

PSYCHOLOGY OF SOCIAL BEHAVIOR
DAYS TIMES Online

CONTACT INFORMATION



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Course Description:

Social Psychology addresses the question of how individuals' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are affected by other people. This includes how we understand and make sense of other people and how we influence and are influenced by other people. Psychology 288 is designed to be an extensive, but not an exhaustive, overview of the various theories and methods employed by social psychologists in their attempts to understand social influences on human behavior. Specific topics covered include cognitive dissonance, attributions, persuasion, and attitude change; person perception; and ways in which social psychology has been used to help us understand and solve "real world" problems.


Course Goals:

1. Develop professional communication skills through written and oral presentations, including in the scientific and non-scientific domains.
2. Understand the motivations and processes present when individuals and groups interact with situations and each other; the basics of social psychology.
3. Understand how the various theories and areas of social psychology fit together to describe and explain behavior.
4. Analyze real-life situations through the lens of social psychology to explain and understand thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.

Learning Objectives:

1. Express a research question and hypothesis based on existing social psychological theory.
2. Integrate social psychological theory and specific research findings into explanations of everyday interactions.
3. Describe the roles of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors in understanding social interactions.
4. Integrate at least two social psychological theories to describe the mechanisms and explain the processes of everyday interactions or a social problem.
5. Explain the basic perspective and history of social psychology to people with no psychology training.


Course overview:

Each week we will complete one [module](#) to cover a chapter of the [textbook](#) . Each module is broken into sections of the chapter. The pages of the module describe the pages that you should read to cover the weekly material, the learning objective of the section, a 10-15 minute mini-lecture reviewing the most important information from the reading, and a Quizlet to ensure that you completed the work. These Quizlets will comprise your attendance points of this course.

Additionally, each week you will write [a blog post](#) responding to a prompt. See the description below for more information about the blog posts.

Finally, each week we will meet as a group via Zoom (link to Page with zoom links) to discuss the material and do an activity to apply the material. The Zoom meetings are scheduled for XXXXday at XX:XX CST each week.

Textbook:

You are not required to purchase a textbook for this course. The main text is "Principles of Social Psychology" and is available in [the files](#) or [here](#). 

Technical Requirements:

These technical requirements will allow you to access the course site successfully, send/receive online communications, complete assigned activities, and view multimedia content:

- an active e-mail address in Canvas;
- an Internet connection (preferably high speed);
- a supported Web browser (Google Chrome are strongly recommended);
- a word processor (Microsoft Suite is highly recommended);
- PDF reader (Adobe is preferred); and
- a media player (such as the VLC Media Player).

The technology skills you will need to succeed in this course are a basic familiarity with a Web browser, e-mail, word processing, and the ability to locate specific information on the Internet.

Technical Support:

Canvas is where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

- The URL to access Canvas is: <http://canvas.unl.edu>
- For Canvas, passwords, or any other computer-related technical support contact the [IT Help Center](#).
 - Phone: 402-472-3970
 - Website: <http://mysupport.unl.edu/Links to an external site.>
 - Submit a support ticket: mysupport@unl.edu

When sending emails:

Always put PSYC 288 in the subject line (or email through Canvas) if you want a prompt response. Every effort will be made to make email replies within 24 hours of receipt (Monday through Friday).

A short note about basic email etiquette to best represent yourself professionally when corresponding with the instructors -- It is expected that each email will include a subject alerting the instructor to the content of the email, a simple greeting, at least one sentence, and a closing that includes the student's full name. For more information about email etiquette please visit <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/636/1/> ([Links to an external site.](#)) or see the resources posted to Canvas.

Honesty Policy:

Basically, don't cheat. If you need more than that, please see the University of Nebraska's Student Code of Conduct (§ 4.2).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructors for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Exam policies:

There will be three (3) exams this semester, each covering four (4) chapters of the book. Exams will be administered through Canvas and will be timed. You will be allotted 60 minutes (one hour) to complete the exam and are expected to do so independently. While you will be able to use your notes and textbook, I will ask you to certify that you did not use resources outside those provided or obtained through this course. Material for the exams is not limited to topics discussed in the lecture videos or the full class discussion. Students are responsible for assigned readings.

No make-up exams will be given without a valid, documented excuse and notification to the instructor before the scheduled exam. For example, if you are ill on a particular exam day, you will need to call the instructor's office or email before missing the exam and obtain written proof of your condition from a physician. The instructor reserves the right to administer oral make-up examinations.

In-class Activities:

Not all so-called “in-class” activities will be completed during class. If you miss a discussion session, you are still required to complete the activity that was assigned or due during that class period. Late penalties for missed activities will not follow the same rules and will be more flexible – but still try to make sure to complete everything in a timely manner. No work will be accepted after the last day of class for this portion of your grade. For these assignments, I will simply be looking to see if you put a "good faith effort" into answering the questions or completing the activity you were asked to complete. If you did you will get a (+); if not, you will get a (-). If you receive at least 90% plusses on the in-class activity assignments you will receive the full 250 points. If you receive 80-90% plusses, you will earn 200 points. If you receive 70-80% plusses you will earn 150 points. If you receive 50-60% plusses you will receive 100 points. If you receive 40-50% plusses on these activities you will earn 50 points. If you receive fewer than 40% plusses you will receive 0 points.

Blog Assignments:

Over the course of the semester, you will be asked to write ten (10) 700-750 word blog posts, each worth 20 points. The posts are intended to assess how well you understand the material, to identify concepts that are challenging for students, and to give you practice applying the course material to real-life scenarios. Finally, the assignment achieves the first goal of this course, to give you practice with written communication about psychology. The blog posts are due by 11:59 PM the night before we meet for discussion and activities on XXXXday.

Additionally, you will do 2 peer reviews of other students' blog posts. You will be assigned to a peer whose blog you will read and provide feedback.

Quizlets Assignments

Each week you will complete one (1) short quiz per section of the chapter. Each Quizlet is two questions. These quizzes will be used to ensure you are reading the book and watching the mini-lecture videos.

Late work policies:

If for some reason you are unable to complete any of the course materials by the deadline, you will receive a 10% penalty if you turn in the assignment within five days (including weekends) of the due date. If you turn in an assignment after that first week, but before the last day of class, you will receive a 50% penalty on your grade for that assignment.

Course materials turned in after the end of the course will not be accepted. Please try to turn your work in on time, as it will make everything easier for the both of us.

Extra Credit: The only opportunity for extra credit is by participating in research studies. Each research credit you earn for participating in research will add 1 percentage to your exam grade (with a maximum of 3 credits per exam). The maximum you may earn for the class is 6 credits. You must complete the credits before the exam for them to count for that exam.

Grading:

Additional details about individual assignments and allocation of points for those assignments will be provided in separate documents at the end of the first week of classes.

Assignment	Points	Due Date
Introduction Discussion Post	50 points	Due DATE
Quizzlets	50 points	XXXday at 11:59 PM
Exam 1	200 points	DATE
Exam 2	200 points	DATE
Blog Posts	250 points	XXXday at 11:59 PM
Activities	2500 points	XXXXday at XX:XX
TOTAL	1000 points	

*Table describes the number of points allocated to each assignment and the due dates.

Grading Scale:

The following scale is intended only as an approximate guideline, and may be adjusted at the discretion of the instructor when awarding final grades:

A+: 97-100	B: 83-86	D: 60-69
A: 93-96	B-: 80-82	
A-: 90-92	C+: 77-79	
B+: 87-89	C: 70-76	

Course Schedule:

I reserve the right to modify the schedule at any time throughout the semester. However, the primary due dates listed below will not be subject to change.