

Fordham University

Online Course

Social Psychology

PSYC 2600

Summer 2019

Syllabus

Instructor: Jasmina Sose Selimotic, Ph.D.

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Office hours: By appointment via email

Course Description:

This course is a survey of contemporary theory and research in social psychology. The course will cover both the “classics” of modern social psychology as well as recent trends, emerging perspectives, and cutting-edge research (with an emphasis on more recent research). Students will be introduced to different levels of social impact regarding people’s immediate and societal influences. Students will become familiar with the methodological and measurement practices that are commonly employed in social psychological research. Within the course the following topics will be covered: social cognitions, attribution theories, self, identity, attitudes, persuasion, group processes, prejudice and discrimination, social influence, aggression, prosocial

behavior. During the course students will also gain an understanding of different ways through which social processes can reshape culture, while at the same time being influenced by the culture

Course Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Critically understand the major methods of research in social psychology.
- Describe, explain and evaluate research studies examining core areas of social psychology.
- Recognize and evaluate social, cultural, and other types of diversity.
- Apply psychological concepts, theories and research findings to solve problems in everyday life and in society.
- Develop the ability to think clearly and critically about issues related to social influence and to apply social psychological theories to understand and potentially influence human behavior in applied settings.

Required text:

- Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2019). *Social Psychology* (5th edition). W. W. Norton & Company: New York, NY.

Recommended:

- Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6thed.). (2009). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Course Evaluation

Assessment	Workload	Due	Percentage
Midterm exam	Chapters: 1-5	7/05/19	30
Final Exam	Chapters: 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14.	TBA	35
Participation & Homework	TBA	TBA	35
Total			100

Course Requirements: Full credit will not be given for late assignments or exams taken after the scheduled date unless this is arranged with the instructor in advance. Late assignments may not be accepted. The students will be asked to provide valid, written documentation of the event that prohibited the student from completing assignments or exams on time.

Class Participation

For the class to be successful, everyone involved must contribute. This includes preparing for class by completing the reading materials on time, attending class, engaging all the materials that are being presented, participating in class discussions, and participating in all exercises. Participation is important enough to the class that it counts as part of your final grade. Each student will be assigned a point total representing his or her contribution to class as assessed by the criteria just specified. It is important for you to recognize that this participation grade will not be a token assessment. Those who contribute will be rewarded; those who do not will earn little, if any, credit in this category.

Attendance, Participation, and Absence Policy: Class attendance and participation are expected. Students are responsible for all announcements made in class. If you must miss a class, it is expected that you notify me via e-mail. Course grades may be adjusted downward in instances including (but not limited to) poor course attendance or lack of participation (or upwards based on substantial improvement in course performance over the semester). If you miss more than 2 classes, you will be failing this class. Homework will be assigned throughout the semester.

Accommodating student needs/disabilities: Students who think they may need accommodations in this course because of the impact of a disability are encouraged to meet with me privately early in the semester. Early contact will help to avoid unnecessary inconvenience and delays.

Understanding appropriate sources for citations: For all assignments and exams, the following are considered appropriate and valid sources for citations and references:

- Published journal articles (e.g., from *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *Journal of Social Psychology*, *Personal Relationships*, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, *Social Cognition*, *Psychological Science* etc. This list is not comprehensive), both in on-line and paper formats.
- Professional handbook chapters and reviews (i.e., edited volumes with chapters written by psychological researchers).
- Academic books (i.e., books written by psychological researchers).

The following are *not* considered appropriate and valid sources for citations and references:

- Information found on the internet are **not to be used** as citations in your work, unless it is the on-line version of a scientific journal (e.g., accessing *JPSP* on-line is fine). This includes Wikipedia and/or any other webpages.

In short, you should always be working with the primary literature written by psychological researchers. If you have questions about a particular source, please ask.

Academic integrity: Plagiarism and cheating will be grounds for receiving a failing grade on the relevant test or assignment or possibly failing the course. As a student at Fordham University, you are expected to abide by the Academic Integrity Statement and Code of Conduct of Fordham University written below. Any infractions against either of these will be subject to the appropriate action, as outlined in the Fordham University Handbook and Publications.

As a student of Fordham University, I recognize that I am part of a community dedicated to the disciplined and rigorous pursuit of knowledge and communication of truth. I therefore commit myself to the University Code of Conduct and upholding the highest standards of academic integrity. Any work that I claim to be my own will be my own; I will give appropriate credit where credit is due; I will be fair and honest in all of my interactions with members of the Fordham community.

Course Schedule

The following schedule is **tentative** and is mainly intended to give you an idea of the topics that will be covered. Changes will almost certainly be made as the semester unfolds. You will be notified of changes through announcements made in class and/or via Blackboard or e-mail.

DATE	Topics	Reading
5/31 – 6/7	Greeting/Introduction	Chapters 1 and 2
6/7 – 6/14	The Social Self	Chapter 3
6/14 – 6/21	Social Cognition	Chapter 4
6/21 – 6/28	Social Attribution	Chapter 5
6/28 – 7/5	Attitudes Midterm Exam	Chapter 7 Chapters: 1-5
7/5-7/12	Persuasion	Chapter 8
7/12 – 7/19	Social Influence	Chapter 9
7/19 – 7/26	Stereotyping, Prejudice and Discrimination	Chapter 11
7/26 – 8/2	Aggression	Chapter 13
8/2 – 8/6	Prosocial Behavior	Chapter 14
8/6	Final Exam	Chapters: 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14.