

# **SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

PSY 321-001  
TR 2:30 PM FMH 108  
3 credits, Fall 2023

John Wolf, Ph.D.  
208E Cullimore Hall  
jwolf@njit.edu

## **I. Course Description**

Social psychology is the study of how individuals affect and are affected by other people and by their social and physical environments. Social psychology helps us to understand and explain how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, and implied presence of others. Social psychology is the recognition that human responses are influenced by social situations, in addition to, the products of our individual personalities. Social psychologists study interpersonal and group dynamics and social challenges, such as prejudice, implicit bias, bullying, criminal activity and substance abuse. They research social interactions and the factors that influence them, such as group behavior, attitudes, public perceptions and leadership. This course will provide students an introduction and overview of research and theory in social psychology. This course does not satisfy the three credit 300 GER in History and Humanities. *Prerequisites: PSY 210 (may be taken as a corequisite).*

## **II. Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this class, students will be able to:

1. Describe key concepts, principles, and theories in the field of social psychology.
2. Apply the scientific method and exercise scientific reasoning to investigate sociopsychological phenomena.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between society, the self, and psychology.
4. Identify and understand the major research techniques, principles, and research findings relevant to the field of social psychology.
5. Use self-reflection, critical thought, and argumentative skills that expand awareness of the student and the world around them.

## **III. Textbook & Readings**

The required textbook for the course is Principles of Social Psychology (Jhangiani & Tarry, 2022). The textbook is open source and available to download via the Canvas course page.

## **IV. Attendance**

The information presented in class is important and unique to each course session. Attendance and final grade are highly correlated; thus, students who attend class and are active in the class tend to do very well, while students who miss class tend to do worse (especially as the total number of classes missed increases). Hence, students must be present at all classes. All excused absences must be cleared with the Office of the Dean of Students. After three unexcused absences, a student may receive a failing grade in the course.

## V. Assessment

You will be assessed regularly throughout the semester using assignments (20%), presentations and the creation of an in-class activity (30%), in-class participation (20%), and a final assessment at the end of the term (30%). The submission deadlines for assignments are listed on the Canvas course site and should be observed strictly. It is important that you stay on top of the assigned work and that you plan ahead.

### **Assignments (20%)**

A range of assignments will be used to evaluate and assess your learning and understanding of course materials throughout the semester. The assignment criteria will be provided in advance via the Canvas course page. *In total, assignments will comprise 20% of your final grade in the course.*

### **Presentation & In-Class Activity (30%)**

Each student will prepare a presentation and an in-class activity related to one of the topics we will cover throughout the semester. Topics will be chosen/assigned during the second week of the course. Grading criteria for the presentation as well as the in-class activity will be provided via the Canvas course site. *In total, the presentation and in-class activity will comprise 30% of your final grade in the course.*

### **In-Class Participation (20%)**

This is a seminar-style course, meaning that it is driven by discussion and other forms of active learning in which students guide and cultivate the learning process. A seminar requires student participation in order to operate properly, thus, active participation through contribution to in-class discussions is a critical component of assessing your performance in the course. *In total, in-class participation will comprise 20% of your final grade in the course.*

### **Final Assessment (30%)**

A final assessment will be used to evaluate your understanding of course materials at the conclusion of the course. *In total, the final assessment will comprise 30% of your final grade in the course.*

## VI. Assignment Deadlines

Regarding assignment deadlines: it will be common for me to indicate that a given assignment or quiz is “due by the end of the day” and/or “due by the end of the week.” For the purposes of this class, “end of the day” is 11:59 PM on the day being referenced (thus, “end of the day on Friday” means “by 11:59 PM on Friday”) and “end of the week” refers to Sunday for the week being referenced (for example, “end of Week #2” means “Sunday, September 17”).

All deadlines are given in Eastern Time (five hours behind Coordinated Universal Time when in standard time, and four hours behind when observing daylight saving time). Thus, if you are traveling, it is up to you to ensure that you submit assignments on time (this may be especially germane for those of you who have out-of-town engagements, athletics, etc. planned throughout the semester).

Please note that there are no exams for this course, including no final exam. That said, it is important that you submit all other work according to the deadlines provided via the Canvas course site. Unless otherwise noted, late work will not be accepted more than seven days (i.e., 7 days) past its due date; furthermore, late work submitted within seven days (i.e., 7 days) of its due date may be subject to a penalty of -10% per day that it is late.

