



Social Psychology

Fall 2024, PSY 321-001

Tues, Fri 4:00PM – 5:20PM

Central King Building (CKB) 206

DELIVERY MODE: Face-to-Face

Instructor: Jessyka Venchkoski, LCSW

E-mail: jessyka.venchkoski@njit.edu (Please contact from your NJIT email address and allow 24-48 hours for a response.)

Office Hours: Tues, 3PM – 4PM or by appointment. (Please email me in advance if you plan to attend the office hours, as well if you need to meet outside of office hours or via ZOOM so that I can email you a link.)

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

This course does not satisfy the three credit 300 GER in History and Humanities. *Prerequisites: PSY 210 (may be taken as a corequisite).*

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.

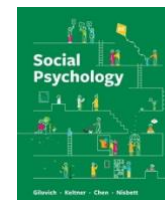
Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Describe key concepts, principles, and theories in the field of social psychology.
- Apply the scientific method and exercise scientific reasoning to investigate sociopsychological phenomena.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between society, the self, and psychology.
- Identify and understand the major research techniques, principles, and research findings relevant to the field of social psychology.
- Use self-reflection, critical thought, and argumentative skills that expand awareness of the student and the world around them.
- Draw the distinction between scientific and non-scientific methods of understanding and analysis.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills and information competence as applied to psychological topics.

Course Materials

Textbook: Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2018). *Social psychology*. WW Norton & Company. ISBN 978-1324045557
<https://wwwnorton.com/books/9781324045557>



The Modules tab will include links to relevant chapters each week.

Access to a PC: You will need Internet access to view course content and to take exams on Canvas. Please make sure that you can log in and access the site (<https://njit.instructure.com/>).

Course Requirements

This course consists of lectures, in-class small group discussions, discussion board postings, a final assessment, and a final project. Lectures will integrate assigned textbook chapters with other relevant content. Attendance is required.

**** Due to the iterative nature of the assignments, late submissions will not be accepted. ****

Attendance and Participation:

The delivery mode of this course is face-to-face, which means we will meet in person during the designated class days/times. You are expected to attend all classes. To receive credit, you must be in class on time, stay for the entire time, and contribute to in-class activities and discussions. You must be in class that day to complete these activities. There will be no make-up for in-class activity. Absences are excused only if provided with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, etc.), or DOS excuses the absence.

Discussion Posts:

Discussion boards and small group work: small group activities, designed to support learning and provide a space for critical discussion and collaboration, are an important part of this course. At the beginning of the semester, students will be assigned to groups of 4-5 and the same groups will meet during class and interact via online discussion boards throughout the course. Canvas discussion boards and in-class activities will be interwoven as follows (see the course SCHEDULE, below).

Discussion posts are due by 6PM on Friday, the week the subject of the DP is covered. Late submissions will not be permitted.

Final Assessment:

A final exam will be used to evaluate your understanding of course materials at the conclusion of the course. The final will reflect the content focused on in class and will be closed-book/closed-notes. The final assessment/ exam will be proctored.

Note: Make-up exams are allowed ONLY if provided with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, etc.) at least one-week prior to the scheduled exam date, except in case of an unforeseeable emergency. Make-up exam will not be given if these criteria are not satisfied.

Final Project:

In the final third of the course, students will work with groups to complete a final project. Students will be assigned to select one of the course topics for a more in-depth exploration. Details for the final project will be provided later in the semester, including a grading rubric.

All written assignments must be completed by the students, who must show original work. Please see Academic Integrity Policy below. Papers will be checked using Turnitin, a software that checks originality of your work by comparing it to content on the Web, articles, books, and assignments of

previous students of this class. Departmental policy to date has been to refer students suspected of deploying ChatGPT, Grammarly, and other similar tools to the Dean of Students for further investigation.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity: *Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.*

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.

Use of AI Technologies

You may use AI programs e.g. ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm, however, you should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. AI programs must not be relied upon to complete assignments, as they are not a substitute for your own work. Beware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity. You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material.

Academic Accommodations: If you require academic accommodations, you must file a request with the Office of Disability Services for Students (<https://www.njit.edu/studentsuccess/accessibility>). You should file your request as soon as possible. Retroactive accommodations are not allowed.

Course Grading

Course grades will be based on the following:

Assessment type	Percentage
Attendance	10%
Participation	20%
Discussion Posts	20%
Final Assignment	25%
Final Group Project	25%
TOTAL:	100%

Letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

Percentage	Letter grade
90% and above	A
85 – 89%	B+
80 – 84%	B

75 – 79%	C+
70 – 74%	C
60 – 69%	D
Below 59%	F

Procedures and policies defined in this syllabus are subject to change upon mutual agreement. If you decide to stay enrolled in this course after receiving this syllabus, I will assume that you have read the entire syllabus and have agreed to all the policies outlined.

SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	DAY	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS DUE FRIDAY 6PM
1	September 3	Tuesday	Course Introduction CH. 1- Invitation to Social Psychology	DP 1- Due by 6pm Friday 9/6
	September 6	Friday	CH. 2- Methods of Social Psychology	DP 2
2	September 10	Tuesday	CH. 3- The Social Self	
	September 13	Friday		DP 3
3	September 17	Tuesday	CH. 4- Social Cognition: Thinking About People and Situations	
	September 20	Friday		DP 4
4	September 24	Tuesday	CH. 5- Emotion & Wellbeing	
	September 27	Friday		DP 5
5	October 1	Tuesday	CH. 6- Attitudes, Behavior, and Rationalization	
	October 4	Friday		DP 6
6	October 8	Tuesday	CH. 7- Persuasion	
	October 11	Friday		DP 7
7	October 15	Tuesday	CH. 8- Social Influence	
	October 18	Friday		DP 8
8	October 22	Tuesday	CH. 9- Relationships & Attraction	
	October 25	Friday		DP 9
9	October 29	Tuesday	CH. 10- Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination	
	November 1	Friday		DP 10
10	November 5	Tuesday	CH. 11- Living in a Prejudiced World	
	November 8	Friday		DP 11
11	November 12	Tuesday	CH. 12- Groups	
	November 15	Friday		DP 12
12	November 19	Tuesday	CH. 13- Aggression	
	November 22	Friday		DP 13
13	November 26	Tuesday	Thursday classes meet- NO CLASS	
	November 27	Wednesday	CH. 13- Aggression Cont'd	
	November 29	Friday	Thanksgiving Recess- NO CLASS	
14	December 3	Tuesday	CH. 14- Morality, Altruism, and Cooperation	
	December 6	Friday		DP 14
15	December 10	Tuesday	Last day of class; Presentations	PRESENTATIONS

	December 13	Friday	Reading Day- NO CLASS	
16	TBD	TBD	Final Exam	

Note: The content of this schedule might be adjusted/changed by the instructor depending on students' needs.

Important Semester Dates Fall 2024:

November 26- Thursday classes meet- No Classes

November 27- Friday classes meet (Wednesday)

November 29- Thanksgiving Recess- No Classes

December 10- Last day of Social Psychology

December 11- Last day of semester classes

December 13- Reading Day- No Classes

December 15 through 21-Finals