

Sociology 3020-090

Social Psychology Online

Fall, 2014
University of Utah



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[Campus Map](#)

Course Goals

The goal of this course is to introduce undergraduate students to social psychology in a meaningful way that is relevant to issues and developments in the world. This course will emphasize a sociological social psychology that emphasizes the social nature of consciousness, cognition, motivation, perception, and action. In addition to the text and the lectures, I will use some in class experiments, videos, and assigned videos to demonstrate basic concepts and assumptions. This information should be a means of empowerment for students that will help them to make enlightened decisions regarding a variety of personal and public issues and problems.

Online Course Methods and Pedagogy

While this is an online class, I want it to resemble a typical class as much as possible. With that goal in mind, I will have weekly video taped lectures and lecture outlines posted on Canvas. Students can download the appropriate lecture outlines and watch or listen to the lectures. These lectures will address the core material presented in the class and will complement the text and a few assigned videos that can be watched online on Canvas. Lectures will usually be about 30 minutes, but this may vary, and a few longer lectures may be broken into two or more parts. If students have any questions regarding the lectures, they can email me and I will be glad to respond in a timely fashion as often as is necessary. I will also be in my office during office hours and will answer any phone calls or emails directly at that time. Please email me through Canvas.

There is also an online chat room where students can post questions regarding the materials and compare their grasp and interpretation of the ideas put forth in the class with other students. I encourage students to take advantage of the chat room, and get to know other students in the class, and if you so desire also set up study groups. Also, as explained below, participation in online discussion groups can be used to obtain extra credit.

Class Requirements

Each student must write one paper. There are three options for the paper. The first option (A) calls upon the student to do a small preliminary study wherein the student will conduct an experiment, survey, participant observation study, or ethnography. This study, done on a very small scale, may replicate existing research or promote a new hypothesis. In doing it, the student will put forth their hypothesis, test it, and summarize the significance of their results. This paper should be no longer than six pages. The second option (B) entails reading one of the books on the suggested book list. The student will evaluate the book in terms of the theory, principles, and research covered in this class or write an overview of the book highlighting its contribution to social psychology and society. This paper should be no more than five pages. The third option (C) calls upon the student to summarize what the student sees as the important social psychological assumptions put forth in this class. This paper should be no more than five pages in length. All papers should be double-spaced. The grade a student receives on a paper will reflect the degree to which the student can effectively define, utilize, and apply relevant concepts, principles, theories, and research. Feel free to call the instructor regarding any questions or problems. Students are advised to stay a week ahead in the readings.

Assigned Text and Videos

The text for this course is [Social Psychology 7th Edition](#), by Aronson, Wilson, and Ekert. In addition to the text, there are two assigned videos that are listed in the course outline. They can be watched online during the week they are assigned. They are posted and can be viewed on Canvas under [Assigned Videos](#). I also use videos in some of my lectures. When I use them, in the lecture I will refer the student to the appropriate video in the “Assigned Videos” file on Canvas. Be sure to watch these videos as they come up in the lectures. They are important, and they are on the exams.

Grading

There will be two online exams that cover lectures, texts, and videos. Each exam will be worth 60 points, and the paper is worth 60 points, making 180 total points possible. Letter grades will reflect the following ranges: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, 50 & below = E. If no or only a few students get 100%, points will be added to all the scores until two or more students get 100%, which will allow me to adjust the curve. However, students can also obtain from 5 additional bonus points by posting up on the [discussion board](#) with a question or a response to a question posted by someone else regarding materials addressed in class. Questions regarding exam dates or study groups, etc, will not count as postings. You can also earn 5 additional points by watching one of the assigned video clips or feature videos, and writing a short two page summary or response paper. All extra credit work must be submitted before the final. Reviews are incorporated into the taped lectures, and students should refer to the weekly reviews when preparing for exams. Plagiarism will result in an E grade for an assignment, so be sure to do your own work and make clear citations following either ASA or APA guidelines.

With reasonable notice given to the student, the syllabus may be changed and does not constitute a contract.

Disabled Students

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need academic accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information for this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Suggested Readings

