

# Social Psychology

MW 9:30-10:45, D314 Science

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**Instructor:** Dr. Erica Weisgram

**Office:** Science D235

**Office Hours:** Monday 11-12, Monday 1-2, Wednesday 11-12, or by appointment

**E-mail:** [eweisgra@uwsp.edu](mailto:eweisgra@uwsp.edu)

**Text:** "Exploring Social Psychology" by David G. Myers 7<sup>th</sup> Ed, additional readings available on D2L

**Course Website:** Desire2Learn

## UWSP GEP Social Science Learning Outcomes

This course meets the General Education Program Investigative Level Social Science requirement for undergraduate students. The GEP Social Science Learning Outcomes are as follows:

- Define the major concepts and methods used by social scientists to investigate, to analyze, or to predict human or group behavior.
- Explain the major principles, models, and issues under investigation by the social sciences.
- Examine how the individual or groups of individuals are influenced by social, cultural, or political institutions both in their own culture and in other cultures.

## Specific Course Objectives:

Social psychology is the scientific study of how thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors are influenced by the actual or implied presence of other people. In this class, we will examine the socio-cultural factors that influence the psychological traits and behaviors of individuals and groups. At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- identify and describe major terms and concepts in social psychology.
- describe major theories under investigation in social psychology.
- describe the complex influence of social and cultural institutions on individuals' and groups' behaviors
- apply theories and themes of social psychology to real life examples in class, in the media, and in their own lives.
- understand and appreciate the nature of research in social psychology
- read and think critically about current research and topics in social psychology.
- design a study to answer a research question.

## Course Requirements:

- 150 pts. Exams
- 30 pts. Reaction papers (10 points each)
- 20 pts. Mini-research study

*Exams.* There will be three exams given throughout the semester with the last exam taking place during finals week. All exams will cover material presented in lecture, films, and the textbook and additional readings. The exams will be a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer/essay questions. If a student is unable to take the exam on the scheduled date for a University-Approved Reason (with documentation), arrangements may be made *beforehand* to take a make-up the exam at another time. All No Shows (students who do not notify the instructor of an absence before the exam) who do not have documentation of illness or accident will receive a 0 on the exam and will not be allowed to take the test at an alternate time. Exams will not be comprehensive. Final exams will be given on the date scheduled by the Registrar's office, without exception in accordance with University policy: **Thursday May 17, 10:15-12:15**

*Reaction Papers.* Throughout the semester, additional readings will be assigned to complement the brief modules of the text. On the day the reading is due, each student will be required to submit a brief summary of the reading assigned (~1/2 page single spaced) PLUS two discussion questions—questions that were raised by the reading, that help connect readings to class material, and that engage students' thinking on the topic. There are 4 readings, students are required to submit 3 summaries. **Papers are due at 8am via D2L Dropbox** to the instructor (D2L includes automatic submission to turnitin.com). If a student is unable to meet this deadline, it will not count for a grade (note that there is 1 opportunity to not turn one in in case of emergency, computer crash, etc. Because this is an already generous opportunity, no extensions, exceptions for late papers, etc. will be made).

*Mini-Research Study.* Students will replicate a research study discussed in text or in class. Students will start by locating and summarizing an article discussed in class or in the text in a 1 page single spaced summary (< 700 words). Students will then design a simple way to replicate the study with a small sample, create the materials, and collect data. Students will write a brief lab report that includes the summary, a method section, a description of the results, and a brief conclusion. All studies/topics must receive approval of the instructor before the study is conducted. **Papers will be turned via D2L Dropbox by 11:59pm on April 25.**

*Attendance.* Attendance is expected for this course and will be taken throughout the semester. As exams include a significant lecture component, it is in students' best interest to attend class.

### Final Course Grades:

The total number of points possible for this course is 200.

Therefore, final grades will be determined as follows:

A	93%-100%	C+	77%-79%
A-	90%-92%	C	73%-76%
B+	87%-89%	C-	70%-72%
B	83%-86%	D+	67%-69%
B-	80%-82%	D	60%-66%
		F	<60%

### Course Policies

- Students should arrive to class on time with cell phones turned off and in their pocket or backpack/bag. Students found using their phone during class will be asked to leave until they are finished.
- Students should read the appropriate chapters in the text before attending class.
- Students should be open-minded to learning new information.
- Students should demonstrate respect and professionalism toward fellow students and the instructor throughout the course.

## **Withdrawal from Courses**

See Registration and Records for more information and dates for withdrawing from courses this term:  
<http://www.uwsp.edu/reg-rec/>

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty of any form (i.e., cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated. If a student is participating in any dishonest behavior, they will receive a "0" for the assignment or exam. It is important to uphold the academic integrity of this institution. Additional information about the consequences of academic dishonesty can be found in the Course Catalog. Please consult this website if you have any questions or concerns about academic plagiarism: <http://library.uwsp.edu/guides/vrd/plagiarism.htm>

## **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities will be appropriately accommodated. Please see Disability Services (<https://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>) for further information and contact me with your form within the first two weeks of class.

## **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, a set of expectations has been developed for both students and professors (see <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>). All students are expected to be familiar with and to abide by these expectations.

## **Mandatory reporting**

Under several federal and state laws, and according to several university guidelines, I am required to report acts of a criminal or offensive nature. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and acts of violence. Any disclosure or description of these incidents – both current and in the past – may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or the local authorities. Due to recent legislation, if any disclosure of unreported neglect or abuse of a child, elder, or disabled individual is made to a University instructor, he or she is required to report such information to the appropriate administrative or law enforcement officials. This includes instances of sexual assault of an adult.

## **Use of Electronic Devices**

Electronic Devices are not to be used during class time without the consent of the instructor. Any student found distracting others or the instructor with their use of electronic devices will be asked to put said device away or leave the classroom. Students may not photograph, videotape, or audio record the instructor without the express permission of the instructor. To maintain the integrity of in-class exams, the use of electronic devices will not be permitted during exams without prior documented approval from the Disability Services office or other pertinent offices on campus. This includes, but is not limited to, requests to use cellular or wireless network-enabled mobile devices for foreign language translation assistance. Students who are found using these devices will be dismissed and receive a zero for their exams. Other penalties will be considered under the misconduct policy. Moreover, students who arrive late to an exam will only be allowed to take it if they arrive before the first student finishes and leaves the room. After that point, requests to take exams will be declined unless they are consistent with the makeups policy

## **Emergency Procedures**

In the event of a medical emergency call 911 or use Red Emergency Phone (List Location). Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide Emergency Responders to victim. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window.). See [www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx](http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx) for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings. In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Meet at the HEC Center. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of Emergency Responders. See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at [www.uwsp.edu/rmgt](http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt) for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point

## **Course Communication**

E-mail will be the official mode of communication for this course. Students should feel free to e-mail me at any point with questions about course content. Students can generally expect a prompt response. (However, e-mails sent past 5pm may not be read until the next day.) When e-mailing