

PSYS 350: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Summer Sessions General Syllabus

(All information contained in this document and included in Blackboard is subject to changes.)

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Wichman

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Phone: 270-745-2443 (Office)

Blackboard: blackboard.wku.edu

Time Zone: *Central*

Textbook (Required)

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2013) *Social Psychology*, 3rd or 4th edition. New York, W.W. Norton and Company.

You also can get an electronic copy of the 4th edition of this this book through the publisher's website. The online version of this book is much cheaper than the paper version of the 4th edition, and you can get it instantly. Given the rapid pace of our course, this online version may meet your needs better than a paper version. The website is:

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/>

Additional Materials

I will place Powerpoint slides related to each chapter, as well as other materials, in folders in Blackboard. It is your responsibility to access the slides, articles, and related materials. Questions related to these materials are included on each exam.

COURSE INFORMATION

This course is a "Connections" course under the Colonnade general education requirements.

It is a general introduction to social psychology. Some of the things we will do include the following:

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.

Emphasis is given to the psychological components of common social behaviors, including the psychological aspects of contemporary social problems.

This course will further help you do the following:

- 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

Note of caution: Many students assume that an Internet course will be easier than a face-to-face class. **This is not the case with my class!** In order to do well in this class, you MUST be a self-regulated person who is able to organize and manage your time well. In addition to the quizzes/exams, students are required to complete the assignments, activities, and papers in order to pass the course. It is recommended that you devote some time and attention to the course *at least* 6 days a week. We will cover nearly 1 chapter each day in this 4 week course. How much time you spend each day is up to you, but allotting time each day will help you to stay on track and not fall behind. Those who fall behind at any point generally do not do as well because it can be very difficult to catch up. This is a pretty INTENSE course.

Please keep in mind that this is an upper-division course and that all course work is expected to be of high quality.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Honesty

You must follow all policies and regulations regarding academic offenses (dishonesty, plagiarism, etc.) as stated in the WKU student handbook. Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an automatic “F” for the entire course. *All assignments must be your own work.* The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software. Please contact me if you have any questions about citing sources appropriately.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at [270-745-5004](tel:270-745-5004) [[270-745-3030](tel:270-745-3030) TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Assignments and Due Dates

Due dates/times indicate the last point at which I will accept an assignment. **Assignments may always be submitted early (EARLY IS GOOD!). Late assignments will NOT be accepted.** Assignments should be posted to Blackboard in the designated areas. Links for assignments/activities will be disabled once the due date/time has expired. Once the link disappears, you will no longer have access to the activity/assignment.

Preparation of Written Assignments

Files must be MS Word documents (.doc or .docx extension), OR Rich Text Format (.rtf extension) OR Portable Document Format (.pdf extension). Other file types WILL NOT be accepted, as I will be unable to open them (i.e..wps, etc) depending on what computer I am working from. Papers/assignments posted by the due date, but in the wrong file format will have points deducted.

Final papers should be typed and double-spaced. Top, bottom, left and right margins should be one inch. Type size should be 12-point and a standard font should be used (i.e., Times New Roman or Arial). I will deduct points for incorrect formatting, so be sure to “double-check” this before submitting your final paper on Blackboard.

INTERNET POLICIES

This course is offered **entirely online** (Internet-based courses). It requires that you have reliable and regular access to the Internet. Most of the following points are common sense, but many of us haven't thought about them before, so let's make them explicit.

Privacy Matters

You are relatively protected by your course password but no one can guarantee privacy on-line. **Privacy for every student depends on the actions of each individual student—sharing your password with a friend is violating the privacy of your classmates. Please don't do it.**

Disclosure

The course software I use enables me to know who has logged in to Blackboard, where in the course site they have visited, and how long they have stayed. The technology support people have access to information posted at the site.

Students sometimes want to discuss their grade via e-mail. E-mail is *neither* secure *nor* private. The course software does provide a way for you to check your grade on-line. I am cautious in discussing it in detail via email. I can say some things. When I feel it is too much, I'll ask you for your number to call you. So ask what you need to ask. Just don't be surprised by a phone call. Likewise, if I haven't responded back through email within a day or so, please give me a call to follow up.

