

Instructor: Giles H. Feinberg M.A.

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Office Hours: Virtual via Zoom

Fridays 12pm-1pm

Course Description:

Social psychology has been described as a “scientific attempt to understand and explain how the thoughts, feelings, and behavior of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others” (Gordon Allport). This course is designed to explore the traditional aspects of social psychology as well as examine how current trends in your own lives, the news, stories, and of course, in social media conform to and inspire new and old research and theories in the field.

In 2020 we experienced a global pandemic that unquestionably impacted every person alive from the likes of social isolation, to negative impacts on education, relationships and even death. There is no going back, only going forward since Covid-19 interminably altered our social selves. Throughout the semester I urge you to reflect on how this virus changed the course of human history, and closer still, how it may have changed you.

We will begin with an overview of the field and will examine the fundamental aspects of social psychology as a science and the longstanding theories and principles that are already relevant to you in your daily life. Throughout the semester, we will look at various aspects of the individual including, self-esteem, bias, the perception of others, aggression, social cognition, attitude formation, group processes, and helping, to name a few. We will conclude the course in an expansive way looking at social psychology at play in our well-being and institutions such as the legal system, businesses, medicine, and advertising.

The primary goal of this course is to consider social interaction, research, and principles and their role in society today. Social psychology by its very nature, as an encompassing intellectual discipline, explores some very difficult issues, and there are frequently no easy answers to the questions we will raise. These lectures are designed to make you look at dynamics and interactions in your life and your community. At many times we will be taking a critical perspective. While it is certainly not necessary that we all reach the same conclusions or hold the same opinions (nor is this likely), I do expect everyone to challenge their own ideas and preconceptions.

We are living in a golden age of access to information, communication and interconnectedness the likes of which no other generation has partaken in. We will examine how this has affected the things we are exposed to in our lives. Throughout the semester we will discuss issues relating to race and ethnicity, class, constructions of gender, discrimination and prejudice, and the media, and we will talk about the ways that all of these influence, shape, or form our understanding of psychology, and our place in history today.

At the conclusion of this semester, you should have gained some knowledge about the systems of social psychology, and how this field shapes and is shaped by your thoughts, feelings, behavior, culture, values, and gender. In addition, I expect you will have a deeper understanding of some of the complicated issues that exist at these intersections, and should be able to engage in critical thought about these issues in your writing, speaking, and analyses.

Required Textbooks and Readings:

- Kassin, Fein, & Markus (2017). *Social Psychology* 10th Ed. United States: Wadsworth. ISBN # 978-1305580220
- Kassin, Fein, & Markus (2021). *Social Psychology* 11th Ed. United States: Wadsworth. ISBN #978-0357122846
- In addition, relevant readings will be posted online on Canvas.

Academic Integrity:

I expect all students to demonstrate academic integrity in this course. You are expected to do your own work. Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable: this means that assignments I consider to involve cheating or dishonesty will receive NO CREDIT. In addition, I maintain the right to seek additional penalties consistent with university policy. If you have questions or concerns about this, you should speak with me directly, or review the CSU Standards of Conduct.

ADA Accommodation:

Students who need accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email dprc@sfsu.edu

Class Participation:

I strongly encourage you to watch the pre-recorded lectures, for several reasons. To begin with, my lectures will nearly always cover material not included in the textbook, and there will be no good way for you to access this information without watching the lectures.

In order to encourage participation there will be written responses following each chapter covered by lecture. These assignments will combine together to comprise 10% of your participation grade.

This means that your submitted work will be reviewed and approved by me and reflect as either completed or incompleting on Canvas. These in-class assignments are intended to give you a chance to share your thoughts and opinions about the issues we are discussing. While I will not score these responses for right or wrong answers, I will be reading each one. Your responses will comprise the largest part of your class participation grade for the semester. Please note: participation is 10% of your final grade. This is significant. If you are not submitting these reflections papers, your final grade will suffer.

