



**Social Psychology: PSYC 221 - 0301
Spring 2021**

Instructor: Dirk Parham

Course Email: dparham@umd.edu

Office Hours: Zoom by appointment or

Urgent Email: dirk.parham@gmail.com

Classroom: Online Via Zoom for first two weeks (Jan 26, 28, Feb 2, 4) and then again for two weeks (23, 25, 30 March, 1 April) following Spring break.

Meets in Person starting Feb 9 and resuming 8 April (circumstances may force course to be online depending on Pandemic related policy or events)

Meeting Times: TuTh 6:30pm - 7:45pm - On Zoom if online

in Microbiology Building MCB 1207 if in person

Office: Zoom Online or in Classroom 1207

Office Hours: Zoom by appointment or Mon and Wed 11-11:45 on Zoom.

Course Page: The course webpage can be found at www.elms.umd.edu. You must use your directory ID and password to access this page.

Course Description and Objectives:

Welcome to Social Psychology! I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and sharing in this learning process. I am interested in each of you achieving your personal goals for this course and will help you in whatever way I can. From your instructor (me), you can expect: *clear expectations, fairness in evaluations, respectful treatment, and assistance in achieving your goals.* In return, I expect from students (you): *respectful treatment of your peers and myself, your best effort in all coursework, and willingness to ask for help when needed.* Making this course work *each of you* is a team effort involving me, you, and your classmates.

Throughout this course, you will:

1. **Learn about the theoretical principles and processes concerning the study of the *social self* (or the ways in which we are shaped by the world around us and the ways in which we shape the world).**
2. **Strengthen your ability to consume and utilize psychological research to help evaluate conflicting ideas, examine interesting phenomena, and reflect on the social world with a mind to biases that lead to racism, sexism and other social problems.**
3. **Strengthen your ability to write scientifically about psychological phenomena.**
4. **Strengthen your ability to discuss and debate psychological phenomena.**

Prerequisite:

- In order to enroll in PSYC 221, students must have already taken PSYC 100.

Textbooks and other required technology:

- Heinzen and Goodfriend: Social Psychology (Looseleaf) ISBN: 9781544346090 (Bundled with Ebook and Case Study Book at bookstore)
- Heinzen and Goodfriend: Case Studies in Social Psychology (Looseleaf) ISBN: 9781544308913 (Bundled with Ebook at and Textbook at bookstore)
- *If you want further background on social psychology (not required): Social Psychology by David Myers, 11th Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2010. ISBN #: 9780078035296*

Course Operation

Tuesday: Lecture Sessions

On Mondays, class sessions will consist of lecture-style teaching, aided by demonstrations, class discussions, short videos, and/or activities. The textbook for this course introduces debates in the literature, but does not thoroughly cover basic social psychological concepts and theories. This means you will have to come to class to get the majority of this course's material. My goal is to lecture in an accessible, helpful, and enthusiastic way that will aid in your acquisition of the material.

Thur: Discussion/videos/worksheets

On most Wednesdays, class sessions will be in a more dynamic learning format, which means the class have some lecture at the beginning and then will watch and discuss a video or will do and discuss worksheets based on current subject material.

Application Assignments:

These are deeper written discussions of certain subjects and you will work on this writing assignment outside of class (See Application Assignments section).

Quizzes: Quizzes will be focused on the textbook as supplement to material covered in the lectures and may be used for review prior to exams.

Posted PowerPoints:

Before each class, you can download or review the PowerPoint associated with the particular lesson being covered. It is your job to fill in the blanks on the PowerPoint based on the lecture. These guided notes help facilitate learning by actively involving you in the lecture and will turn into great study guides for the exams.

Course Requirements:

Overview:

In this course I am evaluating you on three criteria: knowledge acquisition, skill acquisition, and participation in class activities/discussions. Knowledge acquisition means the extent to which you have absorbed and understand the course materials presented in class and in the text, including the basics of social psychology, key terms, theories, debates, etc. You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge acquisition through exams. Skill acquisition means the extent to which you demonstrate development of key aptitudes that will be transferable to a broad array of contexts beyond the domain of psychology. Specifically, you will have opportunities to demonstrate your writing, oral communication, and teamwork skills through application assignments, a final paper, group work (though not in-person), and in-class discussion worksheets. Participation means the extent to which you aid in creating a classroom community in which we learn from one another and interact hands-on with course material. You will have opportunities to demonstrate participation during class discussions.