- Obedience, Stanley Milgram (authority)
- Gang Leader for a Day, Sudhir Venkatesh
- A Long Way Gone, Ishmael Beah
- The Anatomy of Peace, The Arbinger Institute
- Amusing Ourselves to Death, Neil Postman
- Self and Society: A Symbolic Interactionist Social Psychology. John P. Hewitt
- Symbolic Interactionism: Genesis, varieties and criticism. Meltzer, Petras, and Reynolds
- Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence Mark Juergensmeyer
- The Faces of Terrorism: Social and Psychological Dimensions, Neil J. Smelser
- In the Wake of 9/11: The Psychology of Terror, Pyszczynski, Solomon, and Greenberg
- Character and Social Structure, (social psychology) Hans Gerth and C. Wright Mills
- Dark Ages Ahead, Jane Jacobs (coming decline of western civilization)
- The Sane Society, Eric Fromm (critical analysis of modern times)
- Escape From Freedom, Erich Fromm (alienation, capitalism)
- Of Wolves and Men, Barry Lopez (speciesism, wolf society)
- Culture Against Man, Jules Henry (culture as vehicle and obstacle)
- One Dimensional Man Herbert Marcuse (alienation, technology)
- The Culture of Narcissism, Christopher Lasch (anomie, alienation in America)
- The Minimal Self, Christopher Lasch (alienation and anomie in America)
- On Being Human, Ashley Montagu (social interdependence and meaning)
- The Hidden Injuries of Class, Sennet & Cobb (real people talk on stratification)
- Body Politics, Nancy M. Henley (Gender, social control under the skin)
- Asylums, Erving Goffman (total institutions)
- The Abyss, Jack London (powerful ethnography of poverty in England ,1900.)
- Civilization and Its Discontents, Sigmund Freud (Society, control, human nature)
- The McDonalization of Society, George F. Ritzer
- The Pursuit of Attention, Charles Derber
- Race Matters, Cornel West (racism)
- Man's Search For Meaning, Viktor E. Frankl (holocaust, racism)
- The Other Side, Howard S. Becker (deviance, labeling theory)
- The Lonely Crowd, David Reisman (modern alienation)

- The Revolution Within, Gloria Steinem (sexism)
- The Second Sex, Simone de Beauvoir (feminism, sexism)
- The Axemaker's Gift, (evolution of consciousness) James Burke and Robert Orstein
- The Social Order, Charles Cooley, (Timeless classic on human nature)
- Human Nature and the Social Order, Charles Cooley.
- Theory of the Leisure Class, Thorstein Veblen (conspicuous consumption and status)
- The Sociological Imagination, C. Wright Mills (sociology, meaning, and morality)
- The Power Elite, C. Wright Mills, (Elites)
- White Collar, C. Wright Mills. (stratification, power, morality)
- Power, Politics, and People, C. Wright Mills (collected essays)
- The Causes of World War Three, C. Wright Mills, (social criticism)
- The Marxists, C. Wright Mills, (critical survey of Marxist thought)
- On Psychology, William James (foundations of western psychology, classic)
- The Sacred Canopy, Peter Berger, (social construction of religion)
- Varieties of Religious Experience, William James (psychology of religion, classic) The Human Zoo, Desmond Morris (human nature, naturalistic)
- On the Division of Labor, Emile Durkheim (classic on the social order)
- Presentation of Self in Everyday Life, Erving Goffman (classic on social interaction)
- Flow, The Psychology of Optimal Experience, Michaly Csikzentmihalyi (happiness)
- On Civil Disobedience, Thoreau (dissent, morality and society)
- The Accidental Century, Michael Harrington (critical analysis of U.S. culture)
- The Social Construction of Reality, Berger & Luckmann (sociology of knowledge)
- On Death and Dying, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross (psychology of death)
- Technopoly, Neil Postman, (critical analysis of technology and progress)
- On Violence, Hannah Arendt (social psychology of violence)
- Life is A Miracle, Wendell Berry (science, art, knowledge, morality)
- In the Presence of Fear, Wendell Berry (globalization)
- Feminist Thought, A Comprehensive Introduction, Rosemarie Tong (feminism)
- On Human Nature, Edward O. Wilson (socio-biology)
- On the Future of the Planet, Edward O. Wilson (deep ecology)
- The Sea of Cortez, John Steinbeck, (science, art, evolution, human nature)
- Selected writings of George Herbert Mead, Edited by Andrew J. Reck
- On Suicide, Emile Durkheim
- Freedom and Culture, John Dewey
- Experience and Nature, John Dewey
- The Robbers Cave Experiment, Muzafer Sherif, Harvey, White, Hood, Sherif
- Collapse, Jerad Diamond, (ecological basis of society)
- The Organizational Man, William F. White (classic in sociology on conformity)
- Manufactured News, Noam Chomsky (media, communication, politics)
- Never Cry Wolf, Farley Mowat (naturalist, deep ecology)
- The Unsettling of America, Wendell Berry, (ecology, economics, business)
- Small is Beautiful, Economics as if People Mattered. Schumacher (ecology & survival)
- Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, Dee Brown (racism, imperialism)
- Gorillas in the Mist, Diane Fossey (specieism)
- Black Boy, Richard Wright (racism)
- The Acorn People, Ron Jones, (Life with disabled and terminally ill kids, stigma)

