

# **Social Psychology**

## **PSYC 224**

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**The Best Way to Contact Me is to SEE Me**

### **Required Text and Additional Readings:**

Aronson, E., Wilson, T., Akert, R., & Sommers, S. (2016). *Social psychology, 9th Edition*. Pearson, Boston.

Additional Readings will be assigned through online sources at no additional cost to promote content knowledge and discussion.

### **Course Description**

An introduction to the factors and processes involved in people's understanding of themselves, others, and social interactions. Attention is given to research in such areas as social perception, gender, group interaction, attitude formation and change, aggression, social influence, interpersonal attraction, prejudice and discrimination, and pro-social behavior with particular emphasis given to differences relating to gender, race, and class.

### **Course Objectives**

1) Students will become familiar with the method of science as it applies to social psychology. 2) Students will gain an understanding of the mental processes and behaviors of humans as it applies and interacts with the social world. 3) Students will practice their critical thinking skills. 4) Students will practice, improve, and strengthen their ability to summarize and present scientific information in writing. 5) Students will apply the principles of psychology in general and social psychology specifically to better their life and those around them.

### **Course Guiding Principles**

The guiding principles will be used as the basis of classroom activities and questions. The principles will structure the exploration of social psychology and encourage the application of the material into daily life. 1) Purpose; "the purpose of psychology," "the purpose of the classroom activities," or "the purpose of the author of an article, essay, or textbook." 2) Relevance or relating to the matter at hand; "how does this relate to me," "how does it relate to the problem," or "how does it help to understand the issue." 3) Intellectual Humility; "what do I really know," "what are my biases or limitations," or "how do my beliefs or actions influencing my understanding."

**Course Evaluation:** Your grade will be based on 1) Exams (275pts), 2) Pre-Quizzes (100pts), 3) In class activities (75pts), 4) Written Summaries (60pts), and 5) Movie Worksheets (20pts). **TOTAL POINTS\*= 530**

\*Final total points may vary depending on the number of in class activities and various other small assignments

<b>Grading Scale:</b>	A=	100-94.5	C=	76.4-72.5
	A-=	94.4-89.5	C-=	72.4-69.5
	B+=	89.4-86.5	D+=	69.4-66.5
	B=	86.4-82.5	D=	66.4-62.5
	B-=	82.4-79.5	D-=	62.4-59.5
	C+=	79.4-76.5	E<	59.5

Unfortunately, we will not be able to cover all the chapters found in the textbook. While it is normal not to cover all chapters in a traditional term, the limit of time and fast pace of the shorter summer session makes it even more difficult to cover the breath of psychology.

**THERE ARE NO LARGE EXAMS IN THIS COURSE:**

Due to the fast pace and the large amount of material covered in a summer course, cumulative evaluations such as large exams tend to be less effective. Instead, smaller chapter exams will serve the function of assessing knowledge gained about General Psychology.

**Chapter Exams (275 pts):** Students are required to complete online chapter exams for each assigned chapter. The exam will cover material both from the lecture and textbook (*Social Psychology 9<sup>th</sup> edition*) and will be composed of **four-part multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions** for each chapter. Note: Blackboard tracks **ALL** exam activity, including just looking at an exam and produces “reports” for the professor as well as locking students out of the exam. **Do not look at the exams before taking them.** I receive a large amount of information from Blackboard...I know when the exam was taken, how long it took to the hundredth of a second, how many were correct, incorrect choices for each question, and so much more.

**A total of 11 chapter exams will be completed during the course.** As you complete the chapter exams make sure to click the “submit” button. No answers will be sent unless you click the submit button. There is **no time limit for the exams**, but I recommend completing them in a timely manner to avoid any loss of data or problems with the browser. The chapter exams are meant more to teach the material than to test or “catch” students with tricky questions. **Students that do the best on the chapter exams...** will read and review the chapter as well as all class notes BEFORE attempting the chapter exam. In addition, I encourage people to take the chapter exams open book and open notes. After submitting the chapter exam, students will have the opportunity to review how well they did on the multiple-choice questions. The exam will note correct and incorrect answers as well as pointing out the correct response for all questions. The fill-in-the blank questions will need to be reviewed and corrected by the instructor before the final exam score will appear **Each multiple-choice question is worth 1 point and each fill-in-the blank question is worth 2 points.** The more correct answers the higher the test score. The chapter exams, and the way they are being used (see Pre-Quizzes below), are designed to give all students the opportunity to gain a high total chapter exam score. **(11 Chapter Exams at 25 points apiece for a total of 275 points possible)**

**Pre-Quizzes** (100 pts): Students will be encouraged to complete on-line reading quizzes for each topic presented in class. Each quiz will be composed of 10 multiple-choice questions. Students are required to take and submit a **Pre-Quiz** for each chapter listed on the Topic Outline through our Blackboard class site. **You may take the quiz as many times as you like**, however all assigned quizzes must be taken by the “assignment to be completed” due date- see topic outline. **All quiz scores of 80% or better will receive the full credit of 10 points** for that chapter (i.e., less than 80% will receive no points). The key is learning by doing. In the past, students that have completed the quizzes have done better on the exams. There will be 10 pre-quizzes each worth 10 points for a total of 100 possible points.

