

Social Psychology - PSY 311

Spring 2016

Meeting Information

Lecture: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 10-10:50am
Location: McKibben Education Building (ED), Room 258

Professor Information

Professor: Dr. Lauren Brewer **Office:** ED 215R
E-mail: BrewerLE@sfasu.edu **Phone:** (936) 468-1470*
Office Hours: T/R: 8:15-9:30am; F: 12-2:30pm

*Email is the best way to contact me. It may take several days for me to respond to any voice messages left on my office phone. I also cannot make long-distance calls from my office. If you need to speak with me, please come by during office hours or make an appointment.

Class GA: Stacey Kerr **Email:** KerrSA@jacks.sfasu.edu **Office Hours:** TBD

Materials

Texts: Baumeister, R.F., & Bushman, B.J. (2014). *Social Psychology and Human Nature* (3rd Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/ Cengage.

Email: The course requires that you have and use your SFA Jacks email account. You are responsible for messages sent by professors and other SFA officials to your SFA Jacks email address. Due to FERPA restrictions, any email correspondence regarding this course must be sent to me from your SFA Jacks email account only. (Do NOT send emails to me via D2L.) Emails sent to me from an address other than your official SFA email address will not receive a response. **You are responsible for checking your email daily.**

D2L: The course has a D2L site that can be found at d2l.sfasu.edu. You are responsible for all announcements and materials presented on this web page, so **you must check it daily**. Your course grades will be posted here. If you do not have access to our class D2L page for any reason, you must contact me.

Hashtag: Students often want to discuss course-related content on social media. To help us connect, feel free to use the hashtag **#SFAPSY311** when posting on your favorite social media platforms.

Teaching Philosophy

I believe that social psychology is a class from which everyone can benefit. Together, we will embark on a journey to understand social interactions and human nature. I want to learn from you as much as (if not more than) you learn from me. It is my hope that you will leave this course with a greater understanding of social psychology and how it relates to your everyday life.

Overview

Course Description: The study of how thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals relate to and are influenced by the presence of others. Topics include conformity, aggression, interpersonal attraction, close relationships, social cognition, attitudes, stereotypes, prejudice, and group and inter group behaviors.

Prerequisites: PSY 133 and sophomore (or above) standing.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

PLO	Proficiency Level
The student will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.	Advanced
The student will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.	Advanced
The student will respect and use critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.	Advanced
The student will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.	Advanced
The student will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science.	Advanced

Student Learning Outcomes:

Through the examination of social psychology, students will:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with major psychological concepts, theoretical perspectives, and empirical findings / historical trends within the realm of social psychology.
2. Understand basic research methods, data analysis and interpretation of results in order to be a critical consumer of social psychological information.
3. Apply psychological principles learned in this class in the evaluation of human behavior in relation to social influence, motivation, personality, and interpersonal relationships.
4. Apply the theories and concepts learned in class to real world experiences.

Course Expectations and Grading

Willingness to Learn: Please come to class every day with a willingness to learn. The material can be challenging, but I am here to tackle it with you. I would consider this course a failure if I did not at some point succeed in perturbing or irritating you. Critical thinking is not easy and frequently forces us to reexamine cherished beliefs. Please keep an open mind at all times. Both giving and taking criticism is a skill that must be practiced. Do not withdraw into stony silence. Please express your views while at all times remembering to respect the viewpoints of others.

Reading: Plan to read all of the assigned reading before coming to class. Although we will cover some of what is in the text during class, there will be parts of each chapter that we do not discuss together. However, you are still responsible for the material from the texts that we do NOT cover in class.

Lectures: Take notes while I'm teaching (this does not mean copy everything from my slides). You'll remember the material much better if you write notes in your own words. I will NOT post my slides on D2L. If you miss a lecture for any reason, you must get the notes from a classmate.

Unit Objectives: These will be posted on D2L when we start a new unit. Test questions are taken directly from the Unit Objectives. Think of the objectives as a study guide you get in advance.

Class Attendance: Class attendance is not required (but strongly encouraged). I may choose to pass around a sign-in sheet in order to monitor attendance. Attendance, however, will have no direct effect on your grade. On average, the more a student attends class, the higher is his or her final grade. You **MUST** be present on 5/5 for your Creative Interpretation Presentation and for the final exam/make-up exam day.

Coming Late to Class/Leaving Early: Students are encouraged to come to class on time and to stay for the entire class period. However, students are allowed to come late and leave early, as long as they a) do their best to minimally disrupt class when they arrive/leave and b) don't make a habit out of coming late and/or leaving early. Students must NOT be more than five minutes late on an exam date, or they may receive a zero on their exam.

Missing Class: I make no distinction between a good and a bad reason to miss class, so there is no need to bring me a note. If you miss class and want notes, get them from a fellow student. If you miss a test, you can make it up (if excused) or during one of the make-up sessions (excused or unexcused). My exam make-up policy is explained below.

