Texas A&M University-San Antonio
College of Arts & Sciences
PSYC 3305.600: Social Psychology

Term: Spring 2024   Credit hours: 3
Instructor: Dr. Gary Coulton   Office phone: (210) 784-2203
Class Meeting: N/A-On-line, Asynchronous   E-mail: gary.coulton@tamusa.edu
Classroom: N/A-On-line, Asynchronous   Office: SciTech Bldg. 349-A
Office hours: Tues., 2:00-4:00, Thur., 10:00-12:00, and by appointment.

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

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. Prerequisite: PSYC 2301.

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. (2019). *Social psychology* (13th ed.). McGraw Hill.

ISBN: 978-1-260-39711-6.

Optional Resources

The resources below can be of great value to psychology students. The book below may not be available at the campus bookstore, but it is easy to purchase on-line.

Stanovich, K. E. (2019). *How to think straight about psychology.* (11th ed.). New York: Pearson. ISBN-13:

978-0-13-447862-3. This book costs about $65.00 new. An e-version is available for less and used

copies also are available. For your purposes, earlier editions, which are available at lower cost, will

be fine. In my opinion, every psychology major and minor should be required to read this book.

APA Dictionary of Psychology

Social Psychology Network

Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Helpful Video Series

Dr. Stephen Chew has created an exceptional, and free, video series on study strategies for college students. 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 so.

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 currently earn the kind of grades you desire, it's likely that some of the strategies Dr. Chew recommends could save you considerable time and effort. In closing, 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.

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You are Enrolled in an Asynchronous On-line Course

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Online courses can present a number of challenges for students; especially those who have taken only a few (or perhaps no) online classes before. Please carefully read the information below.

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 Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk; **I can seldom be of help in those matters**.

Electronic Communications on Bb. I will make regular Announcements 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 once a day** (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. **Online courses are not recommended for students who do not have access to reliable internet service.**

Reading Assignments

The format of the course will likely require you do much more independent learning, and spend more time reading, than in traditional face-to-face courses. For the best results please keep up with the assigned readings (see Course Schedule on Bb).

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 regarding APA format). Points will be deducted for APA style errors.

Another valuable resource is The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center which provides tutors who 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 can be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu or calling 210-784-1222.

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 docx files will be returned. Such assignments may be resubmitted; however, a late penalty (a minimum of 10%) will apply.**

Format of Submissions

Please use the following format for your files. Start with the brief name of the assignment followed by the course number (i.e., Assignment #_Student's Name_PSYC [and course number]).

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 to emails in less than two weekdays. (Please don't send messages after midnight or on weekends and expect an immediate reply.)

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 for correction**.

Evaluation of Student Performance

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

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.

Time Limits on Exams and Quizzes. Exams and quizzes will be administered on Bb and will be timed. Unfortunately, since on-line exams are *not* proctored (and available electronic proctoring resources are generally unsatisfactory) some students may be tempted to cheat (i.e., consult course or on-line materials) during exams. In order to reduce the temptation to cheat, I have no choice but to put fairly strict time limits on exams and quizzes (i.e., one minute per objective exam item).

Exams/quizzes will be taken in a single sitting. Time counts down from when the exam is opened; stopping and starting is *not* permitted. Any questions you have not responded to when the time is up are counted as incorrect. **Students may not work together on exams (that would, of course, constitute academic misconduct)!**

Exams/quizzes will be available for a 48- to 72-hour period. All exams and quizzes are due by 11:59 PM on the date indicated.

Navigation Tabs. Failure to use the in-exam navigation tabs may result in you being 'kicked-out' of the exam and it being auto-submitted. In such cases the exam will not be re-opened for you. If you are 'kicked out' of a quiz or exam, log back on as soon as possible and work as quickly as you can; the timer does not stop when you are kicked out. **Remember to use the Navigation Tabs within the exam!**

Recommendations for Taking Exams. If possible, please take exams using an on-campus computer, they are hardwired and thus very dependable, and if you run into problems you will have ready access to help (i.e., ITS).

Do not attempt to take exams on your smartphone, **doing so will likely result in technical difficulties!** Problems encountered when taking exams on a phone are *not* grounds for a re-take.

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.**

Using review information presented at the end of chapters (in texts that provide them) may be a reasonable substitute for study guides. The PowerPoint slides may also help structure your study for exams (but reviewing them does not substitute for reviewing the textbook and notes).

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 that a number of exam questions will incorporate brief scenarios that illustrate relevant constructs (e.g., Bob did X…this is an example of which of the following concepts?).

Missed Examination Policy. If you have a medical or family emergency that will prevent you from meeting the exam deadline, contact you Instructor (or have someone else contact him) ideally *before* the exam deadline. In any case, you (or someone else) must contact the Instructor no more than 24 hours following the exam deadline (and supply documentation of the reason you missed the exam) in order to be considered for a make-up exam. **Being unable to take an exam or quiz on schedule due to reasons such as having reservations for a cruise are not acceptable reasons for making special arrangements.**

Missed Assignment Policy. Late assignments will not be accepted. The only exception is when a student has a legitimate excuse for which they can provide documentation.

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 study depending on 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 a SONA 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.

Source of Students' Written Work

Your Instructor requires that all work submitted is generated/created by the students themselves, working individually or in groups (the latter only when specifically indicated). **Students *shall not* have another person (with or without compensation) or entity (Artificial Intelligence [AI]; e.g., ChatGBT) write any portion of any assignment in this course**.

To be very clear, both of the above qualifies as *academic dishonesty* and is a violation of the university's standards of academic integrity. Penalties for academic dishonesty range from a zero on the assignment to suspension or expulsion from the university.

Written assignments in this class will be submitted online via Turnitin. Besides checking for possible plagiarism, **Turnitin also flags submissions suspected of having been generated by AI.** Submissions that are flagged will not be scored until the student meets with the Instructor and provides convincing evidence that they wrote the paper/assignment themselves. Students who do not meet with their Instructor will, *at minimum*, receive a zero on the assignment. Suspected violators who do not meet with the Instructor or who, in the opinion of the Instructor submitted an assignment written by AI, will be reported to the University Administration for further action.

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