

Social Psychology Psychology 260

Course Description:

Social Psychology (PSYC 260) will provide you with an introduction to the field of social psychology. Social psychology is a subfield of the science of psychology that focuses on the perceptions, thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals and groups within a social context. As this is a survey course, this class will give you a broad overview of the major theories and findings within social psychology.

It is my goal for each of you that, throughout this course, you will develop the ability to read, think, converse, and write critically about various theories and findings within the field of social psychology.

Learning Goals (i.e., what you should be able to do by the end of the course):

1. **Method:** Demonstrate an understanding of the basic scientific method underlying social psychological research.
2. **Research:** Demonstrate a general knowledge of the major theories and current findings within each of the research topics covered this semester.
3. **Application:** Recognize and appreciate how basic theory and experimental findings apply to everyday situations.

Course Format:

Course time will be split among lecture, discussion, and in-class activities. Students are expected to keep up with the readings and assignments in order to be responsive in class when discussion is called for and to contribute to in-class activities.

Readings

The recommended readings provide the in-depth background and context for classroom lecture and discussion. Additionally, it will be beneficial to you to return to the readings after the material has been covered in class in order to reinforce your understanding of the major themes and key points.

Textbook (OPTIONAL)

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R.E. (2015). *Social psychology* (4th ed.). New York, NK: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

An e-version of this textbook is also available and a fine substitute for the hardback.

Resources

The Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/>

If you need assistance with or would like to improve your writing, The Writing Center is a fantastic resource. They offer both face-to-face and online consultations. They also have a great number of handouts available online on topics ranging from verb tense and appropriate use of punctuation to procrastination and writing anxiety. And, for those students for whom English is a second language (ESL), they can offer specialized guidance and training.

The Learning Center: <http://learningcenter.unc.edu/>

If you are in need of academic counseling, The Learning Center is a wonderful resource that you have available to you here at Carolina. You may schedule an individualized meeting with one of their counselors or consult the website for information about reading and study skills, time management, test-taking strategies, dealing with stress, etc. They also provide academic counseling and support to students with learning disabilities or AD/HD.

Evaluation

Exams

There will be three non-cumulative exams given. Each of these exams will be multiple-choice. Exams will be based on lectures, in-class activities, and films/video clips since the previous exam. Tests are designed to gauge your understanding of the material, as well as your ability to analytically apply research findings to everyday situations.

**You can take an exam early or late only with a UNC approved excuse.*

Quizzes—Quick, online assessments

In order to assess your ongoing understanding of the material, there will be 10 short open-notes quizzes given throughout the semester. You are not allowed to consult with fellow students about quiz questions. Quizzes will be non-cumulative in the sense that they will address material covered in your book and in class since the previous quiz or exam.

Quizzes will be administered on the Sakai site and will be made available under the “Tests & Quizzes” tab several days before the quiz is due. Be sure to save your answers often just in case the internet is wonky or you decide to only do a few questions at a time. Exact due dates for each quiz are listed in the Schedule and Reading List section of the syllabus. Quizzes will be due BY 11:00PM on these dates. While you may consult your book and notes in completing the quiz, you may NOT discuss the quizzes with others. In other words, you are expected to do the work on your own.

**You can turn a quiz in late at any point until 11PM on the last day of classes, April 27th. You will receive up to half-credit on a late quiz.*

Assignments

There will be 3 written assignments designed to help you prepare and review for each exam. These assignments will be graded based on completion. The assignments are open-book and you may work in groups and consult with other students to complete them. However, each student must turn in their own, original copy of the assignment. Your version of the assignment should NOT be a carbon copy of anyone else’s work. You must complete the assignments in *your own words* and the submitted document must be *your own work*.

Grading Procedures

Each type of assignment is weighted and listed below. Your grade will depend on an average score weighted by the percentage listed. As is standard for all classes, scores below .5 will be rounded up. A 90.5 would be a 91 in your final score.

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
88-89	B+
83-87	B
80-82	B-
78-79	C+
73-77	C
70-72	C-
68-69	D+
60-67	D
< 60	F

Exams: 50 percent
Quizzes: 40 percent
Assignments: 10 percent

The time to worry about your grade is *before* you have received a grade.

How Grades Are Defined:

(from the University Bulletin; <http://www.unc.edu/ugradbulletin/procedures1.html#grading>)

- A Mastery of course content at the highest level of attainment that can reasonably be expected of students at a given stage of development. The A grade states clearly that the student has shown such outstanding promise in the aspect of the discipline under study that he/she may be strongly encouraged to continue.
- B Strong performance demonstrating a high level of attainment for a student at a given stage of development. The B grade states that the student has shown solid promise in the aspect of the discipline under study.
- C A totally acceptable performance demonstrating an adequate level of attainment for a student at a given stage of development. The C grade states that while not yet showing any unusual promise, the student may continue to study in the discipline with reasonable hope of intellectual development.
- D A marginal performance in the required exercises demonstrating a minimal passing level of attainment for a student at a given stage of development. The D grade states that the student has given no evidence of prospective growth in the discipline; an accumulation of D grades should be taken to mean that the student would be well advised not to continue in the academic field.
- F For whatever reasons, an unacceptable performance. The F grade indicates that the student's performance in the required exercises has revealed almost no understanding of the course content. A grade of F should warrant questioning whether the student may suitably register for further study in the discipline before remedial work is undertaken.