**In Class Activities** (75 pts): Throughout the week, in class activities will be completed to promote critical thinking and application of course material. The activities will vary in format; however, they will usually involve a brief individual writing assignment followed by group work and finally class discussion. While the topic will change with the content, the course guiding principles will remain the focus 1) purpose, 2) relevance, and 3) intellectual humility. Most activities will be worth **5 points** and occasionally 10 points based on the work completed during or prior to class. **The only way to earn the in-class activity points is to attend and participate in the activity.** Missed activities will result in a zero for that activity without the option of a “make-up.”

**Written Summaries** (60pts): The ability to read for understanding and summarize scientific information for a larger audience is an important skill desired by most work environments both in and outside of the field of psychology. Throughout the term readings will be passed out or posted on Blackboard of original social psychology research. The research articles will promote classroom discussion as well as used to develop writing skills. **THREE** specific approaches to the summaries will be taken 1) Meaning Summaries, 2) Outlining Key Points, and 3) Research Annotations. (Additional directions and examples will be given out prior to assignments.) Students will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit summary assignments for the opportunity to earn back **HALF** of the missed points. Late or missed summary assignments will earn a **ZERO** and may be resubmitted for half credit under the discretion of the instructor. Please contact the instructor as soon as a problem is identified.

**Movie Worksheets** (20 pts): On two or more occasions, popular or “Hollywood” movies will be shown during class. The movies are meant to spark discussion and application of the course material. In many cases, students will become critics on the ability of Hollywood to portray psychology principles. Students will complete a brief movie worksheet to evaluate the student’s knowledge and the effectiveness of the movie to capture social psychological concepts.

## **Class Policies**

### **Late Assignments:**

No late assignments will be accepted. Any student failing to complete an assignment on time will **receive a grade of zero (0)** for that assignment.

### **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**

*From the FSU Undergraduate Student Catalog...*

#### **UNIVERSITY POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Integrity is essential to academic life. Consequently, students who enroll at Framingham State University agree to maintain high standards of academic honesty and scholarly practice. They shall be responsible for familiarizing themselves with the published policies and procedures regarding academic honesty. In addition to the required statement, faculty members shall, at their discretion, include in the course syllabus additional statements relating the definition of academic honesty to their courses. Infractions of the Policy on Academic Honesty include, but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarism: claiming as one's own work the published or unpublished literal or paraphrased work of another. It should be recognized that plagiarism is not only academically dishonest but also illegal;
2. Cheating on exams, tests, quizzes, assignments, and papers, including the giving or acceptance of these materials and other sources of information without the permission of the instructor(s);
3. Unauthorized collaboration with other individuals in the preparation of course assignments;
4. Submitting without authorization the same assignment for credit in more than one course;
5. Use of dishonest procedures in computer, laboratory, studio, or field work;
6. Misuse of the University's technical facilities (computer machinery, laboratories, media equipment, etc.), either maliciously or for personal gain;
7. Falsification of forms used to document the academic record and to conduct the academic business of the University.

#### **Top-Ten helpful suggestions for your success in this class**

1. Read the Syllabus- it is the contract between the professor and student
2. Read and Understand the Topic Outline
3. Attend and participate in class
4. Take and review class notes over the lectures and class discussions.
5. Have consistent use of a computer with a recent browser
6. Check Blackboard and e-mail often for announcements
7. Write, proofread, and revise all written summaries
8. Take notes while reading the chapters in *Social Psychology*
9. Read and review the chapters and notes before the Chapter Exams
10. Complete work before the deadline to avoid problems with technical difficulties

**Social Psychology PSYC 224**  
**Topic Outline**  
**Summer 2016**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Chapters</b>	<b>Quiz/Exam</b>	<b>Assignments to be Completed</b>
<b>1</b>	Communicate with Dr G Meet and Greet Each Other  What is Social Psychology?	Preface  Chap 1	1 Exam  <b>Due Midnight Friday</b>	Meet the Professor  Community Building  Interests and Goals
<b>2</b>	Social Psychology Research  Social Cognition	Chap 2  Chap 3	2 & 3 Pre-Quiz <b>Due Midnight Monday</b>  2 & 3 Exam <b>Due Midnight Friday</b>	
<b>3</b>	Social Perception  The Self	Chap 4  Chap 5	4 & 5 Pre-Quiz <b>Due Midnight Monday</b>  4 & 5 Exam <b>Due Midnight Friday</b>	Meaning Summaries <b>Due Midnight Wednesday</b>
<b>4</b>	Attitudes  Groups	Chap 7  Chap 9	7 & 9 Pre-Quiz <b>Due Midnight Monday</b>  7 & 9 Exam <b>Due Midnight Friday</b>	Outlining Point <b>Due Midnight Wednesday</b>  Summaries Revision <b>Due Midnight Friday</b>
<b>5</b>	Conformity  Prejudice	Chap 8  Chap 13	8 & 13 Pre Quiz <b>Due Midnight Monday</b>  8 & 13 Exam <b>Due Midnight Friday</b>	Annotation <b>Due Midnight Wednesday</b>  Outlining Revision <b>Due Midnight Friday</b>
<b>6</b>	Aggression  Prosocial Behavior	Chap 12  Chap 11	12 & 11 Pre Quiz <b>Due Midnight Monday</b>  12 & 11 Exam <b>Due Midnight Friday</b>	Annotation Revision <b>Due Midnight Wednesday</b>

**Contact the professor as soon as possible to address any questions or concerns**  
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