Exams (40% of your final grade, 200 points):

There will be 2 non-cumulative, multiple-choice exams each covering approximately one-half of the course material presented (including lectures and the textbook). Please come on exam days prepared with a laptop or some other means to take exam in Canvas. If this is a difficulty, please contact me ASAP pencils and your ID.

Grade: Each of the exams are worth 100 points.

Exam Makeup policy

Make-up exams will be permitted on a case by case basis (generally if you have a University-approved excused absence (see university policies at end of syllabus))

Application Assignments (24% of your final grade, 135 points):

Throughout the course, you will be assigned 3 short papers and one optional paper (~500 words) that will ask you to choose a concept learned in class and experience or apply it outside of the classroom (see “Course Schedule” for dates).

Grade: Each of the 3 assignments is worth 45 points. You must turn in assignments you have selected to write on by their due date and by **11:59PM**, online on the course website. Late assignments will lose points, unless you have a University-approved excused absence (see university policies at end of syllabus) that covers an extensive period of time (i.e., not the day before the assignment is due).

Quizzes: Quizzes will be completed on Canvas each week. You will have 20 minutes to complete the quiz. The lowest 3 quiz grades will be dropped. There are 10 quizzes so you will only see 7 reflected in your grade. You may not make up quizzes without an approved excuse.

Participation worksheets (2.5% of your final grade, 10 points)

Participation will involve a worksheet. These worksheets will be similar to questionnaires in the textbook. There will be 5 throughout the course.

Grade: Each of the 5 worksheets are worth 4 points. Worksheets can only be made up for University-approved excused absences (see university policies at end of syllabus).

Final Analysis Paper (18% of your final grade, 90 points):

A 5-page, typed, double-spaced paper is due on **May 4** before 11:59PM on the course website. This paper is meant to be a longer version of the application assignments and allows you to choose the topic. Specifically, the task for the final paper is to identify a future personal or professional obstacle or goal and then discuss a social psychological phenomenon that would inform your behavior in overcoming that obstacle or meeting that goal. For example, you may have a personal goal of being a good parent. What knowledge from social psychology can help you achieve that goal? As another example, if you want to be a top executive someday you may envision yourself having issues with effectively leading others (a professional obstacle). What knowledge from social psychology can help you achieve that goal? You will be charged with thoroughly explaining your goal or obstacle and how knowledge gained from social psychological research could help you in achieving this goal or overcoming this obstacle. You will have to incorporate at least four academic journal articles into your paper. The requirements for this assignment will be discussed further in the writing workshop.

Grade: The final analysis paper is 18% of your final grade (90 points). Late papers will not be accepted, unless you have a University-approved excused absence (see university policies at end of syllabus) that covers an extensive amount of time (i.e., not the day before the paper is due).

Participation: Wednesday Participation worksheets track participation as well as class interactions

Grade: Participation is worth 4% **of your grade** (20 points). Every student can miss one participation worksheet without penalty (“excused absences”).

Extra Credit Opportunities

This course may offer extra credit opportunities.

How to Do Well in This Course:

Everyone has different strategies for achieving their goals in a course, and what works for some may not work for others. However, my experience and observation of others have led me to believe that there are some general tips that seem to help most people:

1. **Attend Class:** As stated earlier, attending class will help elaborate on information from the text, as well as introduce you to new information. Also, much of the material presented in class is not in the textbook. The exams specifically only include materials presented in class. Being in the classroom and actively listening and taking notes is the best way to do well in a course. Also, for your in-class participation grade, attending is the only way to get these points.
2. **Read the Text: *Starting early is always better.*** The reading load is typically ~20 pages per week. Reading a chapter a week will be much easier than trying to read 100+ pages the night before an exam.
3. **Office Hours:** Come visit me! I am here to answer your questions and give you feedback. It’s always better to ask for help early in the semester than to wait until the last week, when there’s not much I can do to help you turn around your grade in the course.
4. **Participate:** There will be times when I ask you to discuss topics with your classmates or take part in an activity. These experiences will add to your knowledge by giving you hands-on experience with psychological concepts.
6. There are extra resources on Canvas, such as practice quizzes, E Flash cards and additional videos in each module – use them.

