

**Syllabus
Social Psychology
Spring 2025**

Professor Info		Course Info	
Professor:	Nicholas Maxwell, PhD	Course #:	PSYC 3503, Sec. 201
Office:	OD 118	Time:	1pm – 1:50pm MWF
email:	nicholas.maxwell@msutexas.edu	Location:	PY 102
		Office Hours:	MWF: 11am – 12pm; F: 2pm – 4pm

Required Texts:

Social Psychology by Saul Kassin, Steven Fein, & Hazel Rose Markus (12th Edition) (2024)

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, you will have a greater understanding of:

1. Core areas of Social Psychology Research, including self-concept, conformity, aggression, and interpersonal relationships.
2. How social psychologists conduct research, including their methodology and an overview of key historical studies.
3. Current trends and future directions in Social Psychology research

Attendance and Make-Up Exam Policy:

If you do miss class, you will be responsible for the material you missed when absent. Class attendance is ***required***. Each student is allowed ***four*** absences without penalty. Each additional absence will result in a 10% reduction in the students' final grade. Students will be responsible for the material they miss when absent. Students with ***more than five absences*** will be dropped from the course with a failing grade.

Excused-Absences: The ***only*** absences that will not be counted are absences for a mandatory, university-sponsored event or religious holiday. Written notification must be provided to the professor at least two days prior to the day of the event. Absences for religious holidays must be cleared through the Dean of Students. Students must inform the instructor of religious holiday absences by the 15th day of class.

No make-up exams will be given ***except in the case of an emergency***, such as a serious illness, a serious accident, or a death in the family ***OR*** in the case of a previously excused absence (see *Attendance* section above for what qualifies as an *excused absence*).

*You must verify your emergency with documentation. *You must contact me via email no later than 24 hours after the missed exam!** If you miss an exam without a valid excuse, you will receive a zero for the assignment.

Course Requirements:

1. **Exams:** Students will complete ***four*** exams during the semester. Each exam will be worth ***100*** points.

- 2. Quizzes:** Students will complete 14 quizzes throughout the semester (1 per chapter). Quizzes are administered online via D2L and are designed to help you prepare for the exams. Quizzes are open-note/open-book and are worth 12.5 points each. Your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped. Thus, quizzes count 150 points towards your overall course grade (~ 30% of your final grade).

Quizzes are due Sundays by 11:59pm (see the course schedule below for due dates). ***If you submit a late quiz within 5 days of the due date (i.e., by the Friday after the quiz is due), I will assign partial credit (10% off per day late). YOU MUST EMAIL ME TO REQUEST PARTIAL CREDIT. Failure to email will result in a grade of 0 for the quiz.***

- 3. Class participation:** Students get the most out of their college experience when they show up to class and actively participate. To facilitate class participation, we will randomly complete activities and/or discussions in class. Your participation grade will be based on your ***participation in class discussions, general attendance, and completion of in-class activities***. Participation is worth **50** points towards your final grade (~10% of your final grade).

Grades:

Your final grade in the course will be calculated based on ***600*** total points.

600-540:	A
539-480:	B
479-420:	C
419-360:	D
< 360:	F

Email Policy:

You are required to use your MSU Texas email accounts for this class. I will not send emails to any other email accounts. I will also not send out class information to any other email address other than your university email account. Before emailing me about your question, make sure that your question has not been answered/addressed in the syllabus or elsewhere! When emailing me, please put the course number (PSYC 3503) AND section number (Sec. 201) in the subject line. This will immediately let me know which class you are in so I can respond faster. ***Please note that any emails sent at the end of the semester requesting extra points or that your grade be rounded up will be ignored.***

I will try my best to get back to you within 48-hours (during the week). ***If you email me with no context, I will not respond*** Please keep in mind that I strive to maintain a healthy work-life, so I generally will not reply to emails after 5:00pm on weekdays or anytime on weekends/holidays.

All course announcements will be posted on D2L. To ensure that you do not miss any important updates, please check D2L frequently! Additionally, double-check that your primary email address is listed on Banner.

