

PSCH 312: Social Psychology

Spring 2022 · CRN 14677 · Syllabus

Class Sessions: TR 5:00pm – 6:15pm, Lecture Building D – D005

Instructor: JP Prims · Email: jprims2@uic.edu

Office Hours: 2pm – 3pm Tues, 3-4pm Wed, and by appointment, BSB 1054A or [Zoom](#)

TA: Neharika Nair · Email: nnair20@uic.edu

Office Hours: 12 - 1pm Thurs and by appointment, BSB 1015 or [Zoom](#)

TA: Paul Teas · Email: pteas2@uic.edu

Office Hours: 4 – 5pm Wed, and by appointment, BSB 3058 or [Zoom](#)

Welcome to Social Psychology! I am excited to teach you what is (in my humble opinion) one of the most interesting areas of psychology. Whether you continue on in psychology, or find a career in a different field entirely, the things you learn in this class will pop up time and time again.

Course Goals and Objectives

Social Psychology is the study of how the real or imagined presence of others affects our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. In the first part of this course, we will explore (1) how people understand themselves and others, (2) close relationships, and (3) how people are influenced by the presence of others, and (4) how people behave in groups. In the second part of the course, we will focus on some topics commonly studied by social psychologists: prejudice, inequality, culture, politics, and prosociality.

By the end of this course you will:

- Understand social psychological theories and explanations for how people and environments shape our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.
- Know how social psychological research is conducted.
- Be able to see how social psychology appears in your everyday life (e.g., interactions with other individuals and groups, prejudice and inequality, polarization and conflict).
- Know how interventions based on social psychology can be used to promote positive social change.

Course Requirements

Prerequisites. To enroll in this course, you must have completed PSCH 242 with at least a C.

If you do not meet these prerequisites, you will be automatically dropped from the course.

Texts and Materials

Course articles: For some weeks, you will be assigned articles to read. These are required. Sometimes these are academic articles, and sometimes they are blog posts, op-eds, or popular science articles. I will upload the articles and / or provide links each week in the weekly course content folders on Blackboard.

Texts. The textbook for this course is **optional**. If you would like to read it, I've added suggested readings to the syllabus.

We will be using a free, online textbook called "Together: The Science of Social Psychology". This textbook has been designed specifically for this course, and the chapters are organized by our weekly schedule. You can access the textbook at the following link: <http://noba.to/e3cdv6uh>.

The textbook is hosted on the Noba website. You can access the textbook chapters without creating a Noba account. However, I recommend that you create an account because you will get access to additional resources. For example, once you log in you will find adaptive learning quizzes at the end of each chapter. I do not recommend taking the quizzes, as the questions can be confusing, and at least one of the questions I have encountered has an incorrect answer marked as "correct." (I'm on the hunt for a better textbook.)

Grading

Your grade in this course will reflect exams (60%), a final paper (30%), and participation (10%).

Exams (60%). There will be three exams including the final. Your lowest exam score will be dropped from your grade. Each of the two remaining exams will be worth 30% of your final grade. The first two exams are not cumulative, though all of the material in this course builds on the previous material. The final exam will be cumulative. You are only required to take two exams as your lowest score will be dropped. However, this means that there will be no makeup exams for any reason.

You will only have class time to complete the exam. If you go over time, you will receive a 0 on the exam. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answers.

I recommend that you study early and often. Your textbook, your TAs, and I are great resources. Remember: We are here to help you learn. Do not hesitate to ask for help.

Final Paper (30%). You will have a final paper in this class. It will be a short paper, no more than 500 words in length. In this paper, you will take one social psychological phenomenon that we discussed in class, and relate it to a show you've watched, a game you've played, or a book you've read. Is the story an accurate portrayal of the phenomenon? Or is it inaccurate? Make sure to explain what it gets right or wrong. You should have at least one APA-style citation for your psychological phenomenon. (Your textbook is fine.)

Participation (10%). Every class, JP will give you the answer to a participation quiz. Enter the answer they give you into the participation quiz on Blackboard (available in that week's content folder) to receive participation credit. You must complete this by 11:59:59pm the Sunday following the lecture to receive credit. You may (and are encouraged to) complete the quiz during class time when JP tells you the answer.

