

PSY 350: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
WKU On-Demand: Independent Learning

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Wichman

Office: Kelly Thompson Hall, 1026

Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 Central Time, also by appointment; also available for face-to-face, video conference and telephone meetings

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Phone: 270-745-2443 (Office)

Blackboard: blackboard.wku.edu

Time Zone: *Central*

When you begin our course, please complete the first portion of the “Introductory and Finishing Assignment” on p. 4 for your first grade, and so that I know you’re enrolled.

Textbook (Required)

Please use the 3rd edition or newer of

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

ISBN: 978-0-393-91323-1

You also can get an electronic copy of this book through the publisher’s website. The online version of this book is much cheaper than the paper version, and you can get it instantly.

Additional Materials (Required)

Powerpoint slides related to each chapter, as well as other materials, are in folders in Blackboard. Questions related to these materials are included on each exam.

COURSE INFORMATION

Prerequisite: *Sophomore standing*. This course is a general introduction to social psychology for majors and non-majors. Emphasis is given to the psychological components of common social behaviors including the psychological aspects of contemporary social problems.

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

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

Suggested Course Schedule:

When you begin the course, please work through the chapters in order, completing each quiz after working through the relevant chapter. The first exam covers chapters 1-5. Before taking this exam, please work through the exam review sheet (posted under Syllabus and Exam Review Sheets). The second exam covers chapters 6-10, and likewise has an exam review sheet that you can use to help you prepare. The third exam is set up the same way. None of the exams are designed to be cumulative, although there are certain concepts that are so basic to understanding social psychology that they may re-appear from exam to exam. After completing the quizzes and exams, please complete the final paper, which is described under the Exams & Final Paper link on the left of your screen.

Throughout this course, I am here to answer questions and provide advice as needed. Please let me know what questions you have. I want to help you with your success.

Additional information follows in the rest of this syllabus.

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 Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center, A-200. The phone number is (270)745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

INTERNET POLICIES

This course is offered **entirely online**. 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.

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.

If you encounter computer-related/Internet problems, call the WKU Information Technology (IT) Help Desk ((270) 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 and pretend it is your own work. You'll fail the class.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please 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 "Independent Learning Psy 350" and then a brief description of the topic, e.g., "Independent Learning Psy 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 Independent Learning Psy 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 answer your questions via, email, phone, face-to-face, carrier pigeon, or any method that you prefer. I will answer your questions, so please don't hesitate to ask.

- I will grade most materials within 5-7 days after they are turned in.

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.
- 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

Introductory and Finishing Assignment

When you begin the class, send me an email (aaron.wichman@wku.edu) telling me that you've begun the course, and how you hope that this course may be useful to you. I'd like to see what you think about the course, and what you, personally, would like to accomplish with it.

When you finish the class, please send me an email telling me if and how you feel your course participation has been useful to you. Did you accomplish what you wanted to accomplish?

Quizzes

There are 15 quizzes in our course. 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 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 exams, although they may not. Please remember that you have multiple chances to take *only the quizzes*. On the exams, you get only one chance to take them, and that's the grade that counts.

Exams

There are **3 exams @ 100 points** each. The exams each cover five (5) chapters, posted slides/handouts, and other materials. The exams are composed of *multiple choice, and T-F*. You have **2 hours** 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 2 hour time limit. During the exam, do not consult your class materials.

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.

Once you begin the exam, you must finish it in the allotted **2 hour** 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.

If you are not satisfied with your grade for either exam 1 or exam 2, you may retake a different version of the test. You can only do this one time (i.e. either for exam 1 or exam 2). If you choose to retake one of the first 2 exams, your retake grade will replace your original exam grade, whether the retake grade is higher or lower than your original grade. Any re-take must take place before exam 3 is completed.

Exam 3 must be taken using Respondus Lockdown Browser, which is available through Blackbaord to download.

Writing Assignment to be completed in parts during course.

The overall goal of this assignment is to learn to apply what you are learning to the world around you, and to practice using your knowledge to make sense of things in life that might otherwise not make sense.

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, 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).

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. Always paraphrase-- Rephrase any ideas into your own words.

This assignment should be completed in 3 parts. First, complete a paper outline and submit it via the outline submission link. Second, complete a draft, and submit it for feedback. Third and finally, submit your final paper for the final grade.

COURSE EVALUATION

Introductory and Finishing Assignment	50
Exams (3 exams @ 100 points each)	300
Quizzes (15 quizzes @ 10 points each)	150
(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 points total)	
Outline:	25
First Draft:	50
Final Draft:	75

Total Points Possible **650**

Letter grades are based on what percentage of the 650 points that you earn.

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 class has ended and final grades have been posted.

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