

Syllabus
Social Psychology
Spring 2021

Professor:	Scott Frankowski, Ph.D.	Course #:	PSYC 4773, sec. 101
Office:	118 O'Donohoe	Time:	9:30am – 10:50am TR
Phone:	940-397-4347	Location:	PY 101
e-mail:	scott.frankowski@msutexas.edu	Office	Via Zoom by appointment
		Hours:	Best times are 2-5pm MW

Textbook: Gilovich et al. (2019). *Social Psychology*. 5th Ed. W.W. Norton & Company

Office hours: Due to the ongoing pandemic, I won't have in-person office hours this semester. I will be able to meet via Zoom, though. Just contact me to make an appointment. The best time for these meetings are between 2-5pm on Monday or Wednesday.

Mask policy: Please make sure that while the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing that you wear a mask at all times in the classroom. Anyone who does not follow this policy will be asked to leave and will be dropped from the course.

Contacting me: When you email me please use my msutexas.edu email. Please do not email me through D2L as I don't get any notification of those messages and miss them sometimes. **When you email me, please include the course in the subject line.** I try to respond to emails within 24 hours. I typically won't respond to emails on the weekend. If you miss class, it's your responsibility to get notes from a classmate or set up an appointment with me.

Course description: This course is a general survey of social psychology. Social psychology is a science devoted to the systematic study of topics related to interpersonal and group behavior. Topics studied in this course will be social perception, attraction, aggression, communication, social influence, attitudes and attitude change, prejudice and stereotyping, and other topics. The emphasis is on how individuals process information related to their social world.

The objectives of this course are to:

- a. Reinforce your understanding of experimental methods.
- b. Develop a clear understanding of some basic social psychological constructs.
- c. Help you understand the power and ubiquity of various social influences.
- d. Understand current controversies in research methodology in social psychology

Course participation: Students should come to class prepared having read the chapter and any assigned readings. Students should be respectful to both the professor and their fellow classmates – this includes being on time to class, not falling asleep, not using phones, not talking over others, etc. I reserve the right to drop students from the class who are excessively absent, who do not complete assignments, or who are not respectful of me or classmates per the Instructor Drop policy outlined in the Student Catalog. Social psychology includes a number of controversial or sensitive topics, including racism, sexism, sex, politics, cultural differences, etc. Please be

prepared to discuss these issues in a respectful manner. Differences in opinion are common and expected – and learning about those differences is an important part of the college experience. However, opinions must be expressed in a manner that allows others to hear and understand.

Late Assignments: Generally, late work will not be accepted. Extenuating circumstances with prior instructor approval and/or documentation from the Office of Student Affairs will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Grading:

Exams (60%): There will be a midterm and a final exam. Each will be worth 30% of your grade. Exams format may consist of multiple choice questions, short answer, and essay questions. Anything covered in the lecture or in the book or in other assigned readings will be fair game for the exam. The end of this syllabus gives an overview of the chapters covered. Keep in mind, however, that this schedule will likely change. Exams will cover what has been covered in class prior to the exam date (i.e., if we do not cover a chapter on the syllabus and I don't tell you to read it on your own time, it will not be on the exam).

Group Video Project and Presentation (20%): In groups of 3-5, students will produce a video representing a social psychological construct. The video should show the social psych construct “in action”. For example, you may make a video of the “foot in the door” effect in which you first make a small request, and then make a larger request of fellow students in student center. For your presentation, you will explain your experiment, its relevance to the literature, and how your experiment supports or refutes the construct.

Paper (20%): A paper will be due the week prior to the final exam. The paper will need to be in APA format and should be between 500-1,000 words (2-4 pages double-spaced in the body). For the paper you will summarize a recent *empirical research* article from one of the publications listed below (publication date of 2014 or more recent). These journals can be accessed through the library databases. Many papers are multi-study papers. If the paper you choose is multi-study, pick one study to summarize. **Make sure the study you are summarizing uses an experimental design.** Using a study with a correlational design will produce a failing grade. To pass, you must:

Clearly identify the following, using a bullet point format.

Independent variable. There may be multiple.

Dependent variable. There may be multiple.

Hypothesis or hypotheses.

Results. Which hypotheses were confirmed, and which were not. What was the evidence for that?

Relevant chapter from our book.

Acceptable social psychology journals: Most can be accessed free online through the university server.

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, first two sections.

Journal of Experimental Social Psychology.

Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin.
Group Processes and Intergroup Relations.
Social Cognition
British Journal of Social Psychology.
European Journal of Social Psychology.

To earn a B on this paper, you must do the above, plus critique the manuscript. Identify what is interesting and identify what is lacking. Please go beyond saying “they used White subjects” if you are going to critique the demographics. If ethnicity is important in that study, please tell me how, conceptually, the groups should differ.

To earn an A, you must do all of the above, plus describe a new study that builds directly on the proposed research. Be creative and have some fun with the idea. Demonstrate that you are part of your learning process.

Academic Dishonesty: 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 individual's to whom credit is given). Any academic dishonesty will result in an F and I will file a report with the Dean. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Midterm progress:

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account for students who are at risk of not passing the course. Students who are below a C will receive a midterm progress report between weeks 5-8 of the semester. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; 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. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with me.

Course accessibility:

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to make the course more accessible to you. In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Grading:

A \geq 90%

B \geq 80%

C \geq 70%

D \geq 60%

F < 60 %

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week	Dates	Topics
Week 1	Week of 1/11	Chapter 1 – Introducing social psychology
Week 2	Week of 1/18	Chapter 2 – Social psych methods
Week 3	Week of 1/25	Chapter 3 – The social self
Week 4	Week of 2/8	Chapter 4 – Social Cognition
Week 5	Week of 2/15	Chapter 4 – Social Cognition
Week 6	Week of 2/22	Chapter 5 – Social attribution
Week 7	Week of 3/1	Chapter 5 - Social attribution
Week 8	Week of 3/8	Chapter 6 – Emotion
Week 9	Week of 3/15	Exam 1 on 3/18
Week 10	Week of 3/22	Chapter 7 – Attitudes Behavior and Rationalization
Week 11	Week of 3/29	Chapter 8 – Persuasion
Week 12	Week of 4/5	Chapter 11 – Stereotypes, prejudice
Week 13	Week of 4/12	Chapter 12 - Groups
Week 14	Week of 4/19	Presentations
Week 15	Week of 4/26	Exam 2