

Syllabus **Honors Introduction to Social Psychology – PSYS 350**

Please expect changes to this syllabus. These changes will be announced in class.

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& by appointment

(Please include “Hon PSYS 350” in the subject line of all emails to me to help me respond to you more quickly.)

Department website: <http://www.wku.edu/psychological-sciences/index.php>

For differences between Psychological Sciences in College of Science and Engineering and Department of Psychology in College of Education see:

http://www.wku.edu/psychological-sciences/psych-sci-wku/psych-sci_and_psychology.php

Course Objectives

This course is an introduction to social psychology. This course provides familiarity with the major areas of study within Social Psychology, and the central questions or issues in each of these areas.

It is also a Connections course under the Colonnade Plan. It is designed to meet and exceed the requirements for learning objectives under the Colonnade Plan. In this course, we will:

1. Analyze the development of self in relation to others and society.
2. Examine diverse values that form civically engaged and informed members of society.
3. Evaluate solutions to real-world social and cultural problems.

More concretely, we will gain abilities to understand how the situations we are in cause us to think and act. Instead of seeing behavior as caused solely by a person’s personality, we will learn how the situation works in combination with personality to make people do the things that they do.

We also will practice using our new knowledge of social psychology to critically interpret and offer new perspectives on the world around us.

These new abilities will allow us new insight into the nature of our lives, and allow us a more accurate understanding of within and cross-cultural differences in behavior. Understanding the psychological principles at work behind behavior makes it obvious that we as humans share far more similarities than differences. It also helps to clarify how we can work with others, all over the world, to achieve the basic goals and needs that all people have.

One important goal of this course is to provide the opportunity to become better critical thinkers capable of uncommon insight into human behavior. I urge you to seize this opportunity, so you can better become the person you want to be.

This course addresses the following general education goals and objectives:

- Understand the major research methods used by social psychologists
- Understand and describe basic processes and common errors in perceiving self and others
- Understand and describe cultural differences in perception and social behavior
- Describe the psychological aspects of basic social problems such as prejudice, discrimination, and aggression as well as potential solutions to these problems
- Describe how differences pertaining to race, gender, social class, and other social groupings influence social behavior and perception

Textbook

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2015). *Social Psychology*, 4th ed., New York. W. W. Norton & Company.

The 3rd edition of this book also can be used.

In addition to the bookstore, these books are available online. There is also a link on our Blackboard website to an e-book version of the 4th edition from the publisher. For anyone who has not yet bought the book, I have put chapters 1-3 on our Blackboard website, so that you have the material you need to do well. I do not have another chapter that I can put online, so make sure to get your book!

Grades:

Our grades will be based on quizzes, online assignments, a final paper, and participation.

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7 Quizzes: 100 points each

InQuizitive Assignments: 550 total points

Weekly Blog Update: 140 total points (10 points per entry)

Final Paper: 100

Participation: 25 points

Total points are 1665 for the course.

Please look at the course schedule for due dates and times.

Quizzes:

We will have seven quizzes. Each will contain 30-50 multiple choice questions. The quizzes are not cumulative, other than requiring certain basic knowledge gained in earlier portions of the class (such as what is an independent variable, random assignment, or other basic knowledge about how this field works). That is, each quiz is over the material covered in class since the last quiz. Each quiz is worth 100 points toward your class grade.

Online Assignments:

We will be using the platform “InQuizitive”, which is an adaptive questioning tool that uses your existing knowledge to efficiently review course material for you. Completing our InQuizitive assignments will dramatically help your understanding of the course material, and equally dramatically help you succeed on our in-class quizzes. In addition to the learning benefits of this tool, you will receive a significant number of points toward your grade, a total of 550. By completing the InQuizitive assignments, you will enhance your knowledge and greatly improve your grade.

To access InQuizitive, go to our Blackboard website, and click on the “InQuizitive Link” on the left side of the page. Once you get there, sign up for an account. This should cost about \$20. Do not sign up for a trial account, as this will expire before the end of the semester. If you are prompted, when you can, also report your grade back to Blackboard (there may be some sort of prompt that asks you to click a button once you finish your assignments).

There will be InQuizitive Assignments covering most of the chapters we read. If you complete all of the InQuizitive Assignments, you will receive 550 points toward your grade in our class. If you complete fewer of the InQuizitive assignment points, say, 90% of the total InQuizitive assignment work, you will receive 90% of 550 points toward your grade in our class (this would be 495 points). The percentage of the total InQuizitive assignments you complete will determine what percentage of the 550 possible InQuizitive points you earn for our class.

Stated differently, InQuizitive gives you points on a different scale than used in our class (i.e. from 0-1500, on average), your total score for our class on all InQuizitive assignments will be the percentage score you earned on these assignments, multiplied by 550, which is the number of points possible for these assignments for our class. So if you earn 75% of the total InQuizitive Points possible, you will get 412.5 points toward your grade for this. (75% of 550 is 412.5). If this doesn't make sense, don't worry about it. If you complete all the assignments, you'll get all the points.

Please access InQuizitive only through the Blackboard link. Accessing it through other means will cause problems and keep you from having the points credited to your class grade. Because the grade for your InQuizitive assignments is based on the total percentage of these points earned, the InQuizitive Course score (out of 550) will appear in the gradebook only toward the very end of our course.

All of these activities are due by 11:59pm on the day indicated on our course schedule.

Weekly Blog Update:

Each week, starting the 2nd week of class, you will highlight 1 construct from the assigned chapter in our book that has played a part in your daily lives by posting a blog entry. More information will be provided on the Blackboard website.

