

PSYC 2040: Social Psychology
Course Syllabus (Summer 2018, Term A)

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Office hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays,, 11-2pm
Office room: 316 Audubon Hall
Lecture Time: M-F, 9:50am-10:50am
Lecture Room: 112 Audubon Hall

Course Description

Broadly speaking, social psychology is the study of how an individual's thoughts, emotions, and behaviors are shaped by the social environment. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the field of social psychology as a science. You will gain an understanding of the major theories and hypotheses that explain a wide array of psychological phenomena, ranging from social conformity and obedience to the perception and influence of stereotypes. You will also learn to interconnect and synthesize many of these concepts and apply them to real-world situations. Lastly, you will gain an understanding of the methods employed by psychologists to study human behavior and thought.

Required textbook and readings

There is **no textbook required for this course**. All the information tested in the exams will come from class lectures and activities.¹ I'll post my slides in a *PowerPoint SlideShow* on Moodle. This means that you will be able to review the slides exactly as they are presented in class to help you prepare for exams. However, this does not mean you should skip class! There are some graphs and figures in the slides that *will not* make sense without the discussion and explanation provided in class lectures.

In addition to the material covered in class, I'll post brief research articles on Moodle. Some will be optional and others will be required (as they will be included in the exams). I'll try my best to cover these research articles in class, however, given the large amount of content that needs to be covered within the short time-frame of a summer semester it may be the case that you will have to read the articles by yourself. Although it sounds obnoxious, by reading research articles you will gain a better understanding of the reasoning and methods used to examine the different concepts that we will cover in class. This will also help you become experienced with scientific writing, which benefits you as you progress throughout your college career.

¹ If you want to further your understanding about the topics covered in this course, I recommend the following textbook: **Baumeister, R. F. & Bushman B. J. (2016). *Social Psychology and Human Nature: Brief Version (4th Edition)*. Cengage Learning.** Many of the examples will cover in class are also covered in great detail in this textbook. Again, buying the textbook is *not required* for this course, which will hopefully save you some \$\$\$!

Grading Policy

Your grade in this class will be based on four exams as well as in-class participation points. There will also be extra-credit opportunities (yay!!!) in the form of outside-of-class **research participation** (discussed below). Grades will be calculated on a ten percentage point-scale, with the top 3% of each letter grade receiving a plus (+) score and the bottom 3% of each letter grade receiving a minus (–) score. Given that extra-credit opportunities will be available *throughout* the semester, I will not round-up grades at the end of the semester.

97% - 100% = A+	87% - 89.9% = B+	77% - 79.9% = C+	67% - 69.9% = D+	Below 60% = F
93% - 96.9% = A	83% - 86.9% = B	73% - 76.9% = C	63% - 66.9% = D	
90% - 92.9% = A-	80% - 82.9% = B-	70% - 72.9% = C-	60% - 62.9% = D-	

Exams (90%)

Exams will cover concepts from the lecture and from the required research articles. As noted above, even though lecture slides will be available to you on Moodle, there will be some concepts that will be hard to understand unless you hear the explanation (or participate in an activity) during the class lecture. *So, although class attendance is not mandatory, it will certainly benefit you!* As mentioned before, there will be **four exams**, including the final exam (non-cumulative). The first exam will be **worth 15% of your final grade**. Each subsequent exam will be **valued at 25% of your final grade**. Exam questions will include a combination of multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, short-essay questions, and one bonus question. I will not provide you with a study guide, however, before the first exam, I'll show you some sample questions so you know what to expect and how to prepare for it.

Exam make-up policy

For medical emergencies and school-sanctioned events (e.g., athletic meetings), I'll accommodate exam make-ups provided that the appropriate documentation is available. Documentation for medical issues or school-sanctioned events should be provided **within 48 hours after the exam time (9:50am)**. Given the brevity of a summer semester, you will have to make-up the missed exam **within 3 business days of the exam date**. If, for whatever reason, you cannot make it to class on the day of an exam, I will allow you to make-up **one** exam without a valid excuse (e.g., you happen to be out of town on the day of the exam)². However, you will need to contact me **within 12 hours before the exam or after the exam**. Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero, unless you have a valid medical excuse from a doctor that forbids you to contact me within this time frame.

² This policy is not applicable for the final exam.

In-class participation (10%)

Throughout *random* days of the semester, I'll ask you to participate in some in-class activities. These activities will range from simply answering a discussion question to participating in some really cool demonstrations regarding the different studies we will talk about. We will complete 15 different participation activities throughout the semester, however, only 10 of these activities will count towards your participation grade. The remaining 5 activities will count towards extra-credit and/or making-up any participation points you may have missed. Nonetheless, if you consistently miss class then your grade will surely suffer by losing these **easy points!**

In-class participation make-up policy

Coming to class and participating will significantly improve your grade on all exams. Therefore, **you will not be allowed to make-up any participation activity without valid documentation.** Participation activities will have to be made up **within 2 business days of the day the activity took place.** In-class participation make-up will be done during my office hours unless otherwise agreed.

