

# Social Psychology

**Psyc 305-002, Fall 2016**

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(pronounced Mc-KAY-me)

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**Office Hours:** Mondays 1:00 – 3:30  
Feel free to just stop by or make an appointment.

**Psyc 305 – Social Psychology: The Individual and Other People (3 credit hours)**

Examination of the intrapersonal factors that influence human social behavior. Prerequisite(s): PSYC 101.

Social Psychology, by Aronson, Wilson, and Akert, Prentice Hall

**Important Rule #1:** Unless I specifically say that I am changing this syllabus, follow what is written.

**Important Rule #2:** You are responsible for everything said in class - including any and all instances where I change this syllabus - regardless of attendance or absence!

**Important Rule #3:** Early assignments are always welcomed. Late assignments, however, are not. Ten percent (10%) of the assignment's points will be deducted on all late assignments for each day late (weekends are included).

**Important Rule #4:** You are free to agree and disagree with me, but make sure that all contact with me is done in a respectful manner.

**Important Rule #5:** Grammar counts in everything done outside of class.

**Contacting me** – email and the internet have a way of gobbling up messages we send one another. So make sure any time you contact me, especially any time you send me work, that you **keep a copy of your email** as proof of when you contacted me. That way, if I don't get your work, you can forward your original email to me to show that your work was indeed in on time. You should always receive a confirmation email from me that I received your work. If you don't get one, contact me and let me know.

**The purpose of this course:**

- to explore the nature of social psychology and its relevance in your everyday life
- to introduce you to the major theoretical approaches used in studying social psychology
- to survey current theory and research in social psychology

**Process of this course**

- Read the chapters
- Study the notes
- Study the PowerPoints
- Watch the videos

- Complete the activities
- Take the practice test (optional but recommended)
- Take the tests
- Write the paper
- Take the exam

### **Campus Resources**

Students who are enrolled in online courses are entitled to the campus resources made available to on-campus students. These resources include admissions counseling and health services, library, student services, and recreational facilities. Questions regarding access to these resources should be directed to the assigned academic advisor.

### **Qualities to succeed in online courses:**

- **Self-motivation**
  - The ability to stay on top of the course without someone watching you.
- **Self-Discipline**
  - It's nice to be able to work at your own pace, but if you let things slide, either they won't get done or they'll get done in a hurried, sloppy manner.
- **Creativity**
  - Just because you're at home taking this courses doesn't mean it has to be boring! Take the time to be creative with the information you are learning. Look something up online to help you learn or remember a concept. Apply the information to your life. Think of ways that will make studying more fun!
- **Cheating**
  - It is very tempting to cheat when you have an exam and haven't studied for it. But at the end of the day, cheating on an assignment or an exam is cheating yourself of the opportunity to learn. Besides, online schooling gives you the opportunity to take the exam when you feel ready, so there is no need to cheat. Take the time to study and give the exam or assignment your best shot.
- **Organization**
  - Making sure you set up a really good study area at home will have a big effect on your overall productivity and efficiency. This means limiting distractions and procrastination tools, turning off the TV, and making the most of the time you have set aside for reading, studying, and homework.
- **Procrastination**
  - If there is one thing almost all students can identify with, it's procrastination. Procrastination is an issue whenever you have important things to do or big responsibilities to meet, and can think of more fun things you'd rather be doing. Identify those things that get you to procrastinate and aim to limit them.
- **Communicate Clearly**
  - Communicating clearly is an essential skill for everyone, regardless of your line of work. Online classes are actually a good way to improve your written communication. Since you are more likely to use electronic communication, you have to learn how to ask questions and enunciate your own point of view clearly and succinctly.
- **Independence**
  - Learning to let go of your professor's hand can be a good thing. Why? You learn to make decisions on your own and to trust your intuition and own judgment. This is an important skill that will carry over to your job and be a good indicator of the success you will have.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain the major sections of social psychology
- Explain how social psychology fits into psychology and compare and contrast the social psychology viewpoint with other major viewpoints in psychology
- Use the concepts, language, and major theories of social psychology to explain psychological experiences
- Understand ethical issues as they relate to social psychology research
- Explain various research methods used in social psychology research
- Use critical thinking to evaluate the quality of information (research v. speculation, probable v. improbable explanations, etc.)
- Use critical thinking to identify and evaluate the source, content, and credibility of information
- Evaluate new ideas with an open but critical mind
- Use critical reasoning to recognize, develop, defend, and criticize arguments and persuasive appeals
- Explain how psychological principles can be used to explain social issues
- Apply social psychological concepts, theories, and research findings to everyday life
- Recognize that ethically complex situations can develop in the application of psychological principles
- Understand how power, privilege, and oppression may affect prejudice, discrimination, and inequity
- Reflect on their own social experiences and find meaning in them

## Professionalism

You are **adults** and **emerging professionals**, and you will be treated as such. What does that mean? It means:

