



PSY-350-700 – Social Psychology--- Fall 2025

Instructor Information

Dr. Jodi McKnight

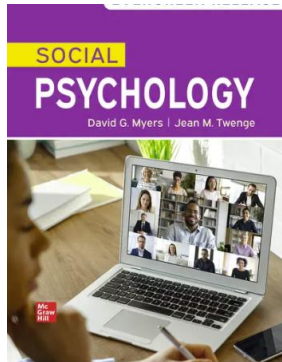
Email: jodi.mcknight@wku.edu

Office: Online

Phone: 812-773-7017 (No calls after 7:00 p.m. CST)

Course Information

Required Text: **Textbook edition has just changed, and will now be through the Big Red Backpack Program at the WKU Bookstore. Contact Bookstore for more information.



Myers, D.G., and Twenge, J.M. (2025). *Social psychology, 15th ed.* McGraw-Hill Higher Education. ISBN Connect: 9781265025274

Students may choose which format works best for them, however the assignments and exams will be completed through McGraw-Hill Connect. Contact your Bookstore about this textbook.

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Requirement: A Sophomore Standing.

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. Old GEN ED C/SB.

Course Content Discipline:

PSYCHOLOGY

This course is in alignment with the [General Education Goals & Objectives](http://www.wku.edu/gened/goals_and_objectives.php)
http://www.wku.edu/gened/goals_and_objectives.php.

Course Objectives & Overview:

Upon completion of this course, the student shall be able to:	How the student will develop the learning outcomes	How the student will be assessed on these learning outcomes
1. Use critical and logical thinking of the introductory concepts of social psychology.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.
2. Demonstrate a proficiency in reading, writing and speaking in regard to assessing social psychological situations.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.
3. Apply the ability to understand basic statistical skills and concepts of psychological research through the use of the scientific method.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.
4. Develop an informed acquaintance with the major achievements of social psychological historical figures and how they've influenced today's field.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.
5. Apply cultural contributions to social perception, cognition, the understanding of self, attitudes, conformity and group processes.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.
6. Explain and apply an understanding of society and human behavior of the person and its social environment.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.

Student Disability Services

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center A-200. The phone number is 270-745-5004; TTY is 270-745-3030. Per university policy, please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the OFSDS.

1. [Student Disability Services](http://www.wku.edu/sds/) (<http://www.wku.edu/sds/>) provides services to students with disabilities: [WKU's policy](http://www.wku.edu/eoo/section508/pnlsection508.php) on web accessibility is located at (<http://www.wku.edu/eoo/section508/pnlsection508.php>). For more at the same website select ADA Services from the top menu and choose Policy and Procedure.
2. The [Counseling & Testing Center](http://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/) provides counseling for students face-to-face: (<http://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/>) but also their Outreach Services offers a "Here to Help" Web form where you can ask questions online and have them answered. They also have a 24-hour Help Line for emergencies: 270- 843-4357

ADA Accommodation Statement

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.

Inclusion Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to ensuring all members of our campus community have access to equitable and inclusive learning, working, and living environments. At the heart of our mission, we seek to provide holistic education and employment experiences that prepare students, faculty, and staff to become effective scholars, contributors, and leaders in our diverse and evolving communities. Consistent with our campus purpose statement and creed, this classroom will be a respectful space, welcoming all sexes, races, ages, national origins, ethnicities, gender identities/labels/expressions, intellectual and physical abilities, sexual orientations, faith/non-faith perspectives, income levels, and socio-economic classes, political ideologies, educational backgrounds, primary languages, family statuses, military experiences, cognitive styles, and communication styles. If at any time during this course you are excluded or feel a sense of alienation from the course content, please feel free to contact me privately without fear of reprisal.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

The history of our community and land gives us the opportunity to recognize, respect, and appreciate our place within that history. Western Kentucky University (WKU) honors and acknowledges the Indigenous peoples' land on which this University was built. All land in the state of Kentucky was once Indigenous territory, which is why it is our duty to acknowledge that WKU exists on Native land. This particular region of Kentucky was home to both the Shawnee (Shawandasse Tula) and Cherokee East (CWJᏊᏊᏊ Tsalaguweti) tribes.

We also honor and acknowledge the former residents of Jonesville. According to the [Jonesville History Project](#), "Jonesville was a predominantly African American community in Bowling Green, Kentucky, that was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the expansion of the WKU campus. This incident echoed a pattern across the country where the power of eminent domain was utilized to seize property from minority communities for large public works projects under the guise of urban revitalization."

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). 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 Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 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.



