

## Social psychology (PSY 350):

**Professor:** Dr. Sarah Beth Bell, Social Psychologist

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**Class structure:** synchronous and asynchronous distance learning hybrid – we will meet on zoom every Wednesday from 10:20AM-11:15AM

**Office hours:** by appointment to better accommodate student schedules. E-mail me and I will gladly arrange a time to meet with you.



## Course catalog description:

A general introduction to social psychology for majors and non-majors in psychology. The psychology of how people think about and relate to others. Topics include love, altruism, aggression, conformity, behavior in groups, leadership, intergroup conflict, prejudice, and persuasion.

## General class structure:

This class has five units. Each unit is about three weeks long. We will meet on zoom every Wednesday as well as optionally the Monday before each test. **All Wednesday zoom sessions are from 10:20AM-11:15AM.** *On the first day of class, we will determine two (or more) different times review sessions will be held on the Monday before the test that all class members can attend.* The exact schedule of when you need to be in class and what you need to do to prepare is at the bottom of this syllabus. Below is the general structure for each of the five units.

Wednesday first week zoom	Listen to lecture A beforehand In class activity
Wednesday second week zoom	Listen to lecture B beforehand In class activity
Monday third week zoom (optional)	Listen to lecture C beforehand (regardless of if you are coming) Complete optional test review packet beforehand In class test review
Wednesday third week zoom test	The test is during class, and it is a timed multiple choice test.
Friday third week short paper	A two page double spaced short paper on the unit is due. The prompt is on Blackboard.

## Your grade:

The tests make up 35% of your grade (7% each). The short papers make up 35% of your grade (also 7% each). The group in class activities make up 30% of your grade (3% each). If you attend an optional review session for a unit, you will receive three points of extra credit on that unit's test.

Five tests	35%
Five short papers	35%
In class activities	30%

### **Lectures:**

**Before each class, you will usually listen to one lecture.** They are on PowerPoint and 30 minutes to an hour long each. Please note that they have audio. **It is essential to listen to the audio**, as that is where the vast majority of the test questions come from. There is not much text on the slides.

**It is very important to take notes while you listen to the audio.** This is for two reasons: the test is open note so you will be able to refer to these notes, and taking notes should result in you only needing to listen to the lecture one time to master the material.

### **In class group activities:**

**In the first two Wednesdays of the unit, we will meet on zoom for a group in class activity.** These make up your in class activities grade for this class, and they are generally participation grades. Many activities will be small group, and then we will reconvene as a whole class to discuss. You will have the same small group throughout this class.

### **Short papers:**

**Each unit will have a short paper that should be two pages double spaced** (about 500-750 words). The prompts are on Blackboard. The papers should draw from lecture content. They will encourage you to think more deeply about the topics we are learning about. They are due the Friday after each test.

### **Multiple choice tests:**

**Instead of having 2 or 3 major exams and multiple quizzes, this class has 5 tests.** The tests cover less than a typical exam would since there are five of them. I hope this makes you feel less stressed as a student. There is no cumulative exam at the end of this course. Each test is only on the material covered in the current unit.

**These tests occur about every three weeks on a Wednesday during class at 10:20AM.** The tests are synchronous and timed. If you haven't fully absorbed the content, you will be exceptionally lucky if you find enough time to search for all of the answers. There are 25 questions that you must complete in 30 minutes. Please keep in mind that I have been doing timed tests with similar timing throughout my teaching career, and have found this time limit to be appropriate for this type of test. **You cannot take extra time unless you have an ADA accommodation you have discussed with me at least a week in advance.** To promote fairness, the average test grade for the class will never be lower than an 85. If the class average is less than 85, I will curve the test so the class average is moved up to 85.

### **Optional review packets:**

Each test has an optional review packet. If you can't figure out an answer to a question on the optional review packet, or have confusion about any of the questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me! I would be more than happy to help. On the optional review days, we can also talk about questions you may have.

### **Discussion board:**

**This class does not have a discussion board.** I have received a lot of feedback that many students do not feel they get much out of discussion boards, so we will focus on other learning metrics.

### **Finals:**

**There are no finals or term papers in this class.** Pedagogy research has informed my teaching philosophy of discrete units and papers as opposed to finals. It should help you better understand what you are learning from a critical and nuanced viewpoint. I hope it's less stressful, too.

### **Textbook:**

**You do not need to buy a textbook for this course.** Everything you need for this class is free. My lectures draw from the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of *Social Psychology* by David Myers and Jean Twenge as well as from primary source literature we will discuss in class.

### **Blackboard:**

The lectures, tests, and materials for this class are all on our course's BlackBoard site. More information on how to access and navigate BlackBoard can be found here: <https://www.wku.edu/citl/services/tools/blackboard.php>. If you are having any issues figuring out how to navigate BlackBoard, e-mail me and I will help you until it makes sense to you.

### **Make up work:**

If you are sick or experiencing a major life event, you may be eligible to extend a deadline. However, you must discuss this need with me on the front end. To be fair to everyone, I do not allow make up work that was not discussed two days before the deadline except in cases of emergencies.