Your grade will be based not only on your accurate explanation of the concept, but also on your ability to describe it in a real-world situation that demonstrates your understanding of the material. This assignment is designed to highlight the frequency with which the topics we discuss are relevant to each of you and your life experiences.

You will need to thoughtfully choose which topics to mention. For example, if you choose to write about a topic that most students have already heard of, e.g., stereotypes, do not simply state that being a member of a Greek organization has made people stereotype you. Rather, you could describe the attributes others assume you have, how they are generalized to every group member, and why that classification leads to feelings of deindividuation.

These analyses should be thoughtful, but brief. Feel free to use this assignment to explore how the content you learn in this course truly applies to you, especially since the outlet is virtual and informal.

Final Paper:

Due online **before** the last regular class period. The Final Paper should be submitted as an attached file, using Blackboard's "Safe Assign" feature.

Paper: In 1,400 words or less, please describe an incident relevant to social psychology that you experienced or witnessed. Indicate the number of words at the top of the paper.

After describing the incident you either witnessed or experienced, explain how four (4) of the course concepts you were exposed to (either in lecture or the book) have helped you better understand the social psychology of this incident. Make sure to clearly and **thoroughly** explain each concept before describing how it has helped your understanding of social psychology. Underline each concept. Cite your explanations of concepts using the format (Text, p. XX), or (Lecture, Date). Please do not attach a Title Page, Bibliography or Reference Page. This is unnecessary. Instead of quoting, paraphrase. For tips on paraphrasing, you can do a search on Google.com to find a site such as [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_paraphr.html]

Your grade will be heavily based on the clarity and completeness of your concept explanations, as well as how persuasively you show that the concepts have helped you better understand the incident. It also will be based on following these directions (i.e. word count, number of underlined concepts, explaining an incident).

Participation:

Come to class. You will do better because of it. While you're at it, ask questions and make comments. We have a big class, but we still have room for a degree of interactive dialogue on our course content. Participation points will be awarded at the end of the semester. In order to get them all, you should ask questions and share your perspectives in class.

In addition to your in-class participation, I may post assignments online that count toward your participation grade. Look in the announcements section of our Blackboard site for any announcements about these.

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By the 2nd week of class, please complete the plagiarism tutorial on the following site: <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/> This will be worth 5 of your 25 participation points. The remaining participation points will be awarded based on your participation and your completion of various short written assignments that I will intermittently give you.

Send our course assistant a copy of your certificate by the end of the 2nd week of class. This will count for the first 5 points of your participation grade.

Completion of Coursework

Any assignment that is missed will receive a zero.

Make-up assignments will not be given. An exception may be granted to a student who provides a validated excuse to me prior to the due date. If you realize that something may keep you from attending on the day an assignment is due, contact me immediately.

Incompletes will not be given. If you are unable to complete the course assignments, it is best for you to drop the course.

Please be on time for class, and especially on quiz days. If you arrive in class after the first person has finished with their quiz, I will be unable to allow you to take the quiz. I want you to succeed, so please don't be late!

RESIST!...the urge to send email, texts or tweets, check Facebook, read the news, or otherwise engage online via your computer or phone during class! Attentional capacity is a limited resource. It is a fact that dividing your attention this way will decrease your learning performance.

Do you want help with this course outside of class??

First, please come to office hours. Beyond this, if you want help with this class, or any other Gen Ed course, there are several places to go. The Learning Center, located in the Academic Advising and Retention Center, has tutors in most major undergraduate subjects and course levels throughout the week. They also can direct you to one of many tutoring and assistance centers across campus. To make an appointment, or request a tutor for a specific class, call 745-5065. Log on to TLC's website at <http://www.wku.edu/tlc> to find out more.

Academic Misconduct:

All work must be your own. Cheating or plagiarism will be reported through official university channels, and the consequences will be severe. Make sure not to plagiarize on your final paper. You'll fail the class.

Specific academic misconduct violations include academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism.

All exams in this course are to be taken (a) without the use of notes, books, or other additional materials, and (b) without the assistance of any other person or group. Use of electronic devices such as calculators, PDAs, cell phones, or audio devices during exams is not allowed.

You will receive a failing grade in the course if you engage in academic misconduct.

Do not discuss your work in this class with anyone before turning it in, and do not share your work with anyone who has not yet completed the assignment. You should not copy or steal others' work.

In general, to get something out of this course and to avoid any problems like those hinted at above, use your head. This means: pay attention in class, do the assigned readings, and study by thinking about course content as it relates to everyday life. Avoiding plagiarism is easy if you know how. Just paraphrase and cite your sources.

The quizzes, the exam, and the paper are designed for what you can do based on what we are covering in this class and the skills you have already learned. They assume you will do your own work.

Note: Although we will attempt to closely follow this syllabus, both the schedule and content of topics and assignments are subject to change based on the characteristics of our class. Any changes will be announced in class.

Disability Services

If you have a disability and would like to request accommodation, contact the Office for Student Disability Services. The phone number is 745-5004; TTY is 745-3030. If you have a disability, you legally are entitled to assistance if you want it. Make sure to contact the office for student disability services before talking to me—this is university policy.

Please know that I care about your success in this course, and I am here to help in any reasonable way that I can.

Last Modified 10/17/17

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at

<https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and

Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at

https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, [270-745-5398](tel:270-745-5398) or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, [270-745-5429](tel:270-745-5429) or Joshua Hayes, [270-745-5121](tel:270-745-5121).

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at [270-745-3159](tel:270-745-3159).