- Democracy for the Few, Michael Parenti (radical view on elitism, class conflict)
- Uncle Tom's Cabin, H. B. Stowe (racism)
- The Nature of Prejudice, Gordon Allport (prejudice)
- The Lemming Condition, Alan Arkin (family, deviance, labeling)
- Under The Banner of Heaven: A story of Violent Faith, (faith & deviance) John Krakauer
- The Gift of Fear, Gavin De Becker, (crime prevention, detection, profiling)
- Genome, Matt Ridley, (Genetics, Deep Sociobiology)
- The True Believer, Eric Hoffer (Social psychology of reactionary movements) Marx's Concept of Man, Eric Fromm
- Connected: The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks mChristakis & Folwer.
- Bright-Sided: How the Relentless Promotion of Positive Thinking Has Undermined America. Barbara Ehrenreich.
- Freakonomics. Steven D. Levitt. (research driven theory)
- Super Freakonomics, Steven D. Levitt (research driven theory)
- My Stroke of Insight, Jill Bolte Taylor, (cognition, social experience)
- Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality, Kent L. Daniel D. Sandstrom, Martin, Gary Alan Fine
- The Social Conquest of the Earth. Edward O. Wilson (Socio-biology)
- The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger. Richard Wilkinson and Kate Picket
- The Lucifer Effect: How Good People Turn Evil. Philip C. Zimbardo (Contextualizing immoral behavior in context)
- The Happiness Hypothesis. Jonathan Haidt
- The Righteous Mind: Why good People are Divided by Politics and Religion. Jonathan Haidt
- Fiver and the Psychology of Rabbits (meaning, morality in modernity) Dr. Frank J. Page

Course Outline

Weeks One (August 25): Introduction / Psychological and Sociological Social Psychology

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 1, Introduction
- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 2, Methodology
- Watch: Course Introduction
- Watch: Lecture One

Week Two (September 1): Epistemology / Methods / Theory

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 3, Social Cognition
- Watch: Lecture Two
- Watch: Lecture Three

Week Three (September 8): Cognition / Perception / Emotion / Motivation

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 4, Social Perception

- Watch: Lecture Four
- Watch: Lecture Five

Week Four (September 15): Sociological Social Psychology / Attribution Theory / Roles / Erving Goffman on Impression Management / Self-Justifications

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter Five 5, Self
- Watch: Lecture Six
- Watch: Lecture Seven

Week Five (September 22): Self / Self-Concept, Theories of Self, Self-Awareness / Self Esteem

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 6, The Need to Justify Our Actions
- Watch: Lecture Eight
- Watch: Lecture Nine

Week Six (September 29): Attitudes, Attitude Change & Inoculation, Cognitive Dissonance.

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 7, Attitudes and Attitude Change
- Watch: Lecture Ten

Week Seven (October 6): Midterm

- Online Midterm: October 10-11
- Review: Social Psychology: Chapters 1 – 7
- Review: Lectures 1-10
- In class videos

Week Eight (October 13): Conformity / Ideology / Conformity / Double Speak

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 8, Conformity: Influencing Behavior
- Watch: Lecture Eleven
- Watch: Lecture Twelve

Week Nine (October 20) Authority, Stanley Milgram's Agentic State / Social Control

- Watch: Lecture Thirteen
- Watch: Lecture Fourteen

Week Ten (October 27)

- Watch: Twelve Angry Men
- Watch: Thirteen Days

Week Eleven (November 3): Authority on the Street / Inside Organizations

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 9, Group Processes: Influence in Social Groups
- Watch: Lecture Fifteen
- Watch: Lecture Sixteen

Week Twelve (November 10): Group Processes / Process Loss / Group Think / Leadership / Social Control / Conflict Negotiation

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 10, Interpersonal Attraction: From First Impressions to Close Relationships
- Watch: Lecture Seventeen
- Watch: Lecture Eighteen

Week Thirteen (November 17) Human Attachment / Human Dependence, and Growth / Interpersonal Attraction / Interpersonal Gain and Loss / Theories of Love

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 11, Prosocial Behavior: Why People Help
- Watch: Lecture Eighteen
- Watch: Lecture Nineteen

Week Fourteen (November 24): Prosocial Behavior / Altruism / Exchange Theory / Sociobiology

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 12, Aggression: Why We Hurt Other People
- Watch: Lecture Twenty
- Watch: Lecture Twenty-one

Week Fifteen (December 1): Aggression / Deviance / Terrorism / Theories of Crime, War, and Peace

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 13, Prejudice: Causes and Cures
- Watch: Lecture Twenty-two
- Watch: Lecture Twenty-three

Week Sixteen (December 8): Prejudice / Possible Remedies / Summary / Review

- Watch: Lecture Twenty-four
- Watch: Lecture Twenty-five
- Papers due: December 8

Week Seventeen (December 15): Final Exam Online

- Online Exam: December 15-18
- Review: Lectures 8-16, Thirteen Days, Twelve Angry Men
- Review: Social Psychology Chapters 8 - 13

