

## Social Psychology

PSYC 211  
CRN 22524  
SRING 2016

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment
<b>Course Format:</b>	This course will be held entirely online. There will be no on-campus meetings.

### What the Course Is All About

**The goal of this course is to provide you with a basic understanding of the influence of other people on individual behavior and the willingness and ability to apply the principles of social psychology in your personal and professional lives.** In other words, I want you to understand how people affect other people's thoughts and behaviors. No matter what you do with your life, you will interact with, depend on, and attempt to influence countless other people. In fact, you already do. Social psychology can give you the tools to be more effective in all of those interactions.

Stated a little more formally, the course objectives look like this:

- 1) Students will understand the basic facts, principles, methods, and theories of social psychology.

- 2) Students will know and understand current research in selected areas of social psychology, including social perception, social influence, social relations, and applied social psychology.
- 3) Students will evaluate, think critically about, and apply research on selected topics in social psychology.
- 4) Students will apply the principles of social psychology to their own lives, their professions, and to the world around them.

**Course description:** *(Required information straight out of the college catalog)* An introduction to the field of social psychology, emphasizing the experimental and experiential approach. Various theoretical orientations and relevant research are considered covering such topics as group structures and group processes, formation, measurement, and changing of attitudes (including prejudice), communication and persuasion, leadership, interpersonal relations, and social influence. (BSSD)

**PREREQUISITE:** A grade of C or better in PY 102 or consent of the department. Three hours each week.

### What You'll Need for the Course

First, you'll need the textbook: **Social Psychology**, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition by Smith and Mackie

Second, you'll need to meet the technology requirements necessary to take an online course:

1. You will need to be able to consistently use a computer with Internet access. You should expect to spend several hours each week online, so this is an important one. Full details on recommended computer hardware and software are available here. (**Hint:** Click on blue underlined words to go to the websites they refer to.)

2. You'll need a web browser, such as Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer. Learn how to set your browser up to work with Blackboard here.

Third, you'll need to be comfortable working online. In this course, you will be required to send and read email, read web pages, upload and download files, and post to discussion boards. If you're not sure whether or not you can do all of these

things, use the preassessment tool to get a better idea. You can get comfortable with the Blackboard environment using the tutorials available to you.

## How You Will Be Assessed

Final grades will be assigned based on a standard 10-point grading scale (90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 59 and below = F).

Your course grade will be based on exams and assignments in the following proportions:

- **10** points for every quiz,
  - **5** points for every main post,
  - **2.5** points for **each** reply post
- 20 points for each week  
(280 possible points)

1. Quizzes – There will be a brief quiz for every chapter in the textbook. The quizzes are designed to assess your understanding of the reading material and to help you prepare for exams. Quizzes are worth 50% of your final grade. Each quiz has 10 questions from the corresponding chapter. **Once you start the quiz, you will have two hours to finish it. Once the deadline has passed, you cannot take that quiz. Please do not ask for exceptions.**
2. Participation – There will be a discussion topic for every chapter. You are required to post to each topic as directed, read every message posted to each topic, and respond to **TWO** other students' posts as directed. See the [Start Here](#) module for more details on writing discussion topics and how they will be graded.

Your primary post every week will be worth 5 points. This is a college course. **Yes, spelling and grammar count!** Please demonstrate you have read the chapter in your post. Answer the question thoroughly. (at least a few paragraphs!)

Your TWO replies will be worth 2.5 points each.

Aspects of your class participation are automatically recorded by Blackboard, including the date you last entered the course, the number of discussion messages you have read and posted, and which course content pages you have read. Participation is worth 20% of your final grade.

4. Final Exam – Your 70 (70/280 = 25%) question exam is worth 25% of your final grade.

### **If You Need Help**

If you have technical trouble with Blackboard, contact the Montgomery College Blackboard help desk at 1-888-691-5059 or online. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

For assistance with MyMC, contact the Montgomery College IT Help Desk at (240) 567-7222. If you are having trouble resetting your password, contact the IT Student Help Desk at (240) 567-5000, and press 2.

### **Course Policies**

**Assignments and exams must be completed by the stated deadline.** Exceptions will be made only in the case of emergencies. An emergency is a situation that 1) absolutely prevents you from turning in work or taking an exam on time and 2) cannot have been foreseen.

**Assignments turned in after the due date and time will be penalized by 10% of the total possible points per calendar day late. Quizzes cannot be made up for any reason. Do not place your grade at risk by waiting until the last minute to complete exams or assignments. You never know what might come up!**

Also, be aware that The Office of Information Technology conducts computer network maintenance on Sunday morning from 12:01 AM to 6:00 AM each week. During this time you may not be able to access My MC to login to Blackboard. *Do not rely on this time to submit course work.*

**You are responsible for backing up your work.** In this course, you will complete most of your assignments on a computer. You are responsible for ensuring the safety of your work by making regular backups (extra copies). **Technical difficulties are not acceptable excuses for late or missing work. Save your work early, save it often, and save it in more than one place (e.g., hard drive and flash drive.)**

**You are responsible for submitting your work.** Usually, you will turn in assignments using the Blackboard assignment drop box. Sometimes you may email work to me. If you have computer problems and cannot submit your work electronically, you may save your assignment to removable media (such as a CD) and leave it in my mailbox on the Germantown campus in room HS 138. Alternatively, you may call me and make arrangements to fax your assignment to me. In the worst case scenario, you may put your work into an envelope and mail it to me at the college. The postmark will demonstrate that you completed the work on time. Be sure to get delivery confirmation if you are forced to use this option!

