

Texas A&M University-San Antonio
College of Arts & Sciences
PSYC 3305.001: Social Psychology

Term:	Fall Semester 2024	Credit hours:	3
Instructor:	Dr. Gary Coulton	Office phone:	(210) 784-2203
Class Meeting:	MW 3:30-4:45 PM	E-mail:	gary.coulton@tamusa.edu
Classroom:	STEM 105	Office:	SciTech Bldg. 349-A

Office hours: M 10:00-12:00; T 2:00-4:00, and by appointment.
Please Note: Feel free to call me outside of office hours.

Welcome to PSYC 3305 – Social Psychology

Most of what is presented here concerns your Instructor’s policies and requirements specific to this course. Information about University policies and student resources are located in appendices to this document (Appendix A contains information about various University policies and Services). Appendix B is your Instructors policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence (A.I.) in the course.

Details about assignments, exams, and quizzes can be found in the Grade Table, Course Schedule, and related documents posted under syllabus on Blackboard (Bb).

Course Catalog Description

PSYC 3305 - Social Psychology: Theory and phenomena of social psychology. Includes the nature of social variables and the methods used to study them, and covers topics such as the self, conformity, persuasion, prejudice, relationships, altruism, attitudes, attribution, conflict, and peacemaking. Credit may not be obtained in both [PSYC 3305](#) and SOCI 3301 or [SOC 3311](#). TSI Restriction(s): Reading, Math, and Writing

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- Enumerate the main features of correlational and experimental research designs, and identify the advantages and limitations of each design;
- Articulate the nature of the relationship between situational and individual factors (e.g., personality traits) on human behavior;
- Articulate the major ways in which social psychology differs from sociology;
- Identify the major elements of persuasion;
- Describe the basic elements of the concept of “self“ and related constructs;
- Identify common applications of the principles of social psychology.

Course Materials

Textbook

Myers, D. G. & Twenge, J. M. (2022). *Social psychology* (14th ed.). McGraw Hill.

ISBN: 978-1-260-88853-9.

Classroom Etiquette

I find that it can be useful to remind students about what behavior is expected in class. Please make every effort to be on time (I will do likewise). Parking can be a problem, so if this is your first class of the day be sure to leave enough time to find a parking space. I have lived in San Antonio for many years and appreciate that many people do not adjust their driving to weather conditions. Bottom line, do your best to be on time but do not risk your life to arrive on time when the weather is bad.

Use of Electronic Devices in Class. The use of laptops, smartphones, and smart watches in class is prohibited. There is evidence that taking notes on laptops is not nearly as effective as actually writing them. Typing notes is basically taking dictation; the problem being that you don't really have to 'process' what you are typing.

Please put your phones out of your sight and mine during class. If you are expecting, and receive, an urgent call (e.g., about the status of a sick relative) step into the hall and take the call and return as soon as possible.

The only real exception to the electronic device rule is that it is okay to use *electronic pads that lie flat*. I realize some students like to take notes on them. An advantage of these devices is their use typically does not distract others seated near the user (unlike laptops). Students who ignore reminders about the above policy may be asked to leave class.

Optional Resources

The resources below can be of much value to psychology students.

Stanovich, K. E. (2019). *How to think straight about psychology*. (11th ed.). Pearson.

ISBN-13: 978-0-13-447862-3.

The book costs about \$65.00 new. An e-version is available for less and used copies are available. For your purposes, an earlier edition, which are available at a lower cost, would be fine. **In my opinion, every psychology major and minor should be required to read this book.**

Silvia, P. J., Delaney, P. F. & Marcovitch, S. (2017). *What psychology majors could (and should) be*

doing: A guide to research experience, professional skills, and your options after college (2nd ed.).

American Psychological Association. ISBN: 9781433823794

Silvia, et al. is also highly recommended; it is available new for \$36.00. Used copies are available online for less than \$10.00. Both books are available in the University Library.

Online Resources

[APA Dictionary of Psychology](#)

[Social Psychology Network](#)

[Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#)

Helpful Video Series

Dr. Stephen Chew has created a free [video series](#) on study strategies for college students. These are the best videos that I have seen on the subject. Viewing the videos is *optional*; (unless specifically assigned); however, I believe doing so would be a *great investment* of your time. The videos are relatively short; however, I recommend you distribute your viewing of them over a week or more, so you have time to reflect on the strategies.

Nearly everyone can improve his or her study skills. If you are satisfied with your overall academic performance, that's great. However, even if you earn the kind of grades you desire it's likely that using some of the strategies could save you considerable time and effort. It is unlikely that every technique Dr. Chew discusses will be of use to you; however, I suggest that you view the videos and try at least a few of them.

Blackboard (Bb)

If you have difficulties with Bb (e.g., trouble submitting assignments) that you are not able to solve yourself, the best thing to do is to contact the [Information Technology Services](#) (ITS) Help Desk; **I can seldom be of help in such matters.**

Electronic Communications on Bb. I will make Announcements during the semester that, in addition to those posted on Bb, will be sent to your Jaguar email account. To remain up to date on class matters, **you will need to check your Jaguar e-mail at least daily** (it is fairly easy to forward your Jaguar email to another email account). Failing to check your Jaguar email is *not* an acceptable excuse for lapses in responding to, or acting on, such messages.