Policies and Expectations

Attendance

Attendance will not be taken in that I will not call roll every day. But, I will note who submitted in-class assignments and who was attentively engaged in class each day. It is ***your responsibility*** to attend class and obtain notes that you missed if you are absent. Missing class regularly will likely result in a poor overall grade in the class.

Office Hours

I encourage all of you to take advantage of office hours at least once during this semester, if for no other reason than to introduce yourself. Office hours are a great opportunity to clarify material before an exam (which is much more helpful than doing so after), ask questions regarding upcoming assignments, review exams, quizzes, or other assignments once handed back, or chat about a topic of interest to you in social psychology. I am also willing to help with material that was missed due to an absence **IF** you have filled-in as much information as possible using your textbook, and you come with ***specific questions***. Please do not expect me to give the lecture again.

Make-Up Policy

Quizzes:

You can submit quizzes late for **up to** half-credit at any point until April 27th (LDOC). All late quizzes must be submitted by 11PM April 27th.

Exams:

As make-up exams are difficult for everyone involved, they will only be permitted for **documentable circumstances**. Athletes, musicians, or others with UNC-related obligations that require absence from class on an exam day should notify me immediately with your schedule and verification from your coach or other university official so that arrangements can be made.

If you need to reschedule or take a make-up for either exam, you will need to obtain permission from your dean's office. University rules do not permit instructors to give make-up final exams without this permission.

Accessibility Services

Students with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act who need assistance should contact Accessibility Resources and Services immediately. Please meet with me early in the semester if you require accommodations, and I will make reasonable efforts to accommodate your special needs. Please visit <https://accessibility.unc.edu/> for more information.

The Honor Code

It shall be the responsibility of every student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and to support the enforcement of the Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University, student, or academic personnel acting in an official capacity.

The full honor code may be found online at <http://instrument.unc.edu/>.

To a community of scholars, academic integrity is absolutely essential. Therefore, your full adherence to the honor code is expected. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. All work must be your own. All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the honor court.

I recognize that plagiarism can be the result of inadequate knowledge. If you are confused about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me or seek out additional information on your own. One great online resource for understanding plagiarism and how to avoid it is the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>.

SCHEDULE

Mon, 1/11	Introduction
Wed, 1/13	Introduction; Chapter 1
Fri, 1/15	Methods, Chapter 2
Mon, 1/18	MLK – No Class
Wed, 1/20	Methods, Chapter 2

Fri, 1/22	The Social Self, Chapter 3
Mon, 1/25	The Social Self, Chapter 3 (Quiz 1 Due @ 11PM)
Wed, 1/27	TBA, On Sakai
Fri, 1/29	TBA, On Sakai
Mon, 2/1	The Social Self, Chapter 3 (Quiz 2 Due @ 11PM)
Wed, 2/3	Social Cognition, Chapter 4
Fri, 2/5	Social Cognition, Chapter 4
Mon, 2/8	Social Cognition, Chapter 4
Wed, 2/10	Social Attribution, Chapter 5
Fri, 2/12	Social Attribution, Chapter 5
Mon, 2/15	Social Attribution, Chapter 5 (Quiz 4 Due @ 11PM)
Wed, 2/17	Review Day
Thurs, 2/18	Assign 1 Due @ 11PM
Fri, 2/19	Exam 1
Mon, 2/22	Emotion, Chapter 6
Wed, 2/24	Emotion, Chapter 6
Fri, 2/26	Emotion, Chapter 6
Mon, 2/29	Attitudes, Chapter 7 (Quiz 5 Due @ 11PM)
Wed, 3/2	Attitudes, Chapter 7
Fri, 3/4	Attitudes, Chapter 7
Mon, 3/7	Persuasion, Chapter 8
Wed, 3/9	Persuasion, Chapter 8
Fri, 3/11	Spring Break
Mon, 3/14 – Fri, 3/18	Spring Break
Mon, 3/21	Social Influence, Chapter 9
Wed, 3/23	Social Influence, Chapter 9
Fri, 3/25	No Class, Holiday
Mon, 3/28	Social Influence, Chapter 9 (Quiz 7 Due @ 11PM)
Wed, 3/30	Review Day
Thurs, 3/31	Assign 2 Due @ 11PM
Fri, 4/1	Exam 2
Mon, 4/4	Relationships, Chapter 10
Wed, 4/6	Relationships, Chapter 10
Fri, 4/8	Groups, Chapter 12
Mon, 4/11	Groups, Chapter 12 (Quiz 8 Due @ 11PM)
Wed, 4/13	Groups, Chapter 12

Fri, 4/15	Intergroup Bias, Chapter 11
Mon, 4/18	Intergroup Bias, Chapter 11 (Quiz 10 Due @ 11PM)
Wed, 4/20	Intergroup Bias, Chapter 11
Fri, 4/22	Moral Psychology, Chapter 13
Mon, 4/25	Moral Psychology, (Quiz 10 Due @ 11PM)
Wed, 4/27	LDOC Review Day, Assign. 3 Due @ 11PM
Mon, 5/2	Final Exam at 4PM