



**Syllabus for PSYC 206
Social Psychology
Department of Psychology
Fall 2024; Aug 19 – Oct 11**

Instructor: Dr. Maggie Polk

Office: AH 0129

Office Hours: M/W 2-3pm Via zoom
(see BB for link)

E-mail: marpolk@siue.edu

Term: Fall 2024

Class Location: Online

Class Meeting time: Asynchronous

Course Description: This course is designed to provide an overview of many different theories, research methods and empirical findings of social psychology.

Course Objectives:

- Employ different theoretical perspectives to better understand human behavior.
- Enhance your knowledge about psychological mechanism that underlie perceptions, feelings, thoughts and behavior.
- Learn how people's thoughts, feelings and behaviors are influenced by others.
- Understand how your own behavior is shaped by psychological concepts covered in this course.
- Apply information you have learned in the course to real-life examples and your own personal life.

Textbook:

Kassin, Fein & Markus (2025). *Social Psychology* (12th Ed.) Sage.

Undergraduate students can rent textbooks from SIUE. Please visit the [Textbook Service website](#) for more information. For off-campus classes, the textbook may be shipped to you. Look for the option "Off-Campus Classes have special instructions, click here for these." Note: shipping time may take up to two weeks.

Other course materials

Additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester and will be posted to Blackboard.

Communicating with the instructor:

The most reliable way (and only way) to contact me is via e-mail. I respond to e-mails I receive during the week (M-F, 9-5 p.m.) within 24-48 hours. If you need to speak with me personally, I am easy to find during my office hours in my office. If you are unable to attend office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please contact me for an appointment.

E-Mail Guidelines:

E-mail is a wonderful tool when used properly. Please follow these simple guidelines when e-mailing me, so that I can identify you as one of my students quickly and address your concern without having to write you back to say “Who are you and what class are you in??” (This happens, *often!*)

1. Include class info in your subject line (PSY 206 Sec D01).
2. ALWAYS sign your e-mail. Many of you have e-mail addresses that mask your identity.
3. Please treat your e-mails as professional communications. Please use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Communicating with YOU:

I will send out many emails and announcements via Blackboard so it is your responsibility to check your SIUE email regularly, as well as Blackboard announcements.

Course Requirements and Policies

Assignments are posted in Blackboard throughout the semester and will be due online at the scheduled date and time. The dates of each assignment can be found on Blackboard and in your course calendar at the end of your syllabus. It is your responsibility to make sure that all assignments are completed and turned in on time. Work turned in after the scheduled date and time is considered late work.

Submitting Work

All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard. No emailed assignments will be accepted.

Media Reflection Papers

One of the key objectives in this course is to apply what you have learned in this course to your everyday life. As such, you will be asked to write a 1-page summary relating real-life media examples (i.e., movies, TV programs, podcasts, books, etc.) to a social psychology concept covered within that unit. You will be asked to describe the social psychology concept in your own words, then provide some background to your media example, and then explain how the media example showcases the social psychology concept. The media example can be fictional or non-fictional but it has to be a media example. Meaning, you cannot use a personal anecdote. In addition, news or research articles should not be used. After you finish the 1-page summary, you will write a reflection about the topic you discussed in your paper. The reflection should be at least ½ page long. You will use this reflection to discuss what you learned as a result of this concept, how you can take this concept into your own life (now using personal anecdotes) and anything else that you want to reflect on as a result of this concept. Please see the Media Reflection paper rubric on Blackboard for full details.

Discussions

Each week, you will be asked to answer two discussion questions. Your first thread will be a question I ask you that comes from that week’s textbook, lecture videos or additional readings. In addition to answering the question, you will need to reply to at least two of your classmates’ posts. For each discussion topic, you will have 2 posts – 1 initial post and 1 reply post. Your initial post is worth 3 points, and your reply post is worth 2 points (total of 10 points for each

week). In order to receive full credit for your initial post, your initial post needs to be at least 75 words, respond fully to the question on hand and provide references to course content that you have to read. Your reply posts need to be substantial replies, meaning they need to say more than “I agree” or “disagree”. You need to point out what exactly you agree or disagree on and why. They should be at least 50 words.