Computer Resources

This course requires that you have access to a reliable computer and internet connection. The internet browsers [Chrome](#) and [Firefox](#) are recommended. In addition, you will need access to both [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) and Microsoft Word; it is recommended that you use the most recent version of Word.

Writing Assignments

Writing is a skill, and as such improving your writing requires practice. This course will provide you with considerable writing practice. To attain maximum benefit, please be sure to carefully review the feedback provided on each writing assignment before writing the next one.

Writing Resources. All assignments will be written in American Psychological Association (APA) style. Whether you are familiar with APA style or not, an extremely valuable reference is the [Purdue Online Writing Lab \(OWL\) – APA Style Guide](#) (you may find the sample paper there especially helpful. Points will be deducted for APA style errors.

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Another valuable resource is the [Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center](#). Tutors there work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise written assignments. Students can make face-to-face or virtual appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center is located in Central Academic Building, Suite 208. You may make an [appointment](#) via Jagwire.

Format of Assignments

Format of Files

Unless otherwise noted, all written assignments must be submitted **as MS Word [docx](#) files, *no pdf, Google docs, or other files please!*** Assignments submitted as anything other than a docx file will be returned to the student. Such assignments may be resubmitted; however, a late penalty (**a minimum of 10%**) will apply.

Communicating with your Instructor

Students are welcome to call, email, or take advantage of office hours (including appointments outside of office hours) if they need assistance. **By federal law (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA]) faculty may only communicate with students by email via secure networks (i.e., Jaguar email).** Platforms like Gmail and Yahoo are not secure (you pay for the service with your privacy).

Students are responsible for activating and using their Jaguar email accounts. If you need help setting up your Jaguar email, call the Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk at 784-4357 (784-HELP) or send an email to helpdesk@tamusa.edu

Which email address should you use?

I will often send e-mail messages via Bb, **but I do not monitor it**, so messages sent to that account will not be read. To contact me by email, send messages to gcoulton@tamusa.edu. I typically respond in less than two weekdays.

Format of e-mail messages.

Use the following format for emails. In the subject line - write your name as the lead, followed by the course and section number (i.e., Subject: Your Name PSYC [course number.section #]). **Emails not formatted in this way will be returned unread.**

Evaluation of Student Performance

Point values of all assignments are provided on the Grade Table, which is available on Bb under Syllabus.

Exams and Quizzes

There will be several exams and perhaps quizzes in the course. The questions may be multiple-choice, fill- in-the-blank, short answer, and/or short essay. Details will be provided on Bb.

Content of Exams/Quizzes. Exams and quizzes will cover assigned chapters in the textbook and *may* also cover topics raised by PowerPoints, videos, and any other supplemental materials. It is imperative that you read the text and other assigned readings, and study all assigned materials to prepare for exams. **Please note that the Powerpoint slides (PPTs) are only an instructional aid; they do *not* substitute for reading the textbook.**

As with exams in most classes, you will be expected to know a number of terms. However, please note - your Instructor is more interested in student's understanding *concepts* and being able to *apply* what they've learned than simply recalling definitions of terms. Expect a number of exam questions to incorporate brief scenarios that illustrate relevant constructs (e.g., Bob did X...this is an example of which of the following concepts?).

Study Guides. I am sorry but I do not provide study guides; my experience with them has not been good. Using review information presented at the end of chapters (in texts that provide them) may be helpful. The PowerPoint slides may also help structure your study for exams.

Missed Examination Policy. If you have a medical or family emergency that will prevent you from meeting an exam, contact your Instructor (or have someone else contact him) ideally *before* the exam. In any case, your Instructor must be contacted no more than 24 hours following the exam (and be supplied with documentation of the reason you missed the exam) in order for you to be considered for a make-up exam.

Other Sources of Course Credit

Extra Credit Points

Students may earn the equivalent of 5% of the total raw score points in the class in extra credit (which is *equal to half a letter grade*). Extra credit points may be earned in any combination of three ways: (a) participation in research studies conducted by faculty members or students (the number of credits earned varies by the time commitment); (b) by attending relevant university sponsored events (e.g., the Psychology Speaker Series, the College of Arts & Sciences Speaker Series, or talks at academic conferences [when available]); and/or (c) submission of short papers on TED talks or other videos from a list provided by the Instructor.

What is SONA and why should I care? SONA is the software platform the Psychology Program uses to schedule and keep track of research participation. All students in the course will be enrolled in [SONA](#). Those who wish to participate in experiments or get credit for attendance at sponsored speaker events will need to *create an account* and monitor the opportunities posted there. Your Instructor will receive notification of all student's SONA participation at the end of the semester. Please keep track of your participation, but there is no need to report it to your Instructor.

08/26/24

