

Social Psychology

PSY 334D (30352)

Spring 2018

M/W 10:00 – 11:50

ITC 211

Professor

Jaime Cloud, Ph.D.

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Teaching Assistants (TA)

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Office hours

M: 2:00 – 4:00

Tu. 10:00 - 12:00 (online)

W: 1:00 - 2:00

TA office hours

RJ: Th: 11:00 – 12:00

NB: Th: 12:30 – 1:30

Location: Todd 316

Course Description

This course is designed to give students a comprehensive overview of the psychological mechanisms underlying how people think about, influence, and relate to one another. An evolutionary, functional perspective will be applied throughout this course to emphasize (1) the goal-directed nature of social behavior and (2) the continual interaction between the person and the situation. Topics covered include: the formation and changing of attitudes, strategies of social influence, intricacies of close relationships, interpersonal conflict and aggression, helping behavior, and group productivity and decision-making.

Psychological Science Program Outcomes (PSO)

1. Explain and/or apply principles, skills, values, or ethics of psychology.
2. Apply appropriate research methods to critically analyze human behavior.
3. Identify and demonstrate knowledge of sociocultural and international diversity.

Course Goals:

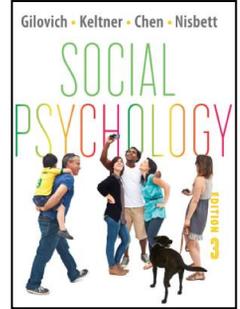
After completing PSY 334, the successful student will be able to:

- demonstrate foundational knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts, and viewpoints that encompass the field of social psychology (PSO #1),
- integrate and apply social psychological phenomena into one's own thinking, behavior, and social interactions (PSO #2, ULO: Inquiry and Analysis),
- demonstrate an understanding of the research methods that psychologists implement to gather information/data about social psychological topics as well as demonstrate competence in evaluation, analyzing, and critically thinking about research findings in the literature (PSO #2, ULO: Inquiry and Analysis),
- recognize, understand, and respect how individual, situational, and cultural differences influence beliefs, values, and interactions with others (PSO #3, ULO: Diversity).

Required Textbook

Gilovich, Keltner, Chen & Nisbett (2013). Social Psychology (3/e).
(ISBN: 978-0393913231)

Required readings will be posted on Moodle as well.



Sensitive Course Material

Some material in this course may be violent, sexually explicit, or disturbing. The purpose of this class is to familiarize you with current psychological knowledge, research, and practice regarding such topics. As such, the course material may be distressing and/or conflict with your core beliefs. Please review the syllabus carefully and discuss any concerns you have with your instructor before committing to this course. In the event that course material causes you distress, please contact the Counseling Center (503-838-8396).

University Policies

Accommodations: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact your instructor and the Office of Disability Services, APSC 405, or at 503-838-8250, as early as possible in the term. Students needing medical or mental health care can access the Student Health and Counseling Center by calling 503-838-8313, emailing health@wou.edu, or by walking in to schedule an appointment.

▪ **Veterans statement:** Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the instructor.

▪ **Service animals:** Students who require the use of a service animal in non-public areas (e.g., classrooms) must request an accommodation through the WOU Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please refer to the ODS website or call ODS (503-838-8250) for more information.

Mandatory reporting: As an employee at Western Oregon University, I am required by federal law to report any incident of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment. You have the right to maintain your privacy and not tell me any personal information that could result in mandatory reporting. If you disclose to me (verbally or in writing) about something that has occurred to you or another student, I must inform the appropriate university staff. Reporting is intended to safeguard students and provide students support. If you would like additional information, please visit www.wou.edu/student/assault_care.php.

Student success concerns: If I determine that your performance in this class is placing you at academic risk, you may be referred to a member of the Student Success Team. A student success specialist will offer to work with you to address issues and develop a student success strategy. Regardless of whether a referral has or has not been made, you are ultimately responsible for tracking your own progress in this course. If you would like to meet with a student success specialist regarding any academic struggles you are experiencing, please contact Student Success and Advising at 503-838-8428 or at studentsuccess@wou.edu.