The second thread will be the same every week – come up with a discussion question about something within that corresponding week’s chapter(s). This can be either something that stood out to you, something that you want to know more information about or something else that could spark discussion from that week. Your question or comment should be at least 75 words and spark conversation. You need to write more than something like “What is group identity?” but rather ask a question or make a comment that could spark conversation. To ensure you hit your 75 words, you should provide background information for why this topic stood out to you AND give a suggested answer to your own question to give your classmates an idea of what you are thinking based on this question. Then, you will need to respond to at least one person’s question/comment to receive full credit. Your reply post should be more than just “this surprised me too” but rather add to the thread either by answering the question or providing more explanation to their comment. Your question/comment will be worth 3 points and your reply post will be worth 2 points. The last week of the class you will NOT have a discussion question thread.

Guidelines for discussions:

- Initial posts for both discussion threads are due THURSDAYS at 11:59 p.m.
- Reply posts for both discussion threads are due Sundays at 11:59 p.m. If you do not complete an initial post you will not receive credit for the reply post. ** please note this date will change for the final week**
- You must post your replies in the textbox of the discussion board – no word document submissions will be counted.
- You must sign your name at the end of your discussions. This shows you are taking accountability for you have said. If you do not include your name at the end of your posts, you will receive 1 point deduction for each post. If you consistently do not sign your name (i.e. it happens multiple weeks in a row), you will not receive credit for your discussion.

The point of these discussions is to dive in deeper to these journal articles and topics in the book. Articles will be posted in each unit folder for you to read.

Extra credit opportunities:

There will be a welcome discussion and closing discussion that you can answer and post 2 replies for a chance to get an additional 2 extra credit points on each thread (total of 4 extra points).

If you reply to a classmate’s response on your thread, you can earn 1 point of extra credit per response. Only a max of 3 replies can happen per thread.

Chapter quizzes

Each week you will cover ~2 chapters and will have chapter quizzes to test your knowledge. These quizzes will be all multiple choice. You have unlimited attempts at the quizzes, and

blackboard will count your highest grade. However, please note that every time you retake the quiz, you will see a new set of questions and you will be unable to see your missed questions. These quizzes will help reinforce your knowledge and also serve as preparation for your exams. Quizzes will be due at the end of the week and cannot be turned in late.

Exams

There will be a total of 2 exams in this class: 1 mid-term exam worth 75 points and 1 final exam worth 100 points. Your final exam will be **cumulative**. Your mid-term exam will be open for 60 minutes and your final exam will be open 90 minutes. Once started, the exam must be completed in one sitting (i.e., it cannot be paused and resumed at a later time). These exams will be open note and open book, but not open google. Due to these time constraints, it will be necessary that you study. Any material presented in lecture or your textbook are fair game for an exam. Your exams will be a mixture of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions. Exams will open up on Friday of each week at 12am and close on Sunday at 11:59p.m. ***Note: Except your final exam, which will open at Wednesday 12am and close on Friday at 11:59p.m.***

Please ensure that you have a reliable computer and Internet access when you choose to begin the exam. **If an exam “reset” is required for any reason, please email me while the exam is open. If the exam is reset, your final grade will be reduced by 10 percent of the exam value.** The reduction is because 1) a reset extends the time of a timed exam and 2) students are responsible for ensuring their computer and Internet access are reliable. I can’t guarantee I will see your email in time to reset an exam (especially if you email over the weekend), so please do everything you can to ensure your computer and Internet access are reliable. **Email exam reset requests at least 24 hours before an exam is due; requests sent less than 24 hours before a deadline may not be seen in time for a reset. Once the exam deadline has passed, the exam cannot be made up or reset.**

Syllabus Quiz:

All students will need to complete a syllabus quiz at the start of the semester. The syllabus quiz will be completed online through blackboard. Please check the course calendar for the date of the quiz.

Pre – and Post – Course Quizzes (Extra Credit)

There will be chance to earn up to 3 points of extra credit by completing these quizzes. This will be to test your knowledge before and after taking the course. They are extra credit!

Course Policies

Course Questions

It is natural for everyone to have questions and I want you to feel comfortable asking questions. That said, in some cases, students ask questions that could be easily answered by looking in the syllabus or course materials. In order to facilitate personal responsibility, I ask that you follow the “rule of 3 then me” before asking a question. If your question is about the course requirements or some aspect of the course check in 3 places for the answer before you ask me. When you ask me, tell me where you have looked for the answer and explain your question. This helps me understand the question so I can give you a better answer. If you do have a question, you can send me an email.

