

**Social Psychology
PSY 350, Sections 750
Course Syllabus Spring 2021**

Course Information: PSY 350-750 CRN-35252

Class Location and Time: Web instruction

This is a fully online course. All course material will be uploaded onto Blackboard, the course website.

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Office Hours: MW 1:00PM-3:00PM, TR 8:00AM-11:00AM, and also available other times by appointment

All office meetings will be held virtually. Meetings will be set up with WKU's Zoom Video Conferencing services. Please email me beforehand and schedule an appointment with me.

Course Description: This course is designed to provide students with a general introduction to social psychology for both psychology majors and non-majors. In this course we will discuss the psychology of how people think about and relate to others. Topics covered in this course include love, altruism, aggression, conformity, behavior in groups, leadership, intergroup conflict, prejudice, persuasion, and more. Course material will be facilitated through lectures, discussions, in-class demonstrations, and invited guest speakers.

Required Text: Myers, D. G., & Twenge, J. M. (2019). *Social Psychology* (13th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 9781260085280

Additional required readings will be provided on Blackboard: <https://blackboard.wku.edu/>.

Course Goals: I designed this course understanding that I will be teaching a group of students with a variety of interests, including exercise science, history, mathematics, philosophy, and nursing, in addition to psychology. Therefore, I incorporated general skills that I believe will help students from any discipline, as well as more specific information that may interest future psychology majors. In particular, I hope that all students will leave this course able to efficiently manage time; effectively prepare for class and study for exams; think critically about social psychology; converse meaningfully about concepts in social psychology; and relate social psychological theories to the real world.

Course Expectations: Research suggests that students who have clear expectations about a course will feel more comfortable and learn more. With this in mind, here are some of the course-wide expectations:

It is important that you prepare, read, and study for this course. I strongly recommend that you read ahead on weekends and/or review previous lessons. You will be glad you did this when you begin having exams (not just in this class, but in other classes too). All material covered in class is testable! This includes textbook readings, additional readings, and any video uploads. Research demonstrates that actively writing down (more so than typing) material makes it easier to recall later.

I will use video uploads to expand on selected topics, and to challenge you intellectually. In video uploads, I will lecture on, discuss, and demonstrate topics in the book as well as outside the book. I will assign occasional outside readings as well. This means that you are responsible for more material than is covered in class. I will not teach straight out of the book, but will use the text as a guide.

Web Classroom Behavior: Students are expected to behave appropriately and professionally in this web class. Please keep track of exams and assignment due dates.

Students are also expected to treat all persons in the classroom with respect. In this class in particular, we will discuss many issues in social psychology. As a result, it is likely that students in this class will encounter various perspectives and opinions about certain topics from individuals during class discussions. Such individuals include other students, the instructor, and guest speakers. While it is expected that students will not necessarily agree with opinions of other students, faculty, and guest speakers regarding the topics in this course, it is expected that students will be respectful during all interactions with persons in the classroom. Please keep in mind that people come from all walks of life, and it is important that we, as a classroom, create a learning environment that nurtures this diversity.

Online Class Etiquette: While this is an online class, it is important that you keep track of all due dates for exams and assignments. It is also important that you communicate with the instructor regarding any questions that you may have regarding the course.

Email Etiquette: When emailing the instructor, please put the course and course section in the subject line (e.g., PSY 350-750).

Course Breakdown: Below you will find a break-down of the assignments in this course along with the points and percentage of your final grade they account for.

Assignments	Points	Percentage
Exams (4)	200 (50 each)	50%
Assignments (10)	100 (10 each)	25%
Paper	100	25%
Total	400	100%

Exams: Four exams (that includes the final exam) will be given throughout this course. Exams will be online and will be posted on the course website. Exams will be held on Fridays and are scheduled on the Course Outline. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice and true/false

questions. Exam questions will not require simple regurgitation of definitions, but will require higher order applications of information covered in the readings, class, demonstrations, and in-class activities. To help you prepare, I encourage you to ask questions during class and/or office hours about any material that you are having difficulty with. We will also have in-class reviews the class period before the exam period. That is your time to come to class with questions. Exams will not be cumulative; rather each will cover material from the text in addition to any supplemental readings, lecture material, discussion topics, or demonstrations covered since the previous exam. The exams will account for 50% of your final grade.

While, we will not hold a class meeting during the time of the exam, the exam must be started and completed during the scheduled time, Friday 8:00AM-5:00PM. All exams must be completed on the scheduled Friday listed on the Course Outline. You may not use your notes, textbook, peers, and/or search engine during an exam. Your answers should reflect your own knowledge. Exams will be limited to the 50 minute time frame. As a result, referring to your notes, textbook, etc. will likely consume too much time and keep you from completing the exam within the 50 minute time limit.

Assignments: Ten assignments will be given throughout the course. Assignments will be posted on the course website. Assignments are assigned on Friday class periods and are scheduled on the Course Outline. Assignments are due by 5:00PM on the scheduled Friday. Assignments will comprise of critical thinking questions based on the readings in the textbook. Assignments can be in the format of group assignments, multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and/or essay questions. You will receive feedback from the instructor and/or the graduate assistant regarding your grade for each assignment. Assignments cannot be made-up. You must complete the assignments during the allotted class time. Assignments will account for 25% of your grade.