Student absence notification: If for some reason you are absent due to an extenuating circumstance or medical situation, you must report the incident through official channels before I will make an exception for late or missed work (if applicable). To complete a Student Absence Notification Request, go to <http://www.wou.edu/advising/absence> or contact Student Success and Advising at 503-838-8428 or at studentsuccess@wou.edu.

Course Policies

Email: You are expected to check your university email account on a daily basis for communication from me concerning the class.

Email is the best way to contact me. I aim to return all inquires within 24 hours; however, I will not respond to emails received after 5:00PM until the following day. In addition, I will not respond to emails about an assignment the day before it is due so do not wait until last minute to begin working on an assignment!

Classroom conduct: In order to effectively communicate class material, all students are expected to be non-disruptive and respectful of one another during lecture. Please refrain from arriving late, leaving early, or packing your belongings until after class is dismissed.

Cell phones and laptops should only be used for note-taking purposes.

Class notes: It is important to me that you are able to focus your attention on course material and actively participate. For that reason, electronic copies of the PowerPoint slides will be posted on Moodle. On occasion, you will find that a key term has intentionally been left blank; you will be provided the missing term during lecture. I recommend that you print a copy of the slides before each lecture to take notes on in class.

Audio recordings: If you wish to make audio recordings of my lectures, please contact me to request permission. Permission to make audio recordings will be granted once the student signs an agreement, which specifies acceptable use of the recordings. Video recording the lectures is not permitted out of respect for the other students' right to privacy.

Extra credit: You may earn up to 10 points of extra credit by participating in research projects conducted in the Psychological Sciences Department, summarizing a psychological journal article related to a topic discussed in class, attending a PSY 301/468 poster session, and/or attending a presentation at the Academic Excellence Showcase. Detailed instructions for each of these options will be posted on Moodle. In addition, you may earn 2 points of extra credit by attaching a slip demonstrating that you visited the Writing Center to any written assignment. Extra credit will be accepted via Moodle until the start of the final exam.

Grade-grubbing: A responsibility of teachers and scientists alike is to be humble. As such, I remain open to the possibility of being wrong. If you feel that you have been assigned an unfair grade, I encourage you to meet with me and explain your rationale. That said, I am not receptive to students who ask me to give them a higher grade out of the kindness of my heart (e.g., "but I need a B to graduate!"). I respect students who take ownership of the grade they earned.

Incompletes: I do not give incompletes to help students avoid receiving an F. To be eligible for an incomplete, you must be passing the class but lack one essential requirement. In addition, I must find your reason for requesting an incomplete acceptable. Please see me for more details.

Finals week attendance: In accordance with university policy, students must be available to meet during finals week. Our scheduled meeting time is Mon., June 11 from 10:00 – 11:50 AM (this is when Block Exam 3 will be administered). **If you will be unavailable on that date, do not take this class!**

Course Engagement

Doing well in this course requires a high level of engagement both inside and outside of class. You are expected to attend all lectures and participate in class discussions and activities.

Lecture Attendance (15 pts.): Attendance will be taken daily. You will receive 1 attendance point for each lecture day (not exam day) that you attend, for a maximum of 15 points.

Participation (5 pts.): At the end of the semester, I will assign you a participation grade based on your participation in class discussions, activities, and your observance of the basic rules of classroom conduct. If you do not contribute to the class, you will receive 0 pts. (which could result in a lower letter grade).

Reading Checks

It is critical in this course that you properly prepare for material covered in class. Part of that preparation includes the completion of reading assignments *prior to the start of class*. To ensure that you keep up with the reading assignments, there will be a Reading Check on Moodle due by 10:00AM on each lecture day that a reading assignment is due. You will have 3 minutes to complete each Reading Check, which will consist of three dichotomous-choice questions, worth 1 point each. I understand that things come up (e.g., you get sick, your kids get sick, computer problems, etc.) so only your best-scoring 10 of the 14 Reading Checks will count toward your grade. **There will be no make-up Reading Quizzes.**

The **independent/dependent** variable is the one the researcher manipulates.

Assignments

Blog Talk (20 pts.): You are expected to stay up to date with the latest empirical findings by following popular social psychology blogs (provided). You are expected to participate in “Blog Talk” by posting comments and discussing interesting findings with one another on Moodle. I will assign each posted response a grade of 1 or 2 points, depending upon the amount of reflection and application to course material you demonstrate in your posting for a maximum of 20 points. You are prohibited from making more than two posts in a 24-hour period so do not wait to begin posting until the end of the term!