Technology

This course will use Blackboard (<https://bb.siue.edu>) as the primary vehicle for disseminating class materials. Announcements, lecture videos, assignments, updates, grades, and other important course information will be posted to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to regularly check this course's Blackboard website throughout the semester. All assignments will be turned in on Blackboard (when applicable) unless otherwise instructed to do something differently by the instructor of this course.

Academic integrity/plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of another person's words or ideas without crediting that person. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, or dismissal from the University, per the SIUE academic dishonesty policy. Students are responsible for complying with University policies about academic honesty as stated in the University's Student Academic Conduct Code.

Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is **explicitly prohibited** unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. It's imperative that all work submitted should be your own. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and / or be reported for academic misconduct. By submitting assignments in this class, you pledge to affirm that they are your own work and you attribute use of any tools and sources.

Late or Missed Assignments

Any **written assignment** must be completed and submitted via Blackboard by their assigned time. Assignments turned within 24 hours of due date will receive a **10% deduction**. Assignments turned within 48 hours of due date will receive a **20% deduction**. **Anything more than 48 hours will not be accepted and receive a 0**. Students are responsible for anticipating that technology can often fail and should be in communication with the instructor if necessary, PRIOR to the deadline. Assignments cannot be submitted via email unless communicated with the instructor ahead of time. If assignment is emailed without prior approval, assignment will immediately receive 20% deduction. You are encouraged to confirm that your assignment has been received via blackboard.

Make Up Work: In the event of extreme circumstances (e.g. illness, jury duty, loss of loved one), you must notify me within 24 hours of a missed assignment. We will work together develop a plan to complete your missed work, when appropriate. Documentation may be required at the discretion of the instructor.

If a scheduled assignment falls on a religious holiday or if you are traveling/participating in a university sponsored activity that interferes with a due date, please let me know prior to the due date. We will work together to develop a plan for you to complete the assignment(s).

Grading

Assignment	Percentage Breakdown
Syllabus Quiz	10
Discussion (15)	75
Chapter Quizzes	140
Media Papers (4)	100
Mid-Term exam	75
Final Exam	100
Total	500

A letter grade of A, B, C, etc. will be assigned based on the following scale:

A = 90% or better (447 points or higher); B = 80-89% (397 points or higher); C = 70-79% (347 points or higher); D= 60-69% (297 points or higher); F = anything lower than 59% (296 points or lower).

Final grades are not negotiable. I do NOT round up. There will be opportunity to receive extra credit in this course, but it is your responsibility to work for it. If you are upset about a grade on an assignment, you need to set up a meeting with me to discuss that within a week of the published grade of the assignment. After that, I will not consider a grade dispute. *I especially do not respond to end-of-semester e-mails that request unearned grade bumps.*

Department of Psychology Writing Policy

As a student in this course, you will be expected to display university-level writing, which includes completing course assignments that meet the following basic writing criteria. Specifically, all written assignments completed for this course should include:

- clear transitions from sentence to sentence and idea to idea (e.g., paper is organized/flows well);
- verb tense consistency;
- clear and unambiguous sentences and ideas;
- writing that is free of typos, spelling errors, and major grammatical errors;
- properly formatted paper including headings, citations and references, per the 7th edition of the APA manual.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of basic writing skills, but will give you an idea of what we are looking for in our papers. If you feel you need help with your writing, you are encouraged to seek assistance from the writing center on campus (<http://www.siu.edu/is/writing>) or utilize one of the many online resources they have identified to help students (<http://www.siu.edu/lss/writing/resources.shtml>).

If your graded written assignments fail to meet the basic writing requirements listed above (and any others found to be appropriate by your instructor), the instructor will stop the grading process and return the paper to you (see below for the specific policy for this class).

- **The penalty for unacceptable writing in this class is as follows: If more than three writing errors are found on any one page of a written assignment, grading will cease, and the student's paper will be returned with a grade equal to 50% of the total point value for the assignment.**

University Policies

Services for Students Needing Accommodations

Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. Students who believe they have a diagnosis, but do not have documentation, should contact ACCESS for assistance and/or appropriate referral. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618-650-3726. If you feel you would need additional help in the event of an emergency situation, please notify your instructor to be shown the evacuation route and discuss specific needs for assistance.

