



**Westfield State University  
Psychology 0304: Social Psychology – Online – Course Info Page**

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**Course Description:** In this course you will learn about how humans process information about their social environments and situations by examining relevant perspectives on learning, such as the cognitive perspective, social learning perspective, and the socio-cultural perspective; the latter emphasizing how our social thoughts and behaviors are encompassed within the larger context of societies we live in. The goals of this class are to examine human social behavior from the viewpoint of the person: traits, motivations, and moods; the situation: threats, cultural norms, pressures, and influences; and the interaction of the person-situation.

In addition to the main text for the course, we will also use scholarly articles, which appear in professional journals and provide the backbone of social psychological research in the field, and “popular” articles, which appear in other nonprofessional sources such as magazines and newspapers, geared toward the general public. These articles will provide the basis for fueling online discussion.

**Required Texts:**

Branscombe, N. R. & Baron, R. A. (2017). *Social Psychology 14<sup>th</sup> edition*. Boston: Pearson. E-text with Revel online access code. Purchase through WSU bookstore.

**Performance Evaluation Overview:**

You will be evaluated in this course on the basis of the following 2 elements:

1. Exams: there will be an exam each Unit covering 2 chapters per unit for a total of 6 exams over the course. ***Please note: Summer and Winter session courses move VERY fast! For winter session your first exam is the second day of the class!! For summer session your first exam is at the end of the first week, which means you'll need to become acquainted with Plato and the course quickly.***
2. Discussion Board: Your participation in this course is vital to the lively discussions that can ensue just from the challenging and poignant topics we will be covering! In this manner I gauge your participation in the course through your weekly responses to questions I pose on the course discussion board, as well as your responses/comments on other students' posts. Discussion postings are my way of also gauging your writing, so

careful attention should be given to your responses (grammar, sentence structure, content, etc.) You may be asked to respond to a question I pose regarding one of the additional readings you are assigned or a video that you are asked to watch.

- a. Winter session courses and summer session courses move fast. Winter session courses will have a discussion posting and responses every other day. Summer session courses will have a discussion posting and responses weekly to two sets of questions.**

**Grading Breakdown:**

**Exams = 6 exams x 30pts each = 180 pts (minus lowest exam dropped) =150 pts possible (50% of grade)**

\*Each exam will have 30 questions worth 1pt each and your lowest exam score will be dropped

**Discussion Board = 6 units of discussion board postings and responses to others' postings x 25pts/ea week = 150 pts possible (50% of grade)**

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**Total points possible = 300**

**Social Psychology SAMPLE Course Schedule**

**(this is not exactly what it will look like for WINTER semester, but an idea of what to expect)**

Unit	Dates	Topic for the week	Reading	Exam/Posted	Discussion/homework DUE
Unit 1	Jan 4- Jan 5	Intro to Social Psyc; Social Cognition	Ch.1-2; Articles 2 & 9	Exam 1 – open until Sun Jan 5 @11:59pm Covers Ch.1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original post due Jan 4; Response posts due Jan 5</li> <li>• Log-in to Plato</li> <li>• <b>Post your BIO to the ‘Student Lounge’ by Mon, Jan 4</b></li> </ul>
Unit 2	Jan 6-Jan 7	Social Perception; The Self	Ch.3-4; Articles 5 & 13	Exam 2 – open until Jan 7 @11:59pm Covers Ch.3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original post due Jan 6; Response posts due Jan 7</li> </ul>
Unit 3	Jan 8- Jan 9	Attitudes; Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination	Ch.5-6; Articles 16 & 17	Exam 3 – open until Jan 9 @11:59pm Covers Ch.5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original post due Jan 8; Response posts due Jan 9</li> </ul>
Unit 4	Jan 10- Jan 11	Interpersonal Attraction, Close Relationships & Love; Social Influence	Ch.7-8; Articles 20 & 26	Exam 4 – open until Jan 11 @11:59pm Covers Ch.7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original post due Jan 10; Response posts due Jan 11</li> </ul>
Unit 5	Jan 12- Jan 13	Prosocial Behavior; Aggression	Ch.9-10; Articles 28 & 31	Exam 5 – open until Jan 13 @11:59pm Covers Ch.9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original post due Jan 12; Response posts due Jan 13</li> </ul>
Unit 6	Jan 14- Jan 15	Groups & Individuals; Adversity & Happiness	Ch.11-12; Articles 25 & 43	Exam 6 – open until Jan 15 @7:00am Covers Ch.11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original post due Jan 14; Response posts due Jan 15</li> </ul>