Block Assignments (30 pts.): Either alone, **or with a partner**, you will complete three assignments worth 10 points each. Detailed instructions regarding each assignment will be delivered the day it is assigned. All assignments are due at 10:00AM one week after they are assigned.

▪**Help me, TA!:** You are encouraged to send your assignment to the teaching assistants prior to the assignment due date so that they may identify problems before you upload your assignment to Moodle for a grade.

▪**Late policy:** Assignments are due in .docx format via Moodle by 10:00AM on the due date. A 10% deduction will be applied for assignments that are not uploaded to Moodle by the designated time. An additional 10% deduction will be applied for each 24-hour period thereafter that the assignment is late. Once the assignment is 1-week late, a grade of 0 will be given.

Exams

There will be **three non-cumulative Block Exams**. Each Block Exam will be multi-format (multiple choice, short-answer) and worth 50 points. There will NOT be a cumulative final exam.

Study Guides: I do not provide study guides as doing so would rob you of an opportunity to rehearse lecture material. I encourage you to make your own study guide and/or flashcards.

Make-up Policy: If you miss an exam, you must take the make-up exam in Week 10 (there will be no exceptions). The only time available to take a make-up exam is Mon., June 4 between 2:00 and 4:00 PM.

Replacement option: Over the course of the term, I will offer five optional 1-page writing assignments (worth 10 points each). If you collectively score better on the five optional writing assignments than your lowest Block Exam grade, I will replace your lowest Block Exam grade with your collective score on the optional writing assignments. Each optional writing assignment will be due via Moodle at 10:00AM on the nearest exam day following the date it was offered. No make-ups or extensions.

- You must attend every lecture in a block of material if you plan on skipping its respective exam and replacing your grade of 0 on that exam with your collective score on the optional assignments.

Grading

There are 250 total possible points in this class. Your total is determined by the sum of scores you receive on each of the three Block Exams (50 points each), each of the three assignments (10 points each), your Blog Talk participation score (20 points), your 10 best Reading Checks, and your Course Engagement grade (20 points). To determine your letter grade, divide the total number of points you earned in this class (including any extra credit) and divide by the total number of points possible (250).

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{Exam 1 (50 pts.)} + \text{Exam 2 (50 pts.)} + \text{Exam 3 (50 pts.)} = 150 \text{ pts.} \\
 \text{Blog Talk (20 pts.)} + \text{Assign. 1 (10 pts.)} + \text{Assign. 2 (10 pts.)} + \text{Assign. 3 (10 pts.)} = 50 \text{ pts.} \\
 \text{RC}_1 + \cancel{\text{RC}_2} + \text{RC}_3 + \cancel{\text{RC}_4} + \cancel{\text{RC}_5} + \text{RC}_6 + \text{RC}_7 + \text{RC}_8 + \text{RC}_9 + \text{RC}_{10} + \cancel{\text{RC}_{11}} + \text{RC}_{12} + \text{RC}_{13} + \text{RC}_{14} = 30 \text{ pts.} \\
 \text{Attendance (15 pts.)} + \text{Participation (5 pts.)} = 20 \text{ pts.}
 \end{array}$$

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
100 – 93%	92 – 90%	89 – 87%	86 – 83%	82 – 80%	79 – 77%	76 – 73%	72 – 70%	69 – 67%	66 – 63%	62 – 60%	< 60%
250 – 232.5	232 – 224.5	224 – 217.5	217 – 207.5	207 – 199.5	199 – 192.5	192 – 182.5	182 – 174.5	174 – 167.5	167 – 157.5	157 – 149.5	≤ 149

Academic Integrity

I expect that all students will act with honor and integrity regarding academic work. Incidents of academic misconduct will be addressed swiftly and may result in a score of 0 for an assignment and possibly a failing grade for the course. All incidents of academic misconduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Make good choices!

According to the Code of Student Responsibility (Section 574-31-030), academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

Cheating: Intentional or attempted use of deception, fraud, and/or misrepresentations of one's academic work.

Fabrication: Unauthorized falsification and/or invention of any information or citation.