Diversity and Inclusion

SIUE is committed to respecting everyone's dignity at all times. In order to learn, exchange ideas, and support one another, our virtual and physical classrooms must be places where students and teachers feel safe and supported. Systems of oppression permeate our institutions and our classrooms. All students and faculty have the responsibility to co-create a classroom that affirms inclusion, equity, and social justice, where racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other social pathologies are not tolerated. Violations of this policy will be enforced in line with the SIUE Student Conduct Code.

The Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion <https://www.siue.edu/csdi> is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Ms. Jamie Ball, Director in the Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination at (618) 650-2333 or jball@siue.edu. There is also an online form for reporting bias incidents at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SIUEdwardsville&layout_id=10.

Additional Support

Academic and Other Student Services

As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available to you, including:

- [Lovejoy Library Resources](#)
- [The Writing Center](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Campus Events](#)
- [Counseling Services](#)

If you find that you need additional support, please reach out to me and let me know.

Cougar Care

Dealing with the fast-paced life of a college student can be challenging, and I always support a student's decisions to prioritize mental health. Students have access to counseling services on campus (Student Success Center, 0222). Make an appointment by visiting cougarcare.siu.edu or by calling 618-650-2842.

Health and Safety

The measures outlined below are required and any student who does not comply may be in violation of the *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy*, as well as the University's *Student Code of Conduct*.

The full text of the *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy* can be found here: <https://www.siu.edu/policies/Covid.shtml>

Academic Integrity

Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the Student Academic Code (3C2) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the University, regardless of modality or location. The full text of the policy can be found here: <https://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>.

Recordings of Class Content

Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness or quarantine. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University's Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here: <https://www.siu.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>.

Course Calendar:

Week/Dates	Topics/Readings	Due Thursday at 11:59 p.m.	Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m.
Week 1 8/19- 8/25	Syllabus & Welcome Video Chapter 1: What is Social Psychology?	8/22 Syllabus Quiz Initial Post (both discussions) Welcome Discussion (all posts; extra credit) Pre-Course Quiz	8/25 Reply posts (both discussions) Chapter Quiz
Week 2 8/26 – 9/3	Chapter 2: Doing Social Psychology Research Chapter 3: The Social Self	8/29 Initial post (both discussions)	9/3 <i>**Due to labor day holiday, your assignments will be due noon on Tuesday (9/3).</i> Reply posts (both discussions) Chapter Quizzes Media Reflection Paper #1
Week 3 9/3-9/8	Chapter 4: Perceiving Persons Chapter 5: Prejudice	9/5 Initial Post (both discussions)	9/8 Reply posts (both discussions) Chapter Quizzes
Week 4 9/9-9/15	Chapter 6: Attitudes and Persuasion Chapter 7: Conformity	9/12 Initial Post (both discussions)	9/15 Reply posts (both discussions) Chapter Quizzes Media Reflection Paper #2 Mid-Term Exam (opens Friday at 12am)
Week 5 9/16-9/22	Chapter 8: Group Processes Chapter 9: Attraction & Close Relationships	9/19 Initial Post (both discussions)	9/22 Reply posts (both discussions) Chapter Quizzes
Week 6 9/23-9/29	Chapter 10: Helping Others Chapter 11: Aggression	9/26 Initial Post (both discussions)	9/29 Reply posts (both discussions) Chapter Quizzes Media Reflection Paper #3
Week 7 9/30-10/6	Chapter 12: Justice Chapter 13: The Workplace and Business	10/3 Initial Post (both discussions)	10/6 Reply posts (both discussions) Chapter Quizzes
Final Week Different dates!	Topics/Readings	Due Wednesday (10/9) at 11:59 p.m.	Due Friday (10/11) at 12:00 p.m.
Week 8: Unit 4 Final Exam Week 10/7-10/11	Chapter 14: Health & Well-Being	Initial post (only one discussion this week) Media Reflection Paper #4 Post-Course Quiz	Reply posts Chapter Quiz Final Exam (opens Wednesday at 12am and closes Friday at 12pm)

Subject to change notice

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.