Grading Criteria and Assignments:

- Exams #1 and #2 and #3 (final) – 30% each

Exams may include multiple choice, true/false, and sentence completion style questions.

The final exam will include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and one essay question. The multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions may be cumulative.

- Class Assignments & Participation - 10%

As an active participant in this course, you are expected (1) to complete assigned readings, (2) watch the prerecorded lectures, and (3) to think critically about the issues and material being addressed both in the readings and in lectures, (4) demonstrate your critical thinking skills in each chapter reflection paper.

Example of how grades are calculated:

The 3 exam scores combined make up 90% of your grade meaning each exam score is worth 30%. If your exam scores were 72%, 79%, & 85%, and your participation score was 85% (because you had missing assignments), the math looks like this:

(Exam 1 score multiplied by 30%) + (Exam score 2 multiplied by 30%) + (Exam Score 3 multiplied by 30%) + (participation score multiplied by 10%). Converting the percentage into decimal for the actual calculation looks like this:

$(72 \times .3) + (79 \times .3) + (85 \times .3) + (85 \times .1)$ which looks like this in raw numbers

$21.6 + 23.7 + 25.5 + 8.5 = 79.2$ which converts easily to 79.2%

Extra credit is calculated at .012 (which is hella generous) and would be a final of 83% if all 3 extra credit were completed, in this example

Grading Scale

93-100 = A	77-79.9 = C+
90-92.9 = A-	73-76.9 = C
87-89.9 = B+	70-72.9 = C-
83-86.9 = B	67-69.9 = D+
80-82.9 = B-	60-66.9 = D
	00-59.9 = F

Credit (CR) = .70 (C) or higher;

No Credit (NC) = 0-.69

Important University Dates and Deadlines:

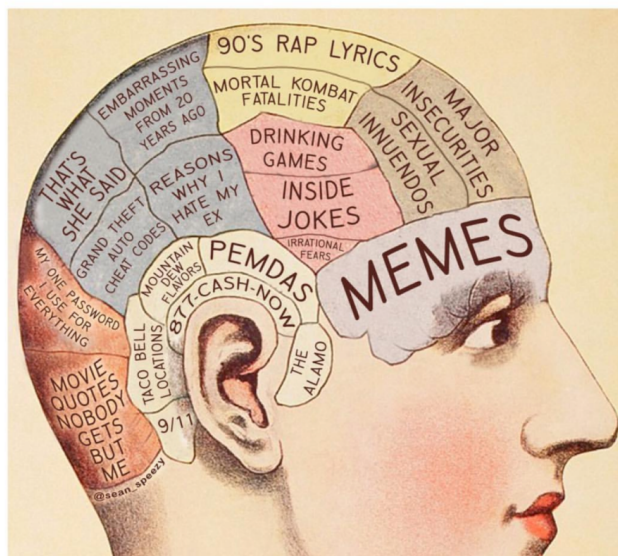
September 13th: Audit Deadline

September 13th: Last Day to Drop without a "W" grade

October 18th – last day to request CR/NC

November 17th: Last Day to Withdraw for serious/compelling reason (with "W" grade)

"Sometimes I wonder what goes on in that head of yours..."



Topic	Textbook Reading Assignment
First Class/Overview Social Psychology	Chapter 1
Research Methods	Chapter 2
The Social Self	Chapter 3
Perceiving Persons <u>Exam #1 Review</u>	Chapter 4
Stereotypes, Prejudice, & Discrimination	Chapter 5
Attitudes	Chapter 6
Conformity	Chapter 7
Group Processes <u>Exam #2 Review</u>	Chapter 8
Attraction & Relationships	Chapter 9
Helping	Chapter 10
Law	Chapter 12
<i>Health & Well-Being</i> <u>Exam #3 Review</u>	Chapter 14

*Please Note: I reserve the right to make any changes necessary to this schedule. Any changes will be announced in by email as soon as possible.