Exams: There will be six exams in this class. The first five tests will all be given during regular class time (the final exam will be given during final exam week) and will cover material from the readings and the lecture. **You'll receive an automatic zero on any test for which you are absent.** This zero will only be replaced in the grade book when you make-up the test during an individual make-up session (if your absence was excused) or during the final make-up session (if your absence was either excused or unexcused) during the final exam period. Finals grades will be computed by averaging ALL exam scores. In other words, NO exam scores will be dropped. The exam dates are listed below.

Exam 1:	2/8/17	Exam 4:	4/5/17
Exam 2:	2/22/17	Exam 5:	4/24/17
Exam 3:	3/10/17	Exam 6 & Exam Make-up:	5/5/17 @ 10:30am

Exam Make-up Policy: Occasionally circumstances will arise that require students to miss a test. Anyone can make up missed exams during the final make-up session. You are responsible for clearing your schedule **RIGHT NOW** so that you can attend this session, if need be. You will not be given any additional time to make up exams outside of the scheduled final make-up session. NOTE: You cannot RETAKE an exam. You can only make-up a missed exam.

I have a "no questions asked" policy on make-up exams. I will not require that you contact me to explain why you missed an exam. I will also NOT require you to verify that your absence met criteria for being "university approved". **All you have to do is show up at the final make-up session, and ask for a copy of the test you missed.** This policy is designed to make the make-up process easier, less stressful, and more efficient for students who **MUST** miss exams for valid reasons. It is not designed to make life easier for students who want to schedule other events during exams or who want to skip exams when they represent a minor inconvenience (you

shouldn't be doing that). However, to be fair, I will allow everyone the same opportunity to make up any missed exams, "no questions asked." Although everyone should take advantage of this policy (take a make-up exam! There should be NO ZEROS for missed tests at the end of the semester!), you are still responsible for making plans to take the exams on the originally scheduled dates. **The average grade on makeup exams is substantially lower than on regularly scheduled exams!** When you take a make-up exam, time has passed since you originally learned the material. Also, you have to keep up with the current work while trying to study for the make-up test. **If you choose to use the final make-up session for reasons other than the intended purpose, you may do so, but that is your personal decision.** You take responsibility for the consequences. **If you have to miss the final make-up session for any reason (university-approved or not), you will receive a zero for all exams you needed to make up.** Only the final exam may be rescheduled due to a university-approved absence.

If your absence is excused, you have two options. You can either make up your missed exam during the final make-up session, OR you can bring your excuse documentation to me before or after class and take the test during an individual make-up session. In other words, if your absence is excused, you do not need to wait until the final make-up sessions to make up your exam. **Individual make-up exams must be scheduled within one week of the absence**, except in extreme circumstances. The following will be considered excused absences: documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official university activities. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness

Creative Interpretation Project: You will work on a project that involves depicting a social psychological concept or theory as part of a creative interpretation. Your task is to choose your favorite social psychological concept or theory and demonstrate it through a diorama, shadow box, or other 3D visual. The concept or theory you choose must be displayed visually in such a way that no accompanying written explanation needed. However, you will submit a short written explanation of both the theory/concept you chose and a description of how your project visually depicts the theory/concept. You will present your creative interpretation to me during the last regular class meeting (Friday, May 5, 2017).

Grading: **6 exams** X 50 points = 300 points
Creative Interpretation Project = 50 Points
Computing your final grade: $\frac{\text{all points earned} + \text{extra credit}}{350} = \text{Percentage}$

Total Points = all points earned + extra credit

Letter Grade	Percentage	Total Points Needed
A	93-100%	324-350
B	82-92%	286-323
C	70-81%	244-285
D	60-69%	209-243
F	0-59%	0-208

Syllabus: This syllabus is your friend! I have designed this syllabus to answer many of the questions you might have about the course. Therefore, please refer to the syllabus FIRST before emailing me. Because I am confident that you all will use this syllabus, I am rewarding you with three extra credit points (that's almost 1% of your final grade). Here is the catch. Each time you email me about a question that can be answered by using the syllabus, you lose some of those extra credit points. My advice is to refer to your syllabus before emailing me with questions. With this said, if you EVER have a question that is NOT answered in the syllabus, please don't hesitate ask! Also, I'm happy to answer ANY question before or after class.

Extra Credit: Several times throughout the semester you will have an opportunity to earn extra credit. At least seven points of extra credit (2% of your final grade) will be available throughout the semester.

**Extra credit should not replace studying. If you are struggling with the course material come see me as soon as you are having trouble. In this course, the material builds on itself, so it is important that you do NOT fall behind.

Whiteboard-side chats with Dr. Brewer: In the spirit of fireside chats, we may convene around the whiteboard for some informal discussions. Whiteboard-side chats may take place throughout the semester, usually at the beginning of class. The goal is to provide an opportunity for students to learn more about psychology beyond what is covered in the textbook and class discussions. We will also use this time to talk about upcoming assignments and projects.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Civility: I expect you to act civilly at all times. This means respecting yourself, other students, and me. Uncivil behavior will not be tolerated. Examples of uncivil behavior include, but are not limited to, ringing or vibrating cell phones, excessive texting, sleeping, talking when another student or I am talking, wearing headphones, using a laptop or tablet during class, disrupting the class in any manner, becoming physically or verbally aggressive, breaking student code of conduct rules, etc. Students engaging in uncivil or disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the classroom. Audio or video recordings without my permission are not allowed. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on coursework may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Grievances: I recognize that I am human and make mistakes. It is my hope that any grievances you have with me can be worked out between us via email, during office hours, or by appointment. If you feel that you have been treated unfairly, please come to me first. If you feel that I have not handled your issue in a fair manner, you may contact my department chair, Dr. Scott Hutchens (HutchensS@sfasu.edu).