You are expected to represent your course identity in a truthful manner. Falsifying your identity is grounds for serious disciplinary action.

Make sure you have a back-up plan in place for Internet access if your main computer has troubles. Libraries usually offer a terminal for public use. WKU tends to do maintenance tasks on the weekends so we may experience periodic outages. Please check the WKU information technology website regularly to see if an outage is planned, and arrange your schedule so that the outage does not keep you from succeeding in our course. Consider also that wireless internet may be less reliable than hard-wire connection to a router/modem. If you have trouble connecting, you may want to use a physical, wire, connection for taking tests.

If you encounter computer-related/Internet problems, call the WKU Information Technology (IT) Help Desk (745-7000) for assistance.

Intellectual Property

Post only material that is yours by right of creation unless you give proper credit and indications. Don't copy text from the web. You'll fail the class.

Images, sounds and other multimedia are included in copyright law. However, ideas cannot be copyrighted, so you can share the most important part of a website as long as it is in your own words or interpretation. The laws protect what you produce as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Getting to Know Me

I am confident that we can find ways to effectively get to know one another, in spite of the online nature of this course. Please do not hesitate to call me or make arrangements to meet with me face-to-face if you would like. You are encouraged to contact me if you are having difficulty in the course. If you are struggling, worried, or confused, please do not wait until it is too late to do something about it. Also, you can contact me just to talk about your progress in the course; there does not have to be problem or concern in order for us to meet.

How to Address Me

My name is Aaron. You also can call me "Dr. Wichman".

Contacting the Instructor

First, we need to make sure that we are on the same page regarding time. Any times mentioned throughout the term are for the **Central Time Zone**.

You are encouraged to contact me by email (aaron.wichman@wku.edu). If you would like to talk on the phone or meet in person, we can arrange this by email.

You need to be able to use E-mail. Western (WKU) and Blackboard will assume you are using WKU email (webmail.wku.edu). I suggest that you immediately begin checking your WKU email account on a daily basis. Forwarding WKU mail to another email account is possible, but uncertain. **You remain responsible for any missed email.** E-mail is one good way to contact me if you need to engage in personal communication with me. For the most certain response when e-mailing me, in the subject line type "Psys 350" and then a brief description of the topic, e.g., "Psys 350: Paper Assignment." You are my top priority—IF I see your message. I can get over 80+ messages in a day but **I scan for the Psys 350 subject line, so don't forget it!** I generally respond quickly to e-mail. It is probably the fastest means of reaching me.

We're in this Together

Here's what I will do:

- I will check my e-mail at least once a day on weekdays and usually one of the weekend days. I will let you know if something comes up and I am less available than usual (e.g., meetings that take all day, traveling out of town for a conference).
- I will typically communicate with you through posted Announcements. I will answer your questions via phone, email, and face-to-face, if needed. I will answer your questions, so please don't hesitate to ask.
- I will prepare supplemental materials to illustrate the principles found in your text and post these for students to access.
- I will grade materials promptly. I will let you know if it will take me longer than the specified time period. For example, our written papers take me longer to grade.

Here's what you need to do:

- Learning comes from you working enough with the information to acquire understanding, not mere knowing. It takes work. Be prepared for this. I'm pleased to answer questions and facilitate your learning.
- Make sure to have the textbook chapter read before attempting to complete assignments or quizzes and exams. Each textbook chapter is PACKED full of information and every bit of the chapter is "fair game" on the quizzes/exams.
- After providing a few reminders through the first week of the term, I'll expect you to have a system for keeping track of activities, when assignments are due, paper due dates, etc. I will not send constant reminders, so use a good calendar/planner.
- Please tell me when you are confused. Because our course is an online course, I unfortunately won't know if you don't tell me.