Sexual Assault Resources

REGULAR AND SUBSTANTIVE INTERACTION (ONLINE COURSES ONLY)

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the [Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage](#).

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Description of RSI activity, and
- Description of RSI activity.

Example:

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the [Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage](#).

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Weekly synchronous sessions with faculty and students,
- Faculty participation in weekly discussion boards,
- Weekly announcements, and
- Timely and detailed feedback on assignments provided within one week of submission.

Note: Your activities may look different from these as they are used solely for the purpose of this example.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW



[Academic Integrity](#)



[Student Code
of Conduct](#)



[Student Handbook](#)



[Student Resource
Portal](#)



[Blackboard Student
Mobile Applications](#)

IF ISSUES ARISE



Student Complaint
Procedures



Student Grievance
Procedures



Student Ombuds



Student Legal
Services

BE PREPARED - KNOW WHERE TO GO



All Gender
Restroom



Safe Space



WKU Emergency
Preparedness



Active Shooter
Preparedness



WKU Police



Counseling and
Testing



Food Security



Center for Literacy

Attendance & Participation

For the online class, students must complete a “task” each week during the semester. This may take the form of an online discussion posting and response, a critical thinking assignment, or an exam. Students who do not log in and complete a task during the scheduled week will be recorded as absent.

Policies related to attendance are available in the Undergraduate Catalog under Academic Information/University Attendance Policy. This includes issues like enrollment, excessive absenteeism, absences that may be justifiable, and dropping for non-attendance during the first week of classes.

http://www.wku.edu/undergraduatecatalog/documents/academic_information.pdf

Grading

There will be 16 weeks of coursework in the online environment. The assignments will be a combination of online discussion forums in which the student is responsible for initiating a thoughtful and substantive

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discussion post, as well as responding to 2 other students, critical thinking writing assignments, and 4 online exams.

Item Description	Point Value
Exams (4 @ 60 points each)	240
Discussions (7 @ 20 points each)	140
Writing Assignments (4 @ 100 points each)	400
Total value:	780 points

Grades will be distributed **STRICTLY** based on the following scale:

Letter Grade:	Point Distribution:
A	702-780
B	624-701
C	546-623
D	468-545
F	0-467

Email

Email is not answered on a 24/7 timeframe; rather, it is answered during standard business hours only. Most emails are answered with 24 hours, except on weekends. Additionally, it is answered in the order it is received. Please do not wait to the last minute to make requests or ask questions via email, as they may not be answered according to your time constraints. Email messages not composed in a professional manner (proper capitalization, punctuation, format, etc.) will be deleted without response.

Assignments

All work is due by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on the day assigned on the course syllabus. All coursework (except the final projects in the course) will be due on Sundays throughout the term. Any items not submitted prior to the due date will not be accepted. No late assignments will be accepted in the course without prior approval. Waiting until the last minute is **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED**. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this policy. Please review the guidelines and grading rubric for critical thinking assignments under the course link for information.

****Assignments listed below are subject to change due to the textbook edition update. Please check back later.**

Course Schedule

Week 1 8/18-24	1	Introducing Social Psychology Week 1 Discussion Question
Week 2 8/25-31	2	The Self in a Social World Writing Assignment
Week 3 9/1-7	3	Social Beliefs and Judgments Exam 1
Week 4 9/8-14	4	Behavior and Attitudes Week 4 Discussion Question
Week 5 9/15-21	5	Genes, Culture and Gender Week 5 Discussion Question
Week 6 9/22-28	6	Conformity and Obedience Writing Assignment 2
Week 7 9/29-10/5	7	Persuasion Exam 2
Week 8 10/6-12	8	Group Influence Week 8 Discussion Question
Week 9 10/13-19	9	Prejudice Writing Assignment 3
Week 10 10/20-26	10	Aggression Week 11 Discussion Question
Week 11 10/27-11/2	11	Attraction and Intimacy Exam 3
Week 12 11/3-11/9	12	Helping Week 13 Discussion Question
Week 13 11/10-16	13	Conflict and Peacemaking Week 14 Discussion Question
Week 14 11/17-23	14	Social Psychology in the Clinic & Court Writing Assignment 4
Week 15 11/24-30		Thanksgiving-No assignments
Week 16 12/1-7	15-16	Social Psychology and the Sustainable Future Exam 4 (Final Exam): Due by 12/7/25. No Exceptions

5th Week Assessment of First Year Undergraduates

Per the WKU Undergraduate Advising Handbook:

“Fifth Week Freshmen Assessment Program: During the 5th week of each semester all faculty and staff who are teaching 100 level courses are required to enter in 5th Week Assessment information on students in their class. Information provided will notify AARC if students are passing or failing their courses as well as excessive absences. AARC disseminates to selected offices on campus to attempt to provide help to these students early in the semester. Marks entered by faculty and staff can now be seen on TopNet by students and advisors.”