Cell Phones:

Unless you anticipate that you might receive an emergency communication, please turn off your cell phones in class. If you receive an ***emergency*** phone call or text in class, please excuse yourself and quietly leave the classroom to take the message.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic Dishonesty is defined as cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct: [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Cheating will not be tolerated. Any evidence of cheating on exams or written assignments will result in dismissal from this class with a grade of "F" and referral to the Dean of Students. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using unauthorized notes of any kind during an exam, looking on another's exam, allowing another student to look on your exam, plagiarism, and self-plagiarism.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L):

This course utilizes the MSU D2L program for assignment submission. Relevant course materials will also be posted on D2L. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program.

Disability Services:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from Disability Support Services (DSS) during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided.

Midterm Grade Reports:

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. ***Midterm progress reports will only be provided for students with a grade of C or less in the course.*** Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcripts, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester.

Change of Schedule:

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Course Schedule:

Important! The reading for each day is what's expected to have been read *prior* to that date. Please note that this schedule represents *the ideal semester!* Any deviations from this schedule (particularly as they pertain to assignment deadlines and exam dates) will be announced in class **AND** posted on D2L.

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due	Notes
Week 1: 1/20 – 1/24	Course Overview/What is Social Psychology?	Syllabus/Chapter 1		*No Quiz this week* *No Class 1/20 (MLK day)*
Week 2: 1/27 – 1/31	What is Social Psychology?/Social Psychology Research	Chapters 1 and 2	Chapter 1 Quiz 1 due 2/2 @ 11:59pm	
Week 3: 2/3 – 2/7	Social Psychology Research/The Social Self	Chapters 2 and 3	Chapter 2 Quiz due 2/9 @ 11:59pm	
Week 4: 2/10 – 2/14	The Social Self	Chapter 3	Chapter 3 Quiz due 2/16 @ 11:59pm	*No Class Monday 2/10*
Week 5: 2/17 – 21	Perceiving People	Chapter 4	Chapter 4 Quiz due 2/23 @ 11:59pm	*Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4) in class Friday, 2/21*
Week 6: 2/24 – 2/28	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Chapter 5	Chapter 5 Quiz due 3/2 @ 11:59pm	
Week 7: 3/3 – 3/7	Attitudes/Social Influence	Chapter 6	Chapter 6 Quiz due 3/9 @ 11:59pm	
Week 8: 3/10 – 3/14	Spring Break			No Class this week!
Week 9: 3/17 – 3/21	Conformity	Chapter 7	Chapter 7 Quiz due 3/23 @ 11:59pm	*Exam 2 (Chapters 5-7) in class Friday, 3/21*
Week 10: 3/24 – 3/28	Group Processes	Chapter 8	Chapter 8 Quiz due 3/30 @ 11:59pm	*No Class Friday 3/28 (Maxwell at SWPA)*

Week 11: 3/31 – 4/4	Social Relations	Chapter 9	Chapter 9 Quiz due 4/6 @ 11:59pm	
Week 12: 4/7 – 4/11	Helping Behaviors/Aggression	Chapters 10 and 11	Chapter 10 Quiz due 4/13 @ 11:59pm	
Week 13: 4/14 – 4/18	Aggression	Chapter 11	Chapter 11 Quiz due 4/20 @ 11:59pm	*Exam 3 (Chapters 8 – 11) in class Wednesday, 4/16* *No class Friday 4/18 (Easter Holiday)*
Week 14: 4/21 – 4/25	Social Psych and Law	Chapter 12	Chapter 12 Quiz due 4/27 @ 11:59pm	
Week 15: 4/28 – 5/2	Social Psych and Business	Chapter 13	Chapter 13 Quiz due 5/4 @ 11:59pm	
Week 16: 5/5 – 5/9	Social Psych and Health	Chapter 14	Chapter 14 Quiz due 5/11 @ 11:59pm	*Exam 4 (Chapters 12 – 14) in class Friday 5/9*