Grading Rubric:

Assignment	Points Possible (%)
Exams, including the final exam (2 at 100 points each)*	200 (40%)
Application Writing Assignments (3 at 45 points each)	120 (24 %)
Quizzes (7 at 10 points each) †	70 (14%)
Final Analysis Paper	90 (18 %)
Wednesday Participation Worksheets (5 at 4 points each) ††	20 (4%)
TOTAL %:	500 (100 %)

*There are 2 exams, including the final exam which is comprehensive but weighted towards second half of course.

†Three lowest Quizzes will be dropped.

†† You may miss 1 participation worksheet without penalty.

Grading – Cut-off Points

The table below will be used to assign grades in the course based on the 500 point maximum. If you accumulate the total points listed below, you are *guaranteed that grade in the course*. There will be no final adjustments. Imagine you are the professor assigning grades—you have to draw the line somewhere.

Final Grade Conversions			
Number of points	Percentage	Grade	GPA
485 or above	97%+	A+	4.0
470 – 484.9	94%-96.9%	A	4.0
450 – 469.9	90%-93.9%	A-	3.7
435 – 449.9	87%-89.9%	B+	3.3
420 – 434.9	84%-86.9%	B	3.0
400 – 419.9	80%-83.9%	B-	2.7
385 – 399.9	77%-79.9%	C+	2.3
370 – 484.9	74%-76.9%	C	2.0
350-369.9	70%-73.9%	C-	1.7
335-349.9	67%-69.9%	D+	1.3
320-334.9	64%-66.9%	D	1.0
300-319.9	60%-63.9%	D-	0.7
299 or less	0%-59.9%	F	0.0

Day	Date	Topic/ Activity	
Mon	1/25	Introduction to Course and Syllabus	On Zoom Read Chap 1,2
Wed	1/27	Lecture 1: The Self: How do we think about ourselves?	On Zoom Read Chap 3
Fri	1/29	Writing Workshop – Available on Canvas	
Mon	2/1	Lecture 1 (Self) continued. Course Review – question and answer. On Zoom	
Tues	2/2	Chap 3 Quiz	
Wed	2/3	Discussion 1: Are we just electrochemical reactions? Video: Brain Eagleman Ep 2 through 19 Min	On Zoom
Mon	2/8	Lecture 2: Others: What influences our perceptions of others and events?	Read Chap 4, 5
Tues	2/9	Chap 4/5 Quiz	
Wed	2/10	Discussion 2: The Internet – Friend or Foe? Various Videos: http://time.com/5267710/social-media-hurts-memory/ http://time.com/4793331/inst-media-mental-health/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Czg_9C7gw0o	
Mon	2/15	Lecture 3: How do our attitudes relate to our behaviors?	Read Chap 6
Tues	2/16	Chapter 6 Quiz	
Wed	2/17	Discussion 3: “What is Culture” Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaOJ71czAGQ	
Fri	2/19	Participation Worksheet Due	
Mon	2/22	Lecture 4: Why and when do we conform and obey?	Read Chap 7
Tues	2/23	Chapter 7 Quiz	
Wed	2/24	Discussion And Video 4: “Do Milgram’s obedience experiments help explain the holocaust? Video: “Milgram Revisited”	
Mon	3/1	Lecture 5: What is the nature and nurture behind gender/sexuality/marriage?	
Wed	3/3	Discussion 5: Gender Behaviors beyond America Video: “Killing Us Softly 4”	
Thur	3/4	Read Chapter 8	
Fri	3/5	Chapter 8 Quiz Participation Worksheet	
Day	Date	Topic/ Activity	
Mon	3/8	Lecture 6: What is it like to be part of a group? Discuss Midterm	