Paper: For this course you will write a paper on a theory in social psychology and how it applies to a profession/discipline that you are passionate about. Throughout the course, we will discuss various social psychological theories, and you may choose any theory in social psychology to write about for your paper. You may choose a theory that we have already discussed in class or you may choose a theory that we have not mentioned in class. You must choose a theory that is discussed in the text and/or lecture. However, you are free to choose the discipline/topic in which you would like to apply that theory (e.g., nursing, athletic training, study habits, etc.). The goal of this assignment is to help you think critically and see how social psychology is important to your life and future goals. This assignment is also designed to be meaningful and assist you with your academic endeavors and professional goals. The due date for the paper is scheduled on the Course Outline. The paper will be graded according to a 'Paper Rubric' posted on Blackboard. The paper will account for 25% of your grade.

Calculating Your Final Grade: In order to find out your course grade, simply add up your total points earned on all assignments and divide by the total points possible (400). Then multiply that by 100. For example, if you have 350 points, then $350/400 = .875$. $.875 \times 100 = 87.5$; thus, your course grade is an 87.50%. Additionally, you will find the grading scale (see below) that I will use when computing your final grade. Grades will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading Scale: Information on current Western Kentucky University policies for assigning grade points can be found at http://www.wku.edu/advising/current_standing.php.

Letter Grade	Points	Percentage
A	360-400	90-100%
B	320-359	80-89%
C	280-319	70-79%
D	240-279	60-69%
F	0-239	59% and below

Make-Up Exams: I will allow make-up exams if you are for some reason unable to attend the scheduled exam. If you need to make-up an exam, I need you to let me know before the scheduled exam and take the make-up before the rest of the class takes the regularly scheduled exam. If you are not available during my office hours (see above), we may schedule an alternative time for make-up exams. The exception to this rule is the final exam, which all students must take at the scheduled time during finals week.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will not be taken in class. With that said, students who regularly attend class perform better than students who do not. Additionally, there will be in-class activities in class that students cannot make-up outside of class.

Course Incompletes: Incomplete (I) grades will not be assigned without preapproval by the instructor. The instructor will only approve incompletes in extreme circumstances. Students receiving permission to take an incomplete will be required to adhere to a contract, devised by the student and instructor, specifying required assignments and due dates. All incomplete work must be completed by Week 12 of the following semester to avoid the incomplete converting to an F.

Academic Honesty Policy: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be required to meet with the instructor and may be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs in order to determine the consequences of the student's actions. Details on the university's academic dishonesty procedures can be found at <http://www.wku.edu/judicialaffairs/process-for-academicdishonesty.php>.

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 [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.

Title IX: Western Kentucky University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, age, uniformed services, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, or physical or mental disability in admission to career and

technical education programs and/or activities, or employment practices in accordance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Revised 1992, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Information regarding WKU's Title IX compliance, policies, and procedures may be found on the following websites: <https://www.wku.edu/eoo/titleix/> and <https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/titlenine.php>.

Health and Safety: Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with the [CDC guidelines](#), the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations to face coverings must be determined by the Student Accessibility Resource Center and documented before a student may attend class.

Course Outline:

**Schedule is subject to change with notice

Week	Date		Topic/Readings	Assignment/Due
1	M	1/18	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day – no class</i>	
	W	1/20	Syllabus and Course Overview	
	F	1/22	Chapter 1: Introduction	Assignment #1
2	M	1/25	Chapter 1: Introduction	
	W	1/27	History of Social Psychology Assigned Reading: Simply Psychology article – History of Social Psychology (2007)	
	F	1/29	History of Social Psychology	Assignment #2
3	M	2/1	Chapter 2: The Self in a Social World	
	W	2/3	Chapter 2: The Self in a Social World	
	F	2/5	Chapter 2: The Self in a Social World	Assignment #3
4	M	2/8	Chapter 3: Social Beliefs and Judgments	
	W	2/10	Chapter 3: Social Beliefs and Judgments	Review
	F	2/12	Exam 1	
5	M	2/15	Chapter 4: Behavior and Attitudes	
	W	2/17	Chapter 4: Behavior and Attitudes	
	F	2/19	Chapter 4: Behavior and Attitudes	Assignment #4
6	M	2/22	Chapter 5: Genes, Culture, and Gender	
	W	2/24	Chapter 5: Genes, Culture, and Gender	
	F	2/26	Chapter 5: Genes, Culture, and Gender	Assignment #5
7	M	3/1	Chapter 6: Conformity and Obedience	
	W	3/3	Chapter 6: Conformity and Obedience	
	F	3/5	Chapter 6: Conformity and Obedience	Assignment #6
8	M	3/8	Chapter 10: Aggression	
	W	3/10	Chapter 10: Aggression	Review
	F	3/12	Exam 2	
9	M	3/15	Chapter 7: Persuasion	

	W	3/17	Chapter 7: Persuasion Assigned Reading: The New York Times article – The Psychology of the Cult Experience (1982)	
	F	3/19	Chapter 7: Persuasion	Assignment #7
10	M	3/22	Chapter 7: Persuasion	
	W	3/24	Chapter 7: Persuasion	
	F	3/26	<i>No class</i>	
11	M	3/29	Chapter 8: Group Influence	
	W	3/31	Chapter 8: Group Influence	
	F	4/2	Chapter 8: Group Influence	Assignment #8 Paper due
12	M	4/5	Chapter 9: Prejudice	
	W	4/7	Chapter 9: Prejudice	Review
	F	4/9	Exam 3	
13	M	4/12	Chapter 11: Attraction and Intimacy	
	W	4/14	Chapter 11: Attraction and Intimacy	
	F	4/16	Chapter 11: Attraction and Intimacy	Assignment #9
14	M	4/19	Chapter 12: Helping	
	W	4/21	Chapter 12: Helping	Review
	F	4/23	Chapter 12: Helping	Assignment #10
15	M	4/26	Exam 4 – Final Exam completed between 8:00AM-5:00PM	

	No class / no assignment due
	No in-class instruction / synchronous assignment due