

Texas A&M University-San Antonio
PSYC 2319.001: Social Psychology

Term: Spring Semester 2026
Instructor: Dr. Gary Coulton
Office: STEM 349A
Class Meeting: TR 11:00-12:15

Credit hours: 3
Phone (210) 784-2203
Office Hours: MW, 10:00 – 12:00
Location: STEM 227

Welcome to PSYC 2319 – Social Psychology

Most of what is presented here concerns your Instructor's policies. Information about University policies and student resources are located in other documents posted under Syllabus on Blackboard (Bb). Details about assignments, exams, etc. can be found in documents posted under Syllabus on Bb.

Course Catalog Description

PSYC 2319 - Social Psychology: A survey of human behavior in relation to the social environment. The course includes an emphasis on how individuals are influenced behaviorally, emotionally, and cognitively. Topics include but are not limited to the self, social cognition, aggression, interpersonal attraction, attitudes, social influence, prejudice and discrimination, gender, race, person perception, cultural norms, and conflict and peace-making.

Prerequisites: [PSYC 2301](#). Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.

General Goals of this Course

Your instructor's general goals for the class are to both facilitate students' acquisition of knowledge of the subject matter of the course, along with a number of general principles of psychology. An additional goal to assist students in further development of their critical thinking skills. **However, no attempt will be made to influence or change students' existing ideologies.**

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.

Important General Information

Audio and Video Recording

Video recording in class is strictly prohibited. Audio recording is permitted only with your Instructor's explicit permission, or when authorized for a student by Disability Support Services (DSS). **There is no need to take photos of PowerPoint slides in class, as they will all be posted on Bb.**

Blackboard (Bb) Announcements

Announcements on Bb are the primary way I will communicate with you. 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 need to check your Jaguar e-mail at least daily**. **Failing to check your Jaguar email is *not* an acceptable excuse for lapses in responding to, or acting on, such messages.**

The Calendar on Bb

Deadlines for assignments don't always display on the Bb calendar. Please use the Class Schedule as your guide; do not depend on the Bb calendar and related features.

Attendance

This is a face-to-face class. Students are expected to attend and be prepared to participate in class sessions. Additionally, enrollment in this section is relatively small (less than 20 students), which will facilitate your learning (but only if you are present). Attendance will be taken.

Penalty for Excessive Unexcused Absences. Students with three or more unexcused absences will have five percentage points deducted from their course grade.

Excused Absences. For an absence to be excused, students must contact the Instructor (by email, phone, or in-person within 24 hours of their absence. Documentation (e.g., a doctor's excuse) may be required.

Drops for Non-Attendance. Students may be dropped for non-attendance at any time prior to the published last drop date shown on the official University academic calendar. A drop processed by a faculty member for non-attendance may be treated as a non-punitive grade. After the published drop deadline, an instructor may record a punitive grade of FN for an undergraduate student who has not been in attendance.

Classroom Etiquette

1. Please make every effort to be on time (I will do likewise). Parking can be a problem, please take that into consideration, Please also take weather conditions into consideration. It seems many drivers in San Antonio don't adjust their driving to weather conditions, so allow more travel time when weather is bad.
2. Use of Electronic Devices in Class. The use of laptops, smartphones, and smart watches in class is prohibited. There is considerable evidence that taking notes on laptops is not nearly as effective in facilitating learning 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.
 - a. The **only general exception** to the electronic device rule is it is okay to use *electronic pads that lie flat*. An advantage of these devices (unlike laptops) is their use typically does not distract others seated near the user. Students who ignore reminders about the above policy may be asked to leave class.

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

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?).

Group Project. Students will be assigned to small groups and complete a group project. The project will be broken up into a number of assignments, which will each be scored separately. Written details will be provided about the project will be provided and it will also be discussed in class.

Missed Examination Policy. If you have a medical or family emergency that prevents you from attending class on the day of an exam, contact your Instructor (or have someone else contact him) ideally *before* the exam. In any case, contact must be made 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.

Arriving Late for Exams. Students who arrive 10 or more minutes after an exam has started will not be admitted. Those students will need to discuss their situation with their Instructor during his office hours.

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. 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.

Submission of Written Work Produced Generative AI is Strictly Prohibited

Your Instructor will assume that all work submitted by students has been generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students shall not have another person/entity write of any portion of an assignment, which includes hiring a person or company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity. Consequences for submitting AI generated work will be taken very seriously.

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Appendix A

Optional Resources

The resources below can be of great 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 online. For your purposes, an earlier edition, which are available at a lower cost, will 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.

Other Resources for College Students

[APA Dictionary of Psychology](#)

[Social Psychology Network](#)

[Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#)

Invaluable 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.

General Resources

Internet Archive - <https://archive.org/>

A non-profit library of millions of free texts, movies, software, music and websites.

O*Net - <https://www.onetonline.org/>

A site, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, that provides very comprehensive information about duties, training requirements, median earnings, etc. of nearly every occupation in the US.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary (and Thesaurus) - <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

The gold standard of online dictionaries.