no adds after the first week of class, during which you can add the class without instructor’s signature.

**Oakland University Add, Drop, and Incomplete Policies:** Students are urged to review the Adds, Drops, and Withdrawals procedures and deadlines in the Schedule of Classes as these will be explicitly followed. Timelines and deadlines are available in Moodle and on the OU website. Please review these.

**Disability Support Services:** Students with disabilities who may require certain accommodations should register with Disability Support Services (http://www.oakland.edu/dss) and bring their needs to the attention of the instructor by providing their Accommodation Memo as soon as it is available. Accommodations can only be provided **after** receipt of the memo.

**Veteran Support Services:** The office of Veteran Support Services (VSS) is responsible for giving support services to more than 300 veterans, service members, and dependents of veterans. VSS is staffed with personnel who are veterans and current or former students. Any student veteran or dependent of a veteran requiring assistance with navigating the Veterans Administration, understanding service‐related benefits, or requires referrals to campus and community resources should contact one of the Veterans Liaisons by visiting 116 North Foundation Hall, or phoning 248‐370‐2010.

[http://wwwp.oakland.edu/veterans/](about:blank)

**Audio Recording Policy:** Students who wish to audio‐record lectures may request permission to do so. These recordings may only be used for the purpose of personal study. Students may not share these recordings with other individuals without the consent of the professor. At the conclusion of the semester, students may request permission to keep these recordings if needed, otherwise it is expected that all audio‐recordings will be deleted from all electronic recording and storage devices.

**Departmental Policy for Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns:**

The student has an obligation to attempt to resolve all academic-related concerns with the instructor. If a suitable solution cannot be reached, then the student should consult the Department of Psychology Procedure for the Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns at [https://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/psychology/files-and-documents/Undergrad-Advising/Resolution%20of%20Student%20Concerns-04-2017-approved%20full%20doc.pdf](about:blank).

Any changes in the schedule will be announced in class and posted on Moodle. It is your responsibility to make sure you are aware of all updates.

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| Date | Topic | Assignment Due Start of Class |
| Sept 7 | Overview of Course and Requirements |  |
| 12 | Scientific Method | Chapter 1/Additional Reading |
| 14 | **Quiz 1: First Reaction Paper** |
| 19 | Culture and Nature | Chapter 2 |
| 21 |  | **Quiz 2** |
| 26 | The Self | Chapter 3 |
| 28 |  | **Quiz 3** |
| Oct 3 | Choices and Actions | Chapter 4/Additional Reading |
| 5 |  | **Quiz 4; Second Reaction Paper** |
| 10 | **EXAM 1: Chapters 1 – 4** |  |
| 12 | Social Cognition | Chapter 5 |
| 17 |  | **Quiz 5** |
| 19 | Emotions and Affect | Chapter 6 |
| 24 |  | **Quiz 6** |
| 26 | Attitudes, Beliefs, and Consistency | Chapter 7 |
| 31 | **Quiz 7/Third Reaction Paper** |
| Nov 2 | **EXAM 2: Chapters 5 - 7** |  |
| 7 | Prosocial Behavior | Chapter 9 |
| 9 | **Quiz 8** |
| 14 | Aggressive Behavior | Chapter 10 |
| 16 | **Quiz 9** |
| 21 | Interpersonal Attraction and Rejection | Chapter 11 |
| 23 | **NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK** |  |
| 28 | Close Relationships | Chapter 12 |
| 30 | **Quiz 10** |
| Dec 5 | Prejudice | Chapter 13 |
| 7 | **Final Reaction Paper** |
| 14 | **Final Exam: Thursday December 14th from 12:00 – 3:00 pm in 308 Pawley** | **Chapters 9 – 13** |