Wed	3/10	Mid-Term Exam
Mon-Fri	3/15-22	SPRING BREAK
Mon	3/22	Lecture 7: What persuades us? On Zoom Review of exam Read Chap 6 and 11
Wed	3/24	Discussion and Video 6: Group - Brain Eagleman at 27 and 36 min/ On Zoom "Brain Games – Power of Persuasion" App Assign 1 due
Thur	3/25	Chapter 11 Quiz
Mon	3/29	Lecture 8: What is behind our aggression? On Zoom Read Chap 9
Wed	3/31	Discussion and Video 7: War and Violence Video – On Zoom Brain Dr David Eagleman 23, 30 and 39 min
Thur	4/1	Chapter 9 Quiz
Fri	4/2	Participation Worksheet 3 due
Mon	4/5	Lecture 9: Where do our prejudices come from and how do they affect others?
Wed	4/7	Discussion and Video 8: Does the IAT Measure Racial Prejudice? Video: Read Chap C, D https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GIuk8pcuNE through 17:45
Thu	4/8	Chap C and D Quiz
Fri	4/9	App Assign 2 due
Mon	4/12	Lecture 10: Stress and Happiness Read Chap 10
Wed	4/14	Discussion 9: What is going on in politics today? Video 8: Eagleman Brain at 45 min and https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_can_a_divided_america_heal
Thu	4/15	Quiz Chapter 10
Fri	4/16	Participation Worksheet 4 due
Mon	4/19	Lecture 11: How can we explain when we help others? Read Chap 12
Day	Date	Topic/ Activity
Wed	4/21	Discussion and Video 10: Does true altruism exist? Video: https://www.ted.com/talks/abigail_marsh_why_some_people_are_more_altruistic_than_others/transcript

		https://www.ted.com/talks/peter_singer_the_why_and_how_of_effective_altruism/transcript?language=
Thu	4/22	Quiz Chapter 12
Fri	4/23	App Assign 3 Due
Mon	4/26	Lecture 12: What does it mean to like or love someone? Read Chap B
Wed	4/28	Discussion and Video 11: What is Love? Video “Brain Games: Laws of Attraction”
Thu	4/29	Chapter B Quiz
Fri	4/30	Participation 5 Worksheet due
Mon	5/3	Lecture 13: Social psychology and criminal justice. Read Chapter G, H
Tue	5/4	Final Analysis Due
Wed	5/5	Discussion and Video: “Brain Games”
Fri	5/7	Lecture 14: What can social psychology tell us about work ?
Sun	5/9	Potential extra credit due
Mon	5/10	Review for Final Exam - Date for Final to be determined.

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Please make sure you are familiar with all classroom and university policies:

Campus Policies

It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like: Academic integrity, Student and instructor conduct, Accessibility and accommodations, Attendance and excused absences, Grades and appeals, and Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

I use TURNITIN for the final paper.

Other Notes on Classroom Policies and Behavior

I believe attending this class is worth your time, but ultimately the choice to attend is up to you. As I have experienced in past classes, students who do attend tend to do significantly better on exams, as exams are based on the course readings AND even more so - the lectures.

When attending class, **please do not distract others.** One way is to be on time.

My major concern is that all students are polite and respectful of the others. This will guide all of my rules regarding behavior. I know you come to class to learn and do well on the exams, so I do not see this becoming an issue.

I adhere to the UMD's absence policy and definition of excused absences. Please familiarize yourself with UMD's policy using the link given above. Remember that in the case of religious observances, athletic events, and planned absences known at the beginning of the semester, the student must inform the instructor as soon as possible.

For this course, attendance is via participation worksheets. Participation absences - no notification is required. Every student gets one automatically excused absence for worksheet participation (cannot be used for other assessments). This means that you can miss one worksheet and you will not be penalized. This automatically excused absence exists to cover traditionally-excused absences and other emergencies and extenuating circumstances that are and are not covered by UMD's policies.

In terms of Tuesdays and Thursdays, miss class at your own risk – remember the exams are based on lecture more than book.