

Sociology 3020-090
Social Psychology
Online
Summer Semester, 2014
University of Utah



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Office Hours Thursday -Friday Noon till 4:00pm

Room 429, Behavioral Science Building (Beh. S)

[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.

Course Outline

Weeks One (May 12): 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 (May 19): Epistemology / Methods / Theory

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 3, Social Cognition
- Read Social Psychology: Chapter 4, Social Perception
- Watch: Lectures Two, Three, Four, and Five

Week Three (May 26): Cognition / Perception / Emotion / Motivation, Sociological Social Psychology, Irving Goffman on Impression Management

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 5, Self
- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter 6, The Need to Justify Our Actions.

- Watch: Lecture Lectures Six, Seven, Eight, and Nine

Week Four (June 2): Self/Self-Concept, theories of Self, Self-Awareness, Self Esteem.

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

Week Five (June 9): Midterm Review and Midterm.

- Midterm Review
- Online Midterm June 12-13 on First Four Weeks of Lectures, Social Psychology Chapters 1-7, in-class presentations and videos
- Watch Video: Twelve Angry Men

Week Six (June 16): Group Processes, Sociological Social Psychology, Milgram on Obedience and Authority

- Read: Social Psychology: Chapter Chapter 8, Conformity, Double Speak
- Watch: Lectures Eleven, Twelve, Thirteen and Fourteen
- Watch Video: Thirteen Days, Kevin Kostner

Week Seven (June 23): Authority on the Street / Inside Organizations

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

Week Eight (June 30): 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 Nine (July 7) 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 Ten (July 14) 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 Eleven (July 21): 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 Twelve (July 28): Prejudice / Possible Remedies / Summary / Review / Online Final

- Watch: Lecture Twenty-four
- Watch: Lecture Twenty-five
- Papers Due: July 22
- Review: Lectures 8-16, Thirteen Days, Twelve Angry Men & In-class videos
- Review: Social Psychology Chapters 8 - 13
- Online Exam: July 29-Aug. 1

Suggested Readings

- 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)
- White Collar, C. Wright Mills. (stratification, power, morality)
- 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 Csikzentmilhalyi (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, Wendel 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. Christakis & Folwer.
- Bright-Sided: How the Relentless Promotion of Positive Thinking Has Undermined America. Barbara Ehrenreich.
- 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
- On Authority, Stanley Milgram
- Gang Leader For A Day, Sudhir Venkatesh