Facilitating dishonesty: Helping or attempting to help another person commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes students who substitute for other persons in exams or represent as their own papers, reports, or any other academic work of others.

Plagiarism: Representing without giving credit the words, data, or ideas of another person as one's own work. This includes submitting, in whole or part, term papers of another or the research of another, including but not limited to, products of commercial vendors who sell or distribute such materials.

Any use or attempted use of electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, iPads, laptops, etc.) in gaining an illegal advantage in academic work in which use of these devices is prohibited.

Course Schedule – Spring 2018

(subject to change)

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Block 1			
Mon., Apr. 2	Introduction		
Wed., Apr. 4	Perspectives in Social Psychology	Ch. 1, p. 22 – 37	
Mon., Apr. 9	Research Methods	Ch. 2, p. 41 – 58	
Wed., Apr. 11	The Self	Ch. 3, p. 65 – 77, 81 – 88, 99 – 103	#1 Assigned
Mon., Apr. 16	Social Cognition	Ch. 4, p. 107 – 116, 121 – 134	
Wed., Apr. 18	Social Cognition cont.	Ch. 5	#1 Due
Mon., Apr. 23	BLOCK EXAM 1		Opt. Assign(s) due
Block 2			
Wed., Apr. 25	Attitudes	Ch. 7, p. 233 – 256 & Ch. 8, p. 280 – 293	
Mon., Apr. 30	Social Influence	Ch. 9, p. 309 – 327, 338 – 349	#2 Assigned
Wed., May 2	Social Influence cont.	Ch. 9, p. 327 – 338	
Mon., May 7	Prosocial Behavior	Ch. 14, p. 529 – 551	#2 Due
Wed., May 9	Romantic Relationships	Moodle Reading #1	
Mon., May 14	Romantic Relationships cont.		
Wed., May 16	Familial Relationships	Moodle Reading #2	
Mon., May 21	BLOCK EXAM 2		Opt. Assign(s) due
Block 3			
Wed., May 23	Aggression (in-class lecture)	Ch. 13, p. 497 – 520	#3 Assigned
Mon., May 28	No class: Memorial Day!		
Wed., May 30	Stereotypes, Prejudice, & Discrimination (online lecture)	Ch. 11, p. 407 – 420, 428 – 449	#3 Due
Mon., June 4	Groups (online lecture)	Ch. 12, p. 453 – 475	
Wed., June 6	Social Dilemmas (online lecture)		
Final Exam Week			
Mon., June 11 (10:00 – 11:50 AM)	BLOCK EXAM 3		Opt. Assign(s) due



BLOG TALK

Social Psychology Blogs

You are expected to regularly follow the following Social Psychology blogs:

- Darwin's Subterranean World (Geher)
<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/darwins-subterranean-world>
- Homo Consumericus (Saad)
<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/homo-consumericus>
- Science of Relationships (multiple contributors)
<http://www.scienceofrelationships.com/home/>
- Sex, Murder, and the Meaning of Life (Kenrick)
<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/sex-murder-and-the-meaning-life>
- Unique – Like Everybody Else (McGreal)
<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/unique-everybody-else>

Recommended RSS Reader

RSS readers aggregate the RSS feeds you follow on one webpage that continually updates as new posts are added.

-Dr. Cloud's favorite: Feedly (www.feedly.com)

Directions: Log in using your Google account. Click on  (p left), then + Add Content. Type the blog URL into the search box and select the option that matches the blog title.

Finally, click the green Follow button at the top. (Check out the app for smart-phones and iPads!)

-Or simply bookmark each URL and check the links on a regular basis (e.g., I like to catch up on my RSS feeds while eating breakfast).

How to Post to Blog Talk on Moodle

-Click on “Blog Talk forum” near the top of the course Moodle page.

-To start a new thread, click “Add a new discussion topic.”

-To comment on an existing thread, click on the subject line of an existing thread, then select “Reply” (bottom right corner).

-Enter information in the “Subject” and “Message” fields, then click “Post to forum.”

How to Unsubscribe from Email Posts to Forum

-At the bottom of the Administration block, click on “My profile settings” then click on “Edit profile.”

-Under “Forum auto-subscribe,” click “No: don't automatically subscribe me to forums.”