## VII. Grading Scale

The grade you receive in this course will be based on a tally of your scores on all assignments, quizzes, exams, etc. throughout the term. Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

> 89.5	A
89.4 – 86.5	B+
86.4 – 79.5	B
79.4 – 75.5	C+
75.4 – 65.5	C
65.4 – 55.5	D
< 55.4	F

*NOTE: As a general rule, I do not give extra credit. Nor do I respond to emails or questions that ask, “Is there anything I can do to get an A or to bump up my grade a few extra points?” Please do not send me emails of this nature, as I will not respond to them.*

## VIII. Email Policy & Communication with Instructor

I will respond to emails as quickly as possible (usually no later than the next business day), but it’s important that you understand my email policy so that you know when you can reasonably anticipate a reply. During non-holiday weekdays (Monday-Friday), it is my policy to check email at least twice daily: once in the morning/early afternoon (usually by or before 1:00 PM) and once in the late afternoon or early evening (usually by or before 6:00 PM). Thus, it may take several hours for me to reply to your email, depending on when you send it. *Please allow 24 hours before sending a second email regarding the same topic.*

If sending emails in the evening or during the late night: I *CANNOT* guarantee you a response before the next business day. Furthermore, you should *NOT* expect a response to emails sent over the weekend (from Friday evening through Sunday) until the following business day (usually Monday, unless Monday is a holiday). Thus, it will be unequivocally to your benefit to plan ahead and work accordingly!

## **IX. Office Hours**

I will hold office hours weekly on Wednesdays from 1:00 until 2:00 PM or by appointment. My office location is 208E Cullimore Hall (i.e., inside the Office of the Dean of the College of Science & Liberal Arts).

## X. Fall 2023 Semester Schedule

WEEK	DATE	DAY	TOPIC
1	September 5, 2023	Tuesday	Course Introduction
	September 7, 2023	Thursday	Social Psychology as a Psychological Discipline
2	September 12, 2023	Tuesday	Social Cognition
	September 14, 2023	Thursday	
3	September 19, 2023	Tuesday	The Self
	September 21, 2023	Thursday	
4	September 26, 2023	Tuesday	Attitudes, Behavior, and Persuasion
	September 28, 2023	Thursday	
5	October 3, 2023	Tuesday	Impression Formation and Attribution
	October 5, 2023	Thursday	
6	October 10, 2023	Tuesday	Obedience and Conformity
	October 12, 2023	Thursday	
7	October 17, 2023	Tuesday	Psychology of Attraction
	October 19, 2023	Thursday	
8	October 24, 2023	Tuesday	Psychology of Altruism and Helping Others
	October 26, 2023	Thursday	
9	October 31, 2023	Tuesday	Psychology of Aggression and Violence
	November 2, 2023	Thursday	
10	November 7, 2023	Tuesday	Social Psychology and Work
	November 9, 2023	Thursday	
11	November 14, 2023	Tuesday	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination
	November 16, 2023	Thursday	
12	November 21, 2023	Tuesday	Thanksgiving Recess (no class)
	November 23, 2023	Thursday	
13	November 28, 2023	Tuesday	Psychology of Competition and Cooperation
	November 30, 2023	Thursday	
14	December 5, 2023	Tuesday	Wrapping Things Up
	December 7, 2023	Thursday	
15	December 12, 2023	Tuesday	Last class session
	December 13, 2023	Wednesday	Last day of classes for Fall 2023
16	TBD	TBD	Final Exam

## **XI. Boilerplate Provisions**

### *University Code on Academic Integrity*

The essential quality of this Policy is that each student shall demonstrate honesty and integrity in the completion of all assignments and in the participation of the learning process. Adherence to the University policy on Academic Integrity promotes the level of integrity required within the university and professional communities and assures students that their work is being judged fairly with the work of others. This Policy defines those behaviors which violate the principles of academic integrity, describes a range of appropriate sanctions for offenses, and identifies a method for promoting the principle of academic integrity on campus.

### *Accessibility Resources & Service Accommodations*

The Office of Accessibility Resources and Services works in partnership with administrators, faculty and staff to provide reasonable accommodations and support services for undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and visiting students with disabilities who have provided our office with medical documentation to receive services. We strive to promote an inclusive environment that encompasses advocacy and access to all campus resources.

### *Flexible Syllabus*

This course syllabus is an orderly arranged procedure for structuring the learning process. However, it is open for alteration or change by mutual understanding and agreement, so long as the change is consistent with the stated course goals or objectives.

## **XII. Helpful Links**

### *Office of Academic Advising (OAA)*

The Office of Academic Advising (OAA) was established in order to assist in the advisement of students who are undecided in their major, transitioning into another major at NJIT, and those students who need additional support to graduate successfully and in a timely manner. OAA is a place where students will get intentional and intrusive advising, by a supportive academic advisor that will enable them to grow developmentally and give them the motivation they need to complete their degree.

### *The Writing Center*

The Writing Center, located on the ground floor of CKB, is a free resource which offers on-site tutoring. We provide one-on-one and group tutoring sessions to students from all disciplines, during the fall and spring semesters. During Center hours, tutors are available to work with students on any aspect of their writing, from generating ideas and developing arguments, to working through drafts to their completion and revising effectively.