Student Advising <http://www.wku.edu/advising/academic-advising-handbook.php>

The Learning Center

Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing University Center, A330) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. TLC @ DUC offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects by appointment, walk in, or online. TLC is also a quiet study area, with side rooms designated for peer to peer tutoring, and offers a thirty-two machine Dell computer lab to complete academic coursework. Additionally, TLC has three satellite locations. Each satellite is a quiet study center and is equipped with a small computer lab. These satellites are located in Douglas Keen Hall, McCormack Hall, and Pearce Ford Tower. For more information, or to schedule a tutoring appointment, please call TLC at (270) 745-6254. <http://www.wku.edu/tlc>

Student Supports

Technical Support:

1. WKU Students can call 270-745-7000 for technical support with Blackboard or computer problems. Other information is located at [Information Technology](#) (IT: <http://www.wku.edu/it/>) or by following the [IT Helpdesk](#) link in the left menu bar.

Academic Supports

1. [The Learning Center](#) has offers online tutoring in select subjects to help students succeed in their academic work. Begin with this service if you are seeking help: (<http://www.wku.edu/tlc/>) and look for [online tutoring](#).
2. Various disciplines also provide [more specialized tutoring services](#) (e.g., the Writing Center) and the link below provides a list and map to locations. Some may offer phone or online help, such as the Writing Center. Others do not: (<http://www.wku.edu/teaching/booklets/tutoringhandout.pdf>)
3. WKU Center for Literacy Assistance: The WKU Center for Literacy is located in Gary A. Ransdell Hall 2066. At the Center for Literacy, students can receive assistance in developing strategies to help **reading/studying to learn** and **writing for evidence and argument**. The Center for Literacy offers both individual and small group sessions throughout the semester. More information about the WKU Center for Literacy can be found on the website: <http://www.wku.edu/literacycenter/>

Research Tools

1. [WKU Libraries](#) provide help with many research tools and writing tasks. You will find a link in the Blackboard left menu or click here: (<http://www.wku.edu/library/>). There is a librarian assigned to your subject area. Just contact the library to find out who your liaison is. The orientation from the Distance Learning Website (below) includes a guide to using the library.
 - a. WKU Libraries' Regional Campus section provides services by mail to distance students, such as interlibrary loan, reserves, etc.
 - b. [Research Guides](#) for specific majors have been developed by the WKU libraries and can be found at: (<http://libguides.wku.edu/>)
2. [Son of Citation Machine](#): This tool helps format citations in appropriate styles (<http://citationmachine.net/>)
3. [Kentucky Virtual Library](#) provides virtual resources to students attending Kentucky schools: (<http://www.kyvl.org/>)

Student Support of Special Interest for Online Students

1. [The Distance Learning website](#) located at (<http://www.wku.edu/online>) provides a Distance Learning Support Directory listing offices on campus that provide support to distance students, including technical support. Other resources provided include:
 - a. [The Orientation for Online Learners](#) located at (<http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation>) provides a complete overview of technology required in online classes, and features tutorials on Blackboard, setting up a WKU email account, accessing TopNet (WKU's student information and registration system), course registration, study skills, time management, writing and other academic skills, and even directions to campus and how to get a parking permit should you need to visit.
 - b. Are you ready to be an online student? Visit "[Is Distance Learning for me?](#)" at (<http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation/for-me.php>) to see how prepared you are to be an online student. You'll find a quiz over [your level of Readiness](#) at (<http://www.wku.edu/online/readiness-quiz.php>).
 - c. [Join an Online Blackboard Community for Distance Learners at WKU](#). The community provides a download library of free plug-ins and discounted software, a link to technical support, and a university support directory. To join, email learn.online@wku.edu with the subject line Online Community. There are also Facebook, Flickr and YouTube communities found by going to the Distance Learning orientation (above) and selecting Social Networking from the Resources.
2. [WKUReal: Reaching Each Adult Learner](#) (<http://www.wku.edu/real/>) is a program to assist adult students (also known as nontraditional students) at WKU.

Covid Statement:

All students are strongly encouraged to [get the COVID-19 vaccine](#). Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in [Kentucky](#), 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 can be requested in special cases through the Student

Accessibility and Resource Center ([SARC](#)): [270-745-5004](tel:270-745-5004) (voice), [270-745-3030](tel:270-745-3030) (TTY), or [270-288-0597](tel:270-288-0597) (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill