**SOP 3004, INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, FALL 2019**

**COURSE NUMBERS: 20073, 24206**

**Course Instructor:** Dr. Kate Ratliff (she/her)

**Office Hours:** By appointment or email (see below)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**: Nicole Lofaro (she/her)

**Office Hours:** Mondays, 12.30pm-2.30pm

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**: Jackie Avila (she/her)

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 2.00-4.00pm

**Undergrad TA:** Roshni Patel (she/her)

**Office Hours:** Thursdays, 10am-12pm

**Undergrad TA:** Valentina Chapman (she/her)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 2.00pm-4.00pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Social psychology is the scientific study of the ways in which people’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. At the end of this course you will be able to: (A) distinguish social psychology from other related disciplines, (B) explain the philosophy and methods of science utilized by social psychologists, (C) understand what is meant by the many technical and standard terms used in the field and be able to use them with precision, and (D) see the world through the eyes of a social scientist.

**COURSE TEXTBOOK AND WEBSITE**

Everything you need for this course—other than the textbook—is housed in the Canvas Learning Management System. The text for this course is Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. (2016) Social Psychology (9th edition), Pearson. You may get the textbook in whatever format you prefer – hardback, softcover, e-book, etc. There are no “extras” you need to purchase; just get the book.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COURSE**

1. Check the course syllabus and the course questions discussion forum.
2. Post your question to the course questions discussion board with a meaningful heading (e.g., “Due date for open response items” or “Question about cognitive dissonance”). Do not post about your grades, make-up assignments, or other private matters on the discussion board.
3. Ask a teaching assistant during his/her office hours or using the Canvas email feature. Questions about grades should go to the graduate teaching assistant.
4. Dr. Ratliff is happy to answer any questions or address any concerns that cannot be resolved by the graduate teaching assistant. Please email her using the Canvas email feature and confirm in your email that you have already consulted with the graduate teaching assistant.

*Important Notes:* Whether you email or post a question on the "course questions" discussion forum, please allow 24 hours for a response. Questions posted over the weekend might not receive a response until Monday. Please use the Canvas email feature to contact your TA and instructor . TA office hours are virtual; you can “speak” with your TA using the Chat tool in Canvas. The initial chat is viewable to anyone in the chat room, so please do not include confidential information here. If you wish to speak with your TA privately, let them know in the chat window and they will provide you with a link to a private conference.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE AND SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE**

The course is organized in 13 modules that correspond to chapters of the textbook. You will complete one module during most weeks of the semester; there will be an introductory module during the first week and no module during the week of spring break.

To complete a module, you should read the assigned reading and watch the recorded lecture(s) and other media assigned to that module. After reading the chapter and completing the videos and activities, you should take the pre-test, which you can take as many times as you’d like until you get the maximum number of points. During the week you should also respond to the writing prompt, interact with the discussion forum, and take the end-of-module quiz. It is essential that you keep current with the course! You are unlikely to succeed by attempting to complete the material all at once; put simply, this course should be part of your daily life throughout the semester.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

*WRITING PROMPTS*

Each week, beginning in Week 2, you will be asked to write a short response to a question about the content of the module. These questions are intended to get you to incorporate the material you’re learning about in class into your own life. If you feel that the question is too personal, or if you do not have an experience from your own life to use as an example, you may use an example from media (e.g., television, movies, books) or an example that happened to a friend. These are not essay-length assignments. Usually a single paragraph consisting of 5-6 sentences is enough to adequately answer the question (for point of reference, this paragraph you’re reading right now is 6 sentences long). These are due by the end of the module week (11:59pm on Sundays). Each of these responses is worth 3 points toward your final grade, for a total of 39 points. An example of a “Superior” writing prompt response is available in the course questions discussion forum; the grading rubric is below.

3 = *Superior*; Demonstrates full and complete understanding of the concepts. Evidence of extended critical analysis, including examples from “real life”. Thoughtful, concise, and error-free.

2 = *Adequate*; Demonstrates reasonable understanding of the concepts. Clear evidence of critical analysis, but relatively underdeveloped. Runs on too repetitively in one direction or is too scattered.

1 = *Needs Improvement*; Demonstrates only partial understanding of the concepts. Little evidence of critical analysis. No examples or examples are only partially relevant. Poor writing.

0 = *Unacceptable*; No response is provided or response shows clear lack of understanding and/or is unrelated to the prompt.

*DISCUSSION FORUM POSTS*

Because this course does not meet in person, the discussion forum provides us with a way to have a conversation about the week’s course work. Each week you will be asked to post to your discussion group about that week’s topic. Your initial post must be completed by 11:59pm on Friday in order to give your classmates time to respond. In addition, you will need to respond to two posts by classmates each week. Your responses to your classmates must be posted by 11:59pm on the Sunday night ending the week. Your initial post is worth 1 point and each of your two responses is worth 1 point (3 points total each week). You will complete one Discussion Forum Post during each week, thereby leading to a total of 18 points allotted to this assignment (plus 2 additional points for the introductory post; see immediately below).

Introductory Post and Response

During the first week of class, you should write an Introductory Post. This post is so that you can get to know some of the other people in your class. This should be a couple of sentences long; you should say something about who you are, why you’re taking this course, and your interests outside of class. If you prefer, you may upload a video introducing yourself. You should also respond to at least two of your classmates’ posts. This assignment is worth 1 point (all-or-nothing for your introduction and the two responses).

Weekly Forum Post and Responses

Your post each week should be directly related to the course material for the module specified in the course schedule. Beyond that, the content of your post is up to you. I know from experience that students are often confused when there is no explicit prompt. However, this is on purpose. In the rest of the course, I am directing the show. In this part of the course, the conversation is for you to lead. The idea is to write initial posts (i.e., the one that is due on Friday) that may get a discussion started. You could, for example, expand on a concept introduced in the lecture using examples from your own life. Have you noticed examples of the week’s topic taking place at your job? Or, you could state whether you agree or disagree with something from the book. While your post should indicate that you’ve thought about the content of the module, it does not need to be overly long; 3-4 sentences is usually enough for your initial post. Your discussion forum post may not be redundant with your real-world application response (see below); if it is, you will not receive credit for either.

You will also need to respond to two of your classmates’ posts. Your responses should also be one or two short paragraphs in length. The idea is to continue the discussion by engaging with the initial posts and/or your classmates’ responses. You can expand on a point that has been made or explain why you disagree. Please be very careful to always be civil in disagreement as many of the topics we cover in this course can be contentious and/or emotional. At times you will disagree with each other - that is healthy; disrespect for each other is not. In addition to the content of your posts, your ability to appropriately engage in discussion will be reflected in your grade. You will get one point for your initial post and one point for each of your two responses. Posts are graded on whether we feel you interacted meaningfully with the module’s material. Additionally, responses to your classmates’ posts consisting of things like, “Me too” or “I agree” are not considered enough to gain a point. You must show evidence of having thought about their post.

*PRE-TESTS*

After viewing the lecture, and before taking the end-of-module quiz, you should complete the module pre-test. These consist of a short set of questions designed to ensure that you have viewed each lecture and to give you some sense of whether you are ready for the end-of-module quiz. You will have a chance to correct your errors and these are worth 1 point each for completing them correctly (for a total of 13 points). There will be no time limit on the pre-tests. Please note that items on the pre-tests are generally easier than those on the quizzes. They are meant to be practice – not an indication of how well you will do on the end-of-module quizzes.

*END-OF-MODULE QUIZ*

There will be a graded quiz at the end of each module. These quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions that come from the course material (i.e., textbook, lectures, and supporting media). The quizzes are timed and you must allot yourself enough time to complete the quiz before it closes. If you are still taking it at 11:59pm, it will close on you automatically and submit your quiz as is. Once you begin the quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete it. Each of these quizzes will be worth 16 points (for a total of 208 points). You can view the correct answers to the quiz starting 24 hours after the module closes.

**COURSE GRADES**

Your final grade will be calculated based on your grades on 13 end-of-module quizzes (208 points), 13 pre-tests (13 points), 13 writing prompts (39 points), 39 discussion posts (39 points), and 1 introduction post (1 point). Your final course grade will reflect how many total points (out of 300) you accumulate.

A 279 or above C 219-230

A- 270-278 C- 210-218

B+ 261-269 D+ 201-209

B 249-260 D 189-200

B- 240-248 D- 180-188

C+ 231-239 F 179 or below

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://bit.ly/21fzRvp). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Accommodations requests are not retroactive; you must request what you need ahead of time.

**POLICY FOR DISPUTING A GRADE**

You will have one week (including weekends) after a grade has been posted to dispute your grade. Grade disputes will not be considered after that date. If you want to dispute a grade you will need to write a paragraph explaining the dispute clearly (i.e., what item or question are you referring to, in what module) and a paragraph explaining why you believe your answer is correct. Then send a private email with this information to your TA. Please note that the TAs will consider your case, but they are not required to change your grade simply because you believe you are right. You may always email Dr. Ratliff if you cannot resolve the issue with your TA; however, it is rare, if ever, that she will overturn a TAs decision.

Note that I take this one-week dispute deadline very seriously; please do not contact me during the last week of the semester to dispute earlier grades in an attempt to raise your final score. Also, the grade cutoffs are real and non-negotiable. I do not round grades or offer extra credit; please do not ask.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MAKE UP WORK**

Please note that late course work is not accepted unless you have an emergency that leaves you unable to participate in the course for at least four days. Note: This is a good reason to do your work early rather than waiting until the last minute to complete your assignments. Making up late assignments will only be granted for university approved reasons and must include proper documentation as per university guidelines (<http://bit.ly/1SKNa3L>). Because you may do your work at any point during a given week, the documentation must state clearly that you were unable to participate for at least five days.

I urge you to go somewhere with a reliable internet connection to do your work. Quizzes cannot be restarted once you have seen the test items. Note that "Internet trouble" or "Canvas isn't working" are not acceptable excuses for late work. You have at least five days between when the module opens and when assignments are due. Canvas is rarely, if ever, down for more than 15-20 minutes at a time. Please plan accordingly.

**CHEATING AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Cheating is defined in the UF Handbook, and it is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with its many forms. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at [http://bit.ly/1O9hSRF.](http://bit.ly/1O9hSRF)

If a student is caught cheating, the first offense will result in a zero for that exam or assignment and a record of the event will be placed in a temporary file with the Office of Student Affairs. The second offense will result in an “E” for the course, and the student will go before the Honor Court. As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Each module lasts for one calendar week. Each week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. (More specifically, the week begins at 12:00am separating Sundays and Mondays.) All times are Eastern.

* Monday 12:00am: Module opens
* Before Friday 11:59pm: Submit initial post to discussion forum
* Before 11:59pm on Sunday: Pre-test, two responses to discussion forum posts of your classmates, open-response item, and end-of-module quiz

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| Dates | Module | Topic |
| January 6 – January 12 | Intro Week | Course Structure and Policies |
| January 13 – January 19 | Module 1 | Introducing Social Psychology |
| January 20 – January 26  | Module 2 | Social Psych Methodology |
| January 27 – February 2 | Module 3 | Social Cognition |
| February 3 – February 9 | Module 4 | Social Perception |
| February 10 – February 16 | Module 5 | The Self |
| February 17 – February 23 | Module 6 | The Need to Justify Our Actions |
| February 24 – March 1 | Module 7 | Attitudes and Attitude Change |
| March 2 – March 8 | -- | Spring Break – No Class |
| March 9 – March 15 | Module 8 | Conformity |
| March 16 – March 22 | Module 9 | Group Processes |
| March 23 – March 29 | Module 10 | Interpersonal Attraction |
| March 30 – April 5 | Module 11 | Prosocial Behavior |
| April 6 – April 12 | Module 12 | Aggression |
| April 13 – April 19 | Module 13 | Prejudice |