

# SOCL 3403: Social Psychology

Summer II 2021

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OFFICE: O'Donohoe 124

## OFFICE HOURS:

There are no actual office hours during the summer session, but I am happy to meet with you if you need me.

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TEXT: Social Psychology by Branscombe and Baron. This is the fourteenth edition.  
ISBN: 978-0-13-441096-8.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social psychology is the scientific study of the way people think about, feel, and behave in social situations. It illuminates how the individual influences those around them, but are also influenced by others. It is a survey course to introduce you to the perspectives, research methods, and empirical findings of social psychology. Topics to be covered include social cognition, social perception, conformity, prosocial behavior, interpersonal attraction, persuasion, stereotyping and prejudice, just to name a few. Equally important is the goal of cultivating your skills for analyzing the social situations and events that you encounter in your everyday lives.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic scientific method underlying social psychological research.
- Demonstrate a general knowledge of the major theories and current findings within each of the topics covered.
- Recognize and appreciate how basic theory and experimental findings apply to everyday situations.

## EXAMS AND GRADING:

There will be four (4) exams, including the final (the final is not comprehensive).

Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. You will have 60 minutes for each exam. Each exam will be open for only one day. Once you open the exam, your 60 minutes begins. The time allotted is not meant to provide you with time to use your books, so 60 minutes is more than fair. Although, if you have read the material, I would expect that you will indeed have time to look up an answer or two, maybe more. However, if you haven't read and studied prior to the exam, you will find that you don't have time to finish. Also, the professor who taught this class before only allotted 45 minutes. I do intend to add 10 points to your lowest exam grade, which often is the first exam since the first exam helps folks understand how a professor tests or how the person creating the test bank, constructs questions. I add the 10 points at the end when I am averaging grades.

Exam Dates will be listed on the Calendar.

Below are the chapters covered by each exam.

Exam 1: Chapters 1, 2, and 3 [July 13]

Exam 2: Chapters 4, 5, and 6 [July 20]

Exam 3: Chapters 7, 8, and 9 [July 28]

Exam 4: Chapters 10, 11, and 12 [Aug. 5]

The following grades total to 500 points and is the basis for your grade.

Exam 1: 100 points

Exam 2: 100 points

Exam 3: 100 points

Exam 4: 100 points

Chapter discussions: 60 points

Current Event article/posting: 40 points [due Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 pm]

I will divide your total points by 5 to average your grade.

## Discussion/Participation Assignments:

You will also receive a grade for your chapter discussions at the end of the semester (worth 60 points). When you add the chapter discussion points to the current event analysis which is due at the end of the semester and is worth 40 points, they equal 100 points, so together they equal a test grade. Each chapter discussion is worth 5 points. There are 12 chapters so that equals 60 points. This participation will be based on responses to the discussion questions that I post and the responses to your classmates post as well as what you read from the other students postings. The D2L system does keep track of everything you do so I can keep track of this. It's really an amazing system. I will post one to three questions for each chapter. I want actual dialogue here rather than simply responding by saying "I agree" or "I disagree." I want to see some thought put into your responses and some evidence of support for what you say. I want to see that you are drawing from the chapter when you respond so that I can tell that you have indeed read the chapter. It will help you if you reference the chapter with page #s, when posting your responses to your classmates. Please remember to be civil. This is defined as no cursing, don't put someone down, but provide each other with an open environment for discussing and disagreement. I will post discussion questions for each chapter, sometimes I do this a few days in advance for those who read ahead or so that students know what questions will have to be answered as they're reading the chapter. You have only through that day (the due date) to post your initial response to the questions that I post. You have until 11:00 that night. Then I'll leave it open for an additional day so that you can respond to the posting of AT LEAST three other postings from other students. You will have until 11:00 PM the second night, the night in which it closes, to respond to the three other postings AND to have read at least four-fifths of all your classmate's postings. This is required.

## Grading for Participation:

The chapter discussions are graded according to the following:

Plus 2 points for posting your initial posting by due date at 11 pm \*and\* for responding to the postings of your classmates by the following day at 11pm, which is the closing day for each chapter discussion. So, you will spend 2 days per chapter, one day posting your initial posting and the second day responding to at least 3 others. You will get a zero if you only post your initial response but do not follow through and post all remaining responses.

Plus 1 point for reading at least 4/5 (four-fifths) of the postings of your classmates by the closing day, at 11 pm for each chapter discussion.

Plus 2 points for posting such that it is evident that you are drawing from material that you have read for the current chapter (quality). I don't want you to just spout off and

reply or make statements without drawing from the text. I need to see that you are actually reading and drawing from the text material, rather than only posting about your personal experiences and attitudes. Although your personal experiences are also welcome as long as your response also includes substantive material from the chapter

### Current Event Article:

You are required to find a current event article from such sources as the New York Times, Newsweek, Time, or any other reputable newspaper or news magazine, that you can analyze in terms of something social psychological, something you have learned from this course. I want you to analyze this article by integrating concepts from the text and telling how they relate to the issues in the article. You must also provide page numbers from your text for the concepts that you are using to analyze the article. You need to use at least 8 concepts, but more if you need to use more to be thorough in your analysis. Please provide the title of your article as well as the name of the magazine or newspaper from which it appears, and the date. It can't be older than one year, so can't be older than July 2020. There is an assignment link for this under assessments. Technically it is plagiarism if you do not provide page numbers as required. Plagiarism is grounds for failing a class.

If you have a digital book, there are no actual page numbers, so you must provide the chapter AND the heading for the concepts and information you are referencing. Place this info in parentheses after inclusion of text material. Contact me if you have questions about this.