**You are responsible for checking email, course announcements, and the discussion board several times per week.** This will ensure that you always know what's going on in class.

**Posts to discussion topics must be civil.** You are encouraged to respond to your classmates' posts, express your opinions, and ask questions in discussion topics. Just remember to use proper classroom decorum. The use of racist, sexist, or objectionable language is prohibited.

<b>Week of:</b>	<b><u>Readings</u></b>	<b><u>Assignments</u></b>
1/25	What is Social Psychology <i>Chapter 1</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs</b> 1/28 11:59 Quiz due <b>Sun</b> 1/31 11:59 2 reply posts <b>Sun</b> 1/31 11:59
2/1	Asking & Answering Research Questions <i>Chapter 2</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs</b> 2/4 11:59 Quiz due <b>Sun</b> 2/7 11:59 2 reply posts <b>Sun</b> 2/7 11:59
2/8	Perceiving Individuals <i>Chapter 3</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs</b> 2/11 11:59 Quiz due <b>Sun</b> 2/14 11:59 2 reply posts <b>Sun</b> 2/14 11:59
2/15	The Self <i>Chapter 4</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs</b> 2/18 11:59 Quiz due <b>Sun</b> 2/21 11:59 2 reply posts <b>Sun</b> 2/21 11:59
2/22	Perceiving Groups <i>Chapter 5</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs</b> 1/25 11:59 Quiz due <b>Sun</b> 2/28 11:59 2 reply posts <b>Sun</b> 2/28 11:59
2/29	Social Identity <i>Chapter 6</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs</b> 3/3 11:59 Quiz due <b>Sun</b> 3/6 11:59 2 reply posts <b>Sun</b> 3/6 11:59
3/7	Attitude and Attitude Change <i>Chapter 7</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs</b> 3/10 11:59 Quiz due <b>Sun</b> 3/13 11:59 2 reply posts <b>Sun</b> 3/13 11:59
3/14	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
3/21	Groups, Norms & Conformity <i>Chapter 8</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs</b> 3/24 11:59 Quiz due <b>Sun</b> 3/27 11:59 2 reply posts <b>Sun</b> 3/27 11:59
3/28	Norms & Behavior <i>Chapter 9</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs</b> 3/31 11:59 Quiz due <b>Sun</b> 4/3 11:59 2 reply posts <b>Sun</b> 4/3 11:59

4/4	Norms and Behavior <i>Chapter 10</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs 4/7 11:59</b> Quiz due <b>Sun 4/10 11:59</b> 2 reply posts <b>Sun 4/10 11:59</b>
4/11	Liking and Loving <i>Chapter 11</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs 4/14 11:59</b> Quiz due <b>Sun 4/17 11:59</b> 2 reply posts <b>Sun 4/17 11:59</b>
4/18	Interaction in Groups <i>Chapter 12</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs 4/21 11:59</b> Quiz due <b>Sun 4/24 11:59</b> 2 reply posts <b>Sun 4/24 11:59</b>
4/25	Aggression and Conflict <i>Chapter 13</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs 4/28 11:59</b> Quiz due <b>Sun 5/1 11:59</b> 2 reply posts <b>Sun 5/1 11:59</b>
5/2	Helping and Cooperation <i>Chapter 14</i>	Main post due <b>Thurs 5/5 11:59</b> Quiz due <b>Sun 5/8 11:59</b> 2 reply posts <b>Sun 5/8 11:59</b>
5/9	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

**Questions regarding the course should be posted to the discussion board.** Post your questions to the [General Course Questions](#) discussion topic. Do not email me with your questions unless the subject matter must be kept private. (Examples of subjects that are private include your individual grade and your personal life circumstances.) Remember, if you're

wondering about it, others probably are, too. I typically respond to email and posts to the discussion board within 24 hours during the week. Turnaround time may be longer on weekends and holidays, so be sure to begin assignments during the week in case you have questions.

**Students who may need an accommodation due to a disability should contact me as soon as possible.** A letter from Disability Support Services (room SA 175) authorizing your accommodations is required.

**College policies regarding academic dishonesty and disruptive students apply.** See the [Student Code of Conduct](#) for details.

## **Schedule**

This course will be conducted entirely online. There will be no on-campus meetings.

Note: Initial discussion posts are due every Thursday. Quizzes and responses to classmates' posts are due every Sunday.