COURSE COMPONENTS

Exams

There are **3 exams @ 100 points** each. The first 2 exams each cover five (5) chapters, posted slides/handouts, and other materials. The 3rd exam covers only 4 chapters. The exams are composed of *multiple choice, and T-F*. You have **90 minutes** to complete each exam, which includes approximately 100 questions. If you go over the time limit, I will subtract 2 points from your total test score for each minute you exceed the 90 min time limit. During the exam, do not consult your class materials.

Exam 1 will cover chapters 1-5; Invitation to Social Psychology, Methods of Social Psychology, the Social Self, Social Cognition, and Social Attribution

Exam 2 will cover chapters 6-10; Emotion, Attitudes, Persuasion, Social Influence, and Relationships and Attraction.

Exam 3 will cover chapters 11-14; Stereotyping/Prejudice, Groups, Aggression, and Altruism and Cooperation.

Since each exam is TIMED, it is imperative that you stay on top of the heavy load of reading and review any posted exam materials, well BEFORE taking the exam. As a general rule of thumb, try to spend less than 35 seconds on each question.

Once you begin the exam, you must finish it in the allotted **90 min** time. You cannot save the exam and go back to finish it later. If you submit the exam without finishing it, you will receive points only for those exam questions that you have answered.

Exams are NOT OPEN BOOK or NOTES. You are expected to do your own work and to take the exam without external guides.

NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. If there is an extreme emergency and you must miss an exam, I will take the average of your other exams, minus 20 points (You must take all other exams during the regularly scheduled times). Keep in mind that this is in the event of an **extreme emergency**, and providing a make-up exam is not fair to those who are ready on time and ready to take the test under common conditions (e.g., the same time). If you keep up all along, you'll be much better able to overcome a crisis.

Quizzes

There are 13 quizzes in our course. These cover most of the different chapters we will read. I recommend that you complete the quizzes on the chapters relevant to each exam before you complete the exam. That is, for Exam 1, have quizzes on chapters 1-5 completed before taking the exam; for Exam 2, have quizzes on chapters 6-10 completed before taking the exam, etc. You can complete the quizzes at any time before the end of our summer term class. Unlike our exams, the quizzes are open note and open book, and are designed to allow you get practice with the course material before our weekly exams. You have an unlimited number of attempts to complete the quizzes. If you don't like your score the first time you take the quiz, you can take the quiz again. If you apply yourself, you should be able to get 100% on the quizzes. Some of the quiz questions may appear on our weekly exams, although they may not. Please remember that this is on the quizzes. On the exams, you get only one chance to take them, and that's the grade that counts.

Writing Assignment

Written assignments will be checked for plagiarism using the original source and plagiarism detection software. Students usually run into problems when trying to use web sources where they copy and paste the exact words and do not use quotation marks and proper citation of the source. When questioned about this, a typical response is that "the author said it much better than I could." Just remember that you are doing the paper to learn how to express yourself, not show me how well you can copy. Always paraphrase-- Rephrase any ideas into your own words. You can do it.

FINAL PAPER ASSIGNMENT:

DUE the last day of class, by 11:59 pm.

In 1,400 words or less, please describe an incident relevant to *social psychology* that you experienced or witnessed.

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 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

(Powerpoint, Topic). 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).

COURSE EVALUATION

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| Exams (3 exams @ 100 points each) | 300 |
| Daily Quizzes (13 quizzes @ 10 points each) | 130 |
| (you have an unlimited number of attempts to complete each quiz, and each quiz is open book. These quizzes are designed to help you practice your understanding and prepare for the weekly exams.) | |
| Final Paper Assignment | 150 |

Total Points Possible **580**

(The point distribution above is subject to changes)

Note of Caution: Please consider the online Gradebook a courtesy, subject to errors. If you see something that doesn’t make sense, please alert me ASAP so that I can make any necessary corrections.

Be sure to keep copies of all assignments, papers, etc. until the session has ended and final grades have been posted.

Please check Blackboard regularly for any changes to this document.
Last updated: 05/09/18

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).

