

## PSY 2350, Introduction to Social Psychology Winter 2018

Instructor: Rima Tarraf, PhD  
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Office Hours: Email or by Appointment

Course Section #: 14822  
Class Time: MW 3:30 – 5:17 PM  
Classroom: South Foundation Hall 372

<b>Course Description</b>	<p><b>Course Objective:</b></p> <p>This course is designed to introduce the student to the field of social psychology. The student will become familiar with theories, research and application surrounding this discipline. Textbook material, Power point summaries, videos, experiential exercises/assignments, and exams will be used to increase students' understanding of the study of human social behavior.</p> <p><b>Required Text:</b></p> <p>Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., &amp; Sommers, R. M. (2015). <u>Social Psychology</u> (9th ed.). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.</p>
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<b>Learning Objectives</b>	<p>Aside from simply learning the substantive material, various activities (including videos, debates, experiential exercises, discussion boards etc.) will be used to increase your understanding of the concepts. These experiences will enable you to see the relevance of this course to the real world and the use of this material in your own life (e.g., improved communication, negotiation, etc.).</p> <p>Given the nature of this course, an important source of knowledge is what you bring to the class. The topics in this class derive from everyday life, thus your personal experiences are relevant. This knowledge source will be accessed primarily through class discussion. In addition to this source, the textbook, videos, and various experiential exercises will be used to ensure learning the substantive material. Each source of knowledge provides a unique perspective and offers unique information concerning the topics studied by social psychologists. Use of various learning strategies and from different perspectives sparks deeper conceptual learning. While memorization of some specific terms, theories and concepts is necessary, rote memorization is not the sole focus of this course. Instead, making connections is the main learning goal. You should leave this class able to understand the introductory topics of social psychology from a research perspective as well as how these processes function relevant to everyday life.</p>
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**Special Considerations:** A student with a documented learning or physical disability must contact the Office of Disability and Support Services, 121 North Foundation Hall, (248) 370-3266, and inform the professor of special needs during the first week of classes. For more information, visit <http://www.oakland.edu/dss>.

**Veteran Support Services:** The office of Veteran Support Services (VSS) is responsible for giving support services to more than 300 veterans, service members, and dependents of veterans. VSS is staffed with personnel who are veterans and current or former students. Any student veteran or dependent of a veteran requiring assistance with navigating the Veterans Administration, understanding service-related benefits, or requires referrals to campus and community resources should contact one of the Veterans Liaisons by visiting 116 North Foundation Hall, or phoning 248-370-2010. <http://wwwwp.oakland.edu/veterans/>

**Audio Recoding Policy:** Students who wish to audio-record lectures may request permission to do so. These recordings may only be used for the purpose of personal study. Students may not share these recordings with other individuals without the consent of the professor. At the conclusion of the semester, students may request permission to keep these recordings if needed, otherwise it is expected that all audio-recordings will be deleted from all electronic recording and storage devices.

**Policy on Academic Misconduct:** The University's regulations that relate to academic misconduct will be fully enforced. Any student suspected of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and, thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication. Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct in this course may receive a course grade of 0.0, in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. The Code of Academic and Student Conduct can be found at <http://www2.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/handbook/conduct.cfm>.

**Excused Absence Policy:** University excused absences applies to participation as an athlete, manager or student trainer in NCAA intercollegiate competitions, or participation as a representative of Oakland University at academic events and artistic performances approved by the Provost or designee. For the excused absence policy, see <http://www.oakland.edu/?id=6850&sid=175>.

**Add/Drops & Incompletes:** The University add/drop and incomplete grade policies will be explicitly followed. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the University deadline dates for dropping the course.

**Resolution of Student Concerns:** The student has an obligation to attempt to resolve all academic-related concerns with the instructor. If a suitable solution cannot be reached, then the student should consult the Department of Psychology Procedure for the Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns at <https://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/psychology/files-and-documents/Undergrad-Advising/Resolution%20of%20Student%20Concerns-04-2017-approved%20full%20doc.pdf>.

#### **Technical Assistance / Backup plan for Technology Failure**

For Moodle technical issues, please contact the eLearning and Instructional Support office: Phone : (248) 8051625

Submit a help ticket : <http://www2.oakland.edu/elis/help.cfm?lms=2>

If you are having difficulty accessing any of the course content, please contact me (248)606-7471.

In terms of technology failure, you should have a backup plan. Technology failure is not an excuse for turning in late or incomplete work. Possible alternate arrangements include the use of a friend/family member's computer. Also, you should backup your work if your technology fails.

**COURSE EVALUATION:** Your final grade in this course will be based on three exams, two written assignments, active class reflection, one presentation, and participation in two online discussion groups. The percentage points for the exams and exercises are as follows:

<b>Online Discussions</b> (4 at 2.5% each)	10%
<b>Class reflections</b>	5%
<b>Presentation</b>	5%
<b>Written Assignments</b> (2 at 10% each)	20%
<b>Exams (3 at 20% each)</b>	60%
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<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**EXAMS:** You will take 3 exams for this course. Exams are not cumulative. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade and is comprised of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. There is a *90-minute time limit* for each exam.