You have two excused participation days, no questions asked.

Grade Breakdown.

Exams	60%
Project	30%
Participation	10%
Total	100%

Final grades will follow the standard 100-percentage scale: 90-100% = A; 80 – 89% = B; 70 – 79% = C; 60 – 69% = D; below 60% = F.

NOTE: I round up any decimal for your final grade: e.g., 79.1 = 80 (B); 89.5 = 90 (A); 69.2 = 70 (C).

How to Calculate Your Grade.

1. Sum your percentage scores on every assignment in each category, excluding the dropped assignments/exam/classes. Divide your sums by the total number of assignments/exams/classes, excluding the dropped assignments/exam/classes.

	Scores	Sum
Exams	75, 84, 100	184
Project	85	85
Participation	100 * 25 days	2500

Exams	Project	Participation
184/200 = 92.00	85	2500/2700 = 92.59

2. Weight the score in each category. Multiply the exam score by 0.60, the project score by 0.30, and the participation score by 0.10. Then sum. Round decimal up to nearest whole number.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Final grade} &= 92.00(.60) + 85.00(0.30) + 92.59(.10) \\ &= 55.2 + 25.5 + 9.59 \\ &= 90.29 \\ &= 91 \\ &= A\end{aligned}$$

Course Policies

Late Assignments. If you anticipate that you will not be able to turn in your final project on time, please contact me ahead of time to make alternative arrangements. If you are unable to notify us ahead of time, you will lose 10% of your grade for every day late. I will not accept any late assignments after the final for any reason.

Corrupted Files. If your project is a corrupted file or otherwise cannot be opened, your TA or I will contact you. You will have 48 hours (2 days) from the date and time of the email to turn in an alternate and openable copy of the assignment. If you do not turn in the uncorrupted file during this window of time you will receive a zero on the assignment.

Email. If you have questions about the material, I encourage you to make an appointment for a one-on-one meeting. The concepts in this class are sometimes difficult to convey via email. However, you may ask questions via **your UIC email**. I cannot respond to questions sent from an outside email account. Please keep in mind that I receive many emails every day. Please put the course number (PSCH 312) in the subject line. Please

allow **48 hours** for response. I will try to respond earlier, but it is not always possible. Responses will be particularly slow on weekends. I recommend that you start your project at least a week before the deadline if you suspect that you will want to ask questions via email.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) forbids me from discussing your grades over email. **I will not respond to any emails about grades** with one exception: You may email me if your grade is missing or has been entered incorrectly on Blackboard.

Office Hours. I encourage you to attend office hours. Your TAs and I are here to help you and want to see you succeed. If you cannot attend my scheduled office hours, please speak to me (or your TA) or send me an email to set up an appointment.

Getting Extra Help. As the semester progresses you may need help. Do not delay in seeking help. The longer you wait to get help the harder it will be to catch up. I am here to help you as much as I can, and when there is a problem, it is always easier to address it sooner than later. Please come see me during office hours or schedule an appointment outside of office hours.

Besides meeting with your TA or I, you can also take advantage of the services offered by the Academic Center for Excellence (<https://ace.uic.edu/>). The staff there can help you with reading, writing, study skills, and time management. Please contact them at 312-413-0031.

Finally, juggling all the responsibilities of being a college student can be difficult for anyone, particularly during this difficult time. I encourage you to pursue Counseling Services at UIC if you are having difficulty managing these responsibilities. You can receive free confidential services from the UIC Counseling Center (www.counseling.uic.edu). Please contact: 312-996-3490 or visit them in the Student Services Building at the corner of Harrison & Racine. Alternatively, the Counseling Center offers the InTouch Crisis Hotline for support, referrals, and telephone crisis interventions. Please contact: 312-996-5535 (6:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m.).

Academic Integrity. No form of cheating will be tolerated. Cheating includes copying someone else's work, working with your other people (classmates or otherwise) on your exams, using your phone or computer to search for the answers to exams, and so on. If you cheat on any exam or assignment in this class, you will be given a zero on the assignment and possibly a failing grade in the class. You will also be subject to official judicial charges by the Dean of Students. There will be no exceptions. For more information about violating academic integrity and its consequences, consult the website of the UIC Office of the Dean of Students at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/studentconduct.html>.

Students with Disabilities. UIC strives to ensure the accessibility of programs, classes, and services to students with disabilities. I care about helping you, too. Reasonable

accommodations can be arranged for students with various types of documented disabilities. If you have questions or need help in obtaining access and accommodations, the Office of Disability Services (ODS) is available to assist students and work with me as instructor. Please contact ODS at 312-413-2103 (voice) or 312-413-0123 (TTY).

Religious Holidays. Please contact me by the 10th day of the semester if you need to miss class or need an extension on an assignment or exam due to a religious holiday. I will make every reasonable effort to honor your request, and you will not be penalized for missing the class. Please let me know as soon as you are aware if there is a conflict. For more information on UIC's religious holiday policy, consult the website at <https://oae.uic.edu/religious-calendar/>

Personal Emergencies. There will be no exceptions to the above policies unless you experience a personal emergency (e.g., personal illness or accident, death in the family). **If you have a problem, contact me as soon as you are aware of it.** I will work with you to help you complete the coursework to the best of my ability. Please do not hesitate to talk to me. The sooner I am aware of your situation, the more I will be able to help! I, and your other professors, want to see you succeed. Unfortunately, this can be difficult if you wait until the last minute (e.g., the day before an assignment is due). **I cannot help you if you contact me after the due date.**

PSCH 343 Course Schedule

Note: The specifics of this schedule may change over the course of the semester. I will never move assignments earlier, but I may push assignments back later if I believe that it will be beneficial to your understanding of the material. I will notify you of any changes to the schedule in lecture.

Readings are chapters from the textbook.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1/11	Intro to Social Psychology	[Optional] Book Chapter: An introduction to the Science of Social Psychology
	1/13	Continued	[Optional] Book Chapter: Thinking like a Psychological Scientist
2	1/18	Research Methods	Book Chapter: You Can Be an Informed Consumer of Psychological Research
	1/20	Continued	Video: Last Week Tonight on Scientific Studies
3	1/25	Understanding the Self & Others	[Optional] Book Chapter: Social Comparison
	1/27	Continued	[Optional] Book Chapter: Social Cognition & Attitudes
4	2/1	Continued	
	2/3	Close Relationships	[Optional] Book chapter: Love, Friendship, & Social Support
5	2/8	Continued	
	2/10	Social Influence	[Optional] Book Chapter: Conformity & Obedience
6	2/15	Continued	[Optional] Book Chapter: Persuasion: So Easily Fooled
	2/17	Groups	[Optional] Book Chapter: The Psychology of Groups
7	2/22	Continued	
	2/24	Exam 1 Review	
8	3/1	Exam 1	
	3/3	Prejudice and Discrimination	[Optional] Book Chapter: Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping

9	3/8	Continued	Article: What Research Tells Us About the Psychology of Racism Article: Is it Possible to Rid Police Officers of Bias?
	3/10	Inequality & Poverty	Article: The American Mythology of Racial Progress (On Blackboard)
10	3/15	Continued	Article: Signs of Social Class: The Experience of Economic Inequality in Everyday Life
	3/17	Culture	[Optional] Book Chapter: Culture
11	3/22	SPRING BREAK!	
	3/24	CONTINUED!	
12	3/29	Continued	Article: How you feel about individualism is influenced by your social class Article: The truth about lying
	3/31	Political Psychology	Article: Political Sectarianism in American and 3 Things Driving the “Ascendance of Political Hatred”
13	4/5	Continued	Report: America’s Divided Mind Podcast (~53 Minutes): Moral Combat
	4/7	Prosociality and Morality	[Optional] Book Chapter: Helping and Prosocial Behavior
14	4/12	Continued	Podcast: Is Empathy in Fact Immoral?
	4/14	Exam Review	
15	4/19	Exam 2	
	4/21	Final Project Introductions	
16	4/26	Project Due	
	4/28	Final Exam Review	
Final			