- you have my trust until you give me reason not to trust you
- you have ideas of your own that agree and disagree with mine and your classmates
- you are expected to be tolerant of others' ideas when they differ from yours
- you are encouraged to share your own ideas

It also means:

- you will have read and thought about the material prior to coming to class
- you will use all resources available to you (library, internet, community, etc.)
- you can learn from one another in addition to me

And it means **honesty**:

- any form of cheating or plagiarism will result in your failing the course.
- cheating is defined as:
  - using any resources outside of those explicitly allowed
- plagiarism is defined as:
  - using someone else's work and directly or indirectly claiming it as your own
  - using someone else's ideas without giving them credit

## Responsibility

One of the tasks of college is to learn to get work done despite life happening at the same time. Unlike classroom courses, you have the opportunity to schedule your tests at a time that is convenient for you. The tests / paper / exam are NOT scheduled for the day of the due date. The due date is the last possible day to complete them. And given that you have all semester long to complete them, no assignments will be accepted late without some major extenuating circumstance. So let's look at some scenarios of what could happen along the way through the semester:

Wise Dude	Procrastinator
Wise Dude completes his test several days ahead of time and then gets sick the day before the due date. He enjoys staying in bed and getting better.	Procrastinator puts off taking his test until the deadline and then gets sick. He's busy throwing up and misses taking the test. That 0 isn't going to help his GPA.
Wise Dude completes his paper a week ahead of the deadline and then his computer crashes. Because of good planning, he still has time to redo his paper and turn it in on time.	Procrastinator puts off writing his paper until the day it is due. Then his computer crashes, and he has no time to rewrite it. That 0 looks really bad.
Wise Dude takes his test several days ahead of time and encounters computer problems. He contacts me, and I reset his test. He still has plenty of time to complete it by deadline.	Procrastinator puts off taking his test until the deadline. He has problems with the computer and has no time left to retake the test before the deadline. He has to take the grade he made on the test.
Wise Dude writes down the due dates of all assignments in his planner and makes sure to get each one done a few days ahead of time.	Procrastinator goes off memory and misremembers the due date. He realizes two days after the due date that he forgot to take the test. Goose egg!
Wise Dude is in a car accident the second week of the semester and is in the hospital for a month and then rehab for another month. He contacts his professor to let her know what's going on and make alternate arrangements.	Procrastinator is in a car accident the second week of the semester and is in the hospital for a month and then rehab for another month. He doesn't contact his professor or does so after the semester is over.

The gist of responsibility is that life is full of jumps and hurdles, and you have to plan on completing your assignments knowing full well that those jumps and hurdles will be coming and most likely right at the due date. Those jumps and hurdles do not serve as a reason not to have your work done on time. With that said, sometimes there are big situations that happen (such as an extended hospital stay) that is just too big to juggle around. When that happens, you definitely need to contact me for assistance.

### Students with Disabilities

I have a heart for students with disabilities, probably because I have a visual impairment and remember having to work extra hard in college. The goal of services to students with disabilities is not to give an undue advantage or somehow make it easier or lower standards. Rather, the goal is to give all students an even playing field so that everyone has the opportunity to do well, if they work hard at it. If you have issues with a disability, make sure to contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 323-3290. Once you have your letter from there, contact me, and we'll set up a meeting where we can discuss your accommodations and how you can best succeed in this class.

**Grading** in this course is based upon participation, homework, tests, paper, and presentation. The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Tests	4 @ 100 pts. each	400
Final Exam		200
Social Application Paper		100
Reflection Paper		100

The final grades will be as follows:

A = 90-100%	D+ = 67-69%
B+ = 87-89%	D = 60-66%
B = 80-86%	F = 0-59%
C+ = 77-79%	
C = 70-76%	

### Tests and Final Exam

- There will be three (3) tests during the semester and one comprehensive final exam.
- Each test will consist of 50 multiple choice. You will have 40 minutes to complete it. The final exam will have 100 multiple choice questions, and you will have 80 minutes to complete it.
- To make up a test, you must have a VALID AND EXCUSABLE REASON FOR MISSING THE TEST.
- Vacation plans are NOT valid excuses.
- Any student wishing to make up a test will need to provide appropriate documentation.
- ALL MAKE UP TESTS WILL BE ESSAY and given at the discretion of the professor.
- You'll receive five extra credit points for emailing me this sentence in the first week of the semester if half or more of the class points it out to me. You'll receive ten extra credit points if less than half the class emails it to me.