### **Disability statement:**

A student with a disability may have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as learning, seeing, hearing, or mental health. WKU requires students who need accommodations for this course to contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center ([sarc.connect@wku.edu](mailto:sarc.connect@wku.edu)). Please note that pregnancy can be considered to be a disabling event if accommodations are needed.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism of any form, accidental or intentional, can result in failing the class. WKU's definition of plagiarism can be found at <https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php>. "I did not know that was considered plagiarism" is not an acceptable defense for plagiarizing. **Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are not permitted for any type of work in this class.** If you choose to use these tools, your actions will be considered academically dishonest and a violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct. If there is undoubtable proof that you used these tools, you will receive an

automatic zero on the assignment. I encourage you to reach out to me if you are having trouble weaving together a paper so I can provide guidance to help you succeed without relying on AI.

### **Inclusivity and recognition of the unique life circumstances of each student:**

In this class, we recognize and value the individual life circumstances of each student. Students vary in age, parental status, potential work responsibilities, financial situations, identities, family educational backgrounds, and other important dimensions that makes the day-to-day life of each student different. If there is something about how this class is structured that is difficult for your individual life circumstances, please contact me, sooner rather than later, so we can determine whether or not we can think of a creative and fair way to work with your situation so you can have an equal chance in succeeding in this class.



*You belong.*  
WKU black student alliance:  
[https://www.instagram.com/bsa\\_wku/](https://www.instagram.com/bsa_wku/)  
WKU pride center:  
<https://www.wku.edu/isec/pride/>

## Course calendar

### Unit 1: Introduction to social psychology, attitudes & judgment, and the self

#### Wednesday, 8/21:

In class: syllabus

In class: activity on intro to social psychology

#### Wednesday, 8/28:

Before class: Listen to unit 1A lecture that introduces social psychology and lecture 1B about attitudes & judgments, and make sure to take notes

In class: activity about attitudes and judgment

#### Monday, 9/2: optional review *recording available*

*\*9/2 is Labor Day, and the university is closed. Instead of zoom optional review sessions, I will release a video that reviews the unit.*

Before watching the review session recording: Listen to unit 1C lecture on the self and take notes. It is also recommended to complete the optional review packet for test.

#### Wednesday, 9/4—Unit 1 test:

Before class: study lecture notes and optional review packet

In class: Unit one multiple choice timed test

#### Due Friday, 9/6 at 11:59PM:

Unit one short paper due

### Unit 2: Conformity and obedience, persuasion, and genes, gender, & culture

#### Wednesday, 9/11:

Before class: listen to lecture 2A on conformity and obedience and take notes

In class: activity on conformity and obedience

#### Wednesday, 9/18:

Before class: listen to lecture 2B about persuasion and take notes

In class: activity on persuasion

#### Monday, 9/23 optional review sessions

Before review session: Listen to unit 2C lecture on genes, gender, and culture and take notes (regardless of if you are coming to the review session)

Before review session: It is recommended to complete optional review packet for test

In session: Unit two test review

#### Wednesday, 9/25—Unit 2 test:

Before class: study lecture notes and optional review packet

In class: Unit two multiple choice timed test

#### Due Friday, 9/27 at 11:59PM:

Unit two short paper due

### Unit 3: Prejudice, aggressive behavior, and group dynamics

#### Wednesday, 10/2:

Before class: listen to lecture 3A on prejudice and take notes

In class: activity on prejudice

#### Wednesday, 10/9:

Before class: listen to lecture 3B about aggressive behavior and take notes

In class: activity on aggressive behavior

**Monday, 10/14 optional review session:**

Before review session: Listen to unit 3C lecture on group dynamics and take notes (regardless of if you are coming to the review session)

Before review session: It is recommended to complete optional review packet for test

In session: Unit three test review

**Wednesday, 10/16—Unit 3 test:**

Before class: study lecture notes and optional review packet

In class: Unit three multiple choice timed test

**Due Friday, 10/18 at 11:59PM:**

Unit three short paper due

**Unit 4: Romantic attraction, altruism, and conflict & peace****Wednesday, 10/23:**

Before class: listen to lecture 4A on romantic attraction and take notes

In class: activity on romantic attraction

**Wednesday, 10/30:**

Before class: listen to lecture 4B about altruism and take notes

In class: activity on altruism

**Monday, 11/4 optional review session:**

Before review session: Listen to unit 4C lecture on conflict & peace and take notes (regardless of if you are coming to the review session)

Before review session: It is recommended to complete optional review packet for test

In session: Unit four test review

**Wednesday, 11/6—Unit 4 test:**

Before class: study lecture notes and optional review packet

In class: Unit four multiple choice timed test

**Due Friday, 11/8 at 11:59PM:**

Unit four short paper

**Unit 5: Psychology & the legal system and sustainability (short unit)****Wednesday, 11/13:**

Before class: listen to lecture 5A on psychology & the legal system and take notes

In class: activity on psychology & the legal system

**Monday, 11/18 optional review session:**

Before review session: Listen to unit 5B lecture on sustainability and take notes (regardless of if you are coming to the review session)

Before review session: It is recommended to complete optional review packet for test

In session: Unit five test review

**Wednesday, 11/20—Unit 5 test:**

Before class: study lecture notes and optional review packet

In class: Unit five multiple choice timed test

**Due Friday, 11/22 at 11:59PM:**

Unit five short paper