*Make-up Exams:* Make-up exams will only be given if arrangements are made prior to the exam or at the instructor's discretion. If I am not notified prior to a missed exam, I will require the proper documentation

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Two assignments are given to increase your understanding of the substantive material and provide deeper conceptual learning. These assignments were chosen to extend your knowledge beyond merely content knowledge. They provide real world application of the material learned.

- **News/Film Analysis:** Throughout the semester, I want you to find one news clipping or film that illustrates a psychological concept that is particularly applicable to our social psychology course. This will help you apply what you have learned in this class to everyday real life. For this assignment, find one RECENT newspaper clipping, or a scene from a movie or TV show and write an explanation of it using course material. You can use articles, editorials, advertisements, advice columns, photographs, and/or cartoons. Try to find an item that corresponds to an assigned chapter. Your accompanying explanation can range from one to three pages (as long as you make your point clear!). This assignment is worth 10% of your grade. You will also be required to briefly talk about your chosen article to the class. A file labeled 'News/Film Analysis – Assignment 1' will be available on Moodle. It will provide a full description of the assignment, its purpose and the scoring rubric.
- **Research translation:** This assignment will involve you choosing a social psychology research study and discussing it with reference to the concepts from one of the chapters in your text. This assignment is worth 10% of your grade. A file labeled 'Research translation – Assignment 2' will be available on Moodle. It will provide a full description of the assignment, its purpose and the scoring rubric.

**ENGAGEMENT:** I expect you to actively be thinking about the material and to have questions and comments about various concepts throughout the semester. There are several components to your engagement grade:

- **Presentation on News/Film clipping** – you will sign up to talk briefly to the class about your chosen news article. This exercise will give you a chance to improve public speaking skills and help you gain confidence while speaking on your own to a group of people.
- **Online Group Discussion** – you will participate in four online group discussions. On these days, we will not meet in person. These online discussions are intended to encourage critical thinking, especially thinking that goes beyond what you have read in the text and notes. Receiving a good mark will require creative, insightful posts (plural!) that show accurate knowledge of the course material, elaborating on information posted earlier in the discussion, and fostering a meaningful dialogue with classmates. Students will need to post an initial comment (i.e., start a thread), and will also need to respond, in detail, to at least two of the threads started by other group members. Further details will be discussed in class, and a marking rubric will be posted to Moodle.
- **Class reflections** – once a week, you will submit a paper with your name and write down questions that you did not wish to raise during class. This will encourage class participation and give me time to prepare responses to your questions and concerns. It will also give me a good idea of how well you comprehend my lectures.

Engagement will make up 20% of your grade.

## Detailed Class Schedule and Topical Outline

### Course Outline

Week of	Topic	Assigned Reading
Jan. 3	Introduction	Ch. 1
Jan. 8	Research Methods	Ch. 2
Jan. 10	Research Methods	Ch. 2
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King, Jr Day – No class	
Jan. 17	Social Cognition	Ch. 3
Jan. 22	Social Cognition	Ch. 3
Jan. 24	Social Perception	Ch. 4
Jan. 29	<b>Online Discussion #1</b>	
Feb. 5	<b>EXAM 1 (CHAPTERS 1-4)</b>	
Feb. 7	Knowing Ourselves	Ch. 5
Feb. 12	Knowing Ourselves <b>Research Translation DUE on MOODLE before start of class</b>	Ch. 5
Feb. 14	Cognitive Dissonance and Self Esteem	Ch. 6
Feb. 19	Reading Week – No class	
Feb. 21	Reading Week – No class	
Feb. 26	Cognitive Dissonance and Self Esteem	Ch. 6
Feb. 28	<b>Online Group Discussion #2</b>	
Mar. 5	Attitudes and Attitude Change	Ch. 7
Mar. 7	Attitudes and Attitude Change	Ch. 7
Mar. 12	Conformity	Ch. 8
Mar. 14	Conformity	Ch. 8

Mar. 19	<b>EXAM 2 (CHAPTERS 5-8)</b>	
Mar. 21	<b>Online Group Discussion #3</b>	
Mar. 26	Group Processes	Ch. 9
Mar. 28	Group Processes	Ch. 9
Apr. 2	Attraction	Ch. 10
Apr. 4	Attraction	Ch. 10
Apr. 9	<b>Online Group Discussion #4</b>	
Apr. 11	Pro-social Behavior	Ch. 11
Apr. 16	Pro-social Behavior	Ch. 11
<b>FINAL</b>	<b>EXAM 3 (CHAPTERS 9-12)</b> <i>Scheduled during Final Exam Period (April 25th)</i>	