### Social Application Paper

Choose a population of people (e.g. men, women, children, poor, Hispanic, elderly, disabled, LGBT, black, college students, etc.) and then choose 20 social psychology principles to apply to that group. Principles could be things such as fundamental attribution error, prejudice, aggression, attraction, schemas, self-verification theory, etc. Which principles you use is completely up to you. In a paragraph each, explain how each of your chosen principles relates to your chosen population. Remember that good paragraphs have 5-8 strong sentences. Use 14 point font and 1" margins. **Submit via email with your name and Social Application Paper in the subject line to [memckemy@comporium.net](mailto:memckemy@comporium.net).**

### Reflection Paper

Write a 4-6 page reflection on your experiences in this course, including the readings, the notes, the videos, the papers, the powerpoints, etc. What did you learn? What surprised you? What do you think should be done differently? Please use 14-point font and 1" margins. **Submit via email with your name and Psyc 305 and Reflection Paper in the subject line to [memckemy@comporium.net](mailto:memckemy@comporium.net).**

### Student Code of Conduct

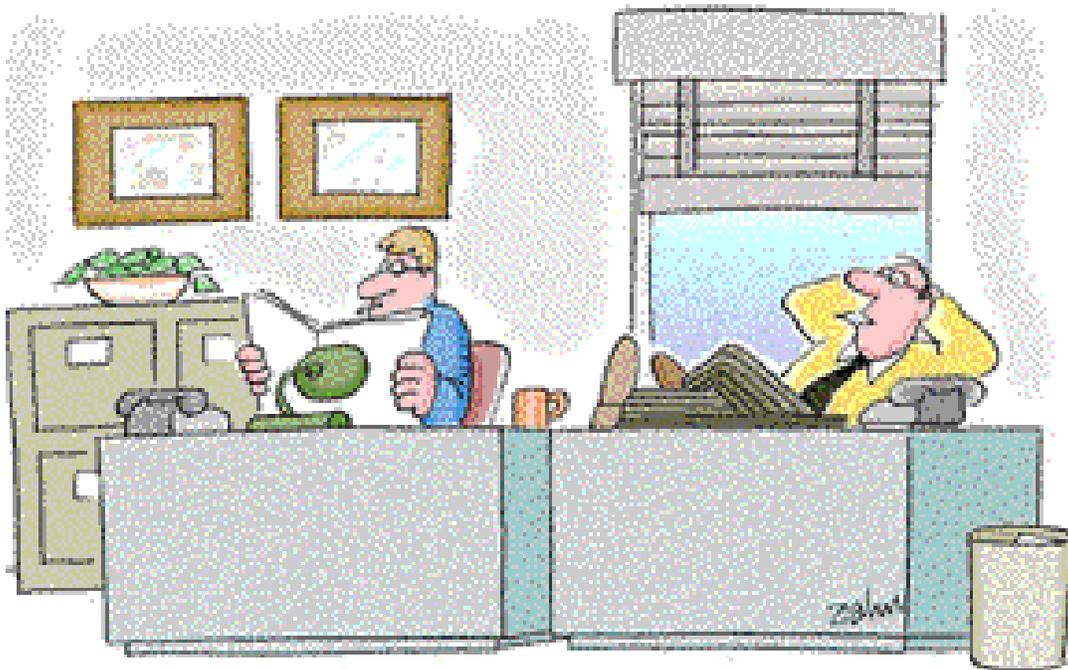
As noted in the Student Conduct Code: "Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals." The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the "Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy" in the online *Student Handbook* (<http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>).

## Top Eight Ways to Make Sure You Fail This Course

1. Start working on the chapters the week a test is due
2. Treat this course as less important than your other courses
3. Gloss over the material, figuring you won't have to really learn it anyway
4. Barely study since you'll have your notes and book in front of you
5. Take your tests while watching television
6. Keep quiet when you don't understand something
7. Ignore the syllabus, requirements, and deadlines
8. Believe that your computer and the internet will never have problems and thus wait until the last minute to take the tests / exam or write your papers. Assume there will be problems and do your work ahead of time to allow yourself a safety net of time so you don't have points taken off for your work being late.

## Suggestions for a Successful Semester

1. Give yourself plenty of time to complete each chapter – book, notes, and powerpoints
2. Complete the chapters in order because later chapters assume knowledge of prior chapters
3. Take the practice test before taking the real tests
4. Plan to take the real test at least one week before it's due because if you wait until the last minute, the power will go off or the internet will go down.
5. Let me know when you're not understanding something or having problems with the computer.



**"What do you think . . . should we get started on that motivation research or not?"**

# Schedule

The following schedule shows the deadlines for work to be completed. You are always free to work ahead and even complete the course early. Since many summer courses are taught in 5 week sessions, it's certainly possible to complete the course in half the time allotted (or less).

Introduction to Social Psychology
Research in Social Psychology
Social Cognition
Self Perception
<b>Test 1 due by 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Friday, September 9</b>
Self Knowledge
Need to Justify Our Actions
Attitudes and Attitude Change
<b>Test 2 due by 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Friday, October 7</b>
Conformity
Groups
Interpersonal Attraction
<b>Test 3 due by 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Friday, October 28</b>
Prosocial Behavior
Aggression
Prejudice
<b>Test 4 due by 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Friday, November 18</b>
<b>Papers due by 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Friday, December 2</b>
<b>Final Exam due by 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Friday, December 9</b>