Personal reactions to topics: Sometimes certain material covered in a psychology class can bring up personal feelings and reactions you may not know what to do with. In these cases, please feel free to make use of the counseling services available on campus via Counseling Services. Their phone number is (936) 468-2401. More information can be found on their website: <http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices/>

Safe Space: My office is a safe space, and I am friendly toward all groups of students including those who identify as LGBTQ+. I want you to know that you can feel safe from judgmental attitudes when interacting with me. More information can be found at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safe-space> and <http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices/193.asp>

Technology Prohibition: Ample research (Hembrooke & Gay, 2003; Fried, 2008) has found that students who use computing devices during class have significant decrements in their memory performance. Further, students who use these devices are a distraction to students who do not use them (Sana, Weston, & Cepeda, 2013). Therefore, laptops, tablets, phones, and other electronic devices are not allowed in this class. However, students are allowed to petition for an exemption. The exemption requires students to read and critique the three above papers, giving dedicated attention to why they think their situation is different from the students in the study. Students who successfully defend their petition to use technology may be given an exemption. However, writing a paper critique does NOT necessarily mean that you will be given an exemption; this decision is made solely by me. Students with disabilities (and their assigned note takers) will be given special consideration.

Copyright Statement: Many of the materials in this course are copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1): Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. All forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with seriously and immediately. Please respect SFASU, yourself, and me enough not to participate in academic dishonesty.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy and the appeals process at:

http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp and
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_appeals_students.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54): At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Student Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy 10.4). Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on coursework may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to <http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/>.

F-1 Visa Holders: There are important federal regulations pertaining to distance education activity for F-1 Visa holders. All students with an F-1 Visa should follow the instructions at the following link to make sure they are in compliance:
<http://www.oit.sfasu.edu/disted/facsup/f1visa.html>.

Syllabus Change Policy: This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, course schedule, and exam dates as necessary. I will announce any changes both in class and on D2L.

Disclaimer: If you disagree with the policies described in this syllabus, you should consider dropping the course. By remaining in this course, you acknowledge and accept the policies as stated herein and accept the policies as stated or amended during the course of the semester.

Important Dates

1/20 – Last day to register
2/8 - Exam 1
2/22 - Exam 2
3/2 - Last day to apply for August 2017 graduation
3/10 - Exam 3
3/13-17 - Spring Break, no class
3/22 – Last day to drop course and/or withdraw from university (without WP/WF grades)
4/3 - First day to apply for December 2017 graduation
4/5 - Exam 4
4/13-17 - April break, no class
4/24 - Exam 5
4/25 – Last day to withdraw from SFA
5/8 @ 10:30am – Exam 6 and Exam Make-up

Course Calendar (first half)

Date	Reading	Topic
1/18		Syllabus
1/20	No Class	Dr. Brewer at SPSP Conference
1/23		Course Intro
1/25		Course Intro
1/27	Ch. 1	Mission and Method
1/30	Ch. 1	Mission and method
2/1	Ch. 2	Nature & Culture
2/3	Ch. 2	Nature & Culture
2/6	Ch. 2	Evolution
2/8		Exam 1
2/10	Ch. 3	The Self
2/13	Ch. 3	The Self
2/15	Ch. 3	The Self
2/17	Ch. 4	Behavioral Control
2/20	Ch. 4	Behavioral Control
2/22		Exam 2
2/24	Ch. 5	Social Cognition
2/27	Ch. 5	Social Cognition
3/1	Ch. 6	Emotion & Affect
3/3	Ch. 6	Emotion & Affect
3/6	Ch. 7	Attitudes, Beliefs, & Consistency
3/8	Ch. 7	Attitudes, Beliefs, & Consistency
3/10		Exam 3

Course Calendar (second half)

Date	Reading	Topic
3/20	Ch. 9	Prosocial Behavior
3/22	Ch. 9	Prosocial Behavior
3/24	Ch. 10	Antisocial behavior
3/27		Happy Documentary
3/29	Ch. 10	Antisocial behavior
3/31		Happy Documentary
4/3	Ch. 12	Close Relationships
4/5		Exam 4
4/7	Ch. 11	Attraction & Exclusion
4/10	Ch. 11	Attraction & Exclusion
4/12	Ch. 13	Prejudice & Intergroup Relations
4/14	No Class	April Break
4/17	No Class	April Break
4/19	Ch. 8	Social Influence
4/21	Ch. 8	Social Influence
4/24		Exam 5
4/26		Terror Management Theory
4/28		Terror Management Theory
5/1		Judgment & Decision Making
5/3		Sexual Economics
5/5		Creative Interpretation Projects
5/8	10:30am	Exam 6 & Final Make-up session