Extra-Credit Opportunity (5% extra-credit)

You will be able to **earn up to 5% of your final grade** as extra-credit by participating in in-class activities or in research experiments sponsored by the LSU Department of Psychology.³ As you will learn in this course, participation in research experiments is crucial for the development of our understanding of psychology. Therefore, for every 1 research credit you earn, you will receive 0.5% extra-credit towards your final grade (you will need 10 research credits to obtain the total 5% extra-credit). However, given that most of the studies we'll discuss in class use an experimental design which involves some sort of interaction between a person and a researcher, I will only allow participation in face-to-face laboratory experiments. **No online studies will be accepted for extra credit.** *Please note that research experiments will be available throughout the summer semester!* You can sign-up for research experiments by visiting <https://lsuhumanresearch.sona-systems.com>. You can find a folder labeled "Research Extra-Credit" on Moodle with all the documentation and information you will need to participate in psychology research experiments. **IMPORTANT:** Make sure to only sign-up for experiments labeled "PSYC-" and to assign your credits to this course (PSYC 2040)!

³ Please note that only a **maximum of 5 extra-credit points** will count towards your final grade, regardless if this was achieved via in-class participation points, research participation, **or a combination of both.**

LSU Policy Statements

In-class Behavior

In this class we'll be discussing many interesting and diverse topics, and I encourage everyone to voice their opinion and participate in class discussion. However, please keep in mind that we all come from different backgrounds and we might have a different opinion on many subjects. Any negative or offensive comments will **NOT BE TOLERATED**. Students who violate this policy will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are responsible for observing the highest standards of academic and personal integrity. You are bound by the LSU code of Student Conduct, which can be accessed at [http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/\\$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument](http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument). The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and **ignorance is NOT an acceptable excuse**. I will refer all suspected cases of alleged academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students. Academic dishonesty includes any act that violates the academic integrity of the university.

Students with Disabilities

Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any special needs for class participation or for testing. I'll be more than happy to provide the necessary accommodations, however, it is your responsibility to let me know. You can come and see me privately before or after class (or during my office hours). If you need more information, contact the Office of Disability Services, 112 Johnston Hall, Phone: (225)578-5919, e-mail: disability@lsu.edu.

Diversity Statement

“LSU strives to create an inclusive, respectful, intellectually challenging climate that embraces individual difference in race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, spirituality, socio-economic status, disability, family status, experiences, opinions, and ideas.”

<http://uiswcmsweb.prod.lsu.edu/edco/edco/DiversityStatement/item25970.html>

For more information regarding Diversity at LSU, please visit the website for the Office of Diversity, or contact them in 135 Thomas Boyd Hall, by phone 225-578-5736, or by email: diversity@lsu.edu.

Tentative Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for the Summer 2017 Term A semester. I reserve the right to make changes to the following schedule as needed.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
6/4	Monday	Course Introduction	Syllabus
6/5	Tuesday	What is Social Psych?	Chapter 1
6/6	Wednesday	Methods of Investigation	Chapter 1
6/7	Thursday	The Self	Chapter 3
6/8	Friday	The Self	Chapter 3
6/11	Monday	Social Influence on the Self	Chapter 4
6/12	Tuesday	Controlling Your Behavior	Chapter 4
6/13	Wednesday	Controlling Your Behavior	Chapter 4 + Article(s)
6/14	Thursday	Exam 1	
6/15	Friday	Social Cognition	Chapter 5
6/18	Monday	Fundamental Attribution Error	Chapter 5
6/19	Tuesday	Heuristics and Biases	Chapter 5
6/20	Wednesday	Emotions and Affect	Chapter 6
6/21	Thursday	Emotions and Affect	Chapter 6
6/22	Friday	What are Attitudes?	Chapter 7
6/25	Monday	Consistency and Change	Chapter 7
6/26	Tuesday	Beliefs and Believing	Chapter 7 + Article(s)
6/27	Wednesday	Exam 2	
6/28	Thursday	Prosocial Behavior	Chapter 9
6/29	Friday	Why do people help each other?	Chapter 9
7/3	Monday	Antisocial Behavior	Chapter 10
7/3	Tuesday	Antisocial Behavior	Chapter 10
7/4	Wednesday	No class (Independence Day)	
7/5	Thursday	Prejudice and Stereotypes	Chapter 13
7/6	Friday	Prejudice and Stereotypes	Chapter 13
7/9	Monday	Reducing Prejudice in Society	Chapter 13
7/10	Tuesday	Reducing Prejudice in Society	Chapter 13 + Article(s)
7/11	Wednesday	Exam 3	
7/12	Thursday	Group Behavior	Chapter 14
7/13	Friday	How Do Groups Think?	Chapter 14
7/16	Monday	Power and Leadership	Chapter 14
7/17	Tuesday	The Need to Belong	Chapter 11
7/18	Wednesday	Feeling Rejected	Chapter 11
7/19	Thursday	Persuading Others	Chapter 8
7/20	Friday	Persuading Others	Chapter 8
7/23	Monday	Resisting Persuasion	Chapter 8 + Article(s)
7/26	Thursday	Final Exam @ 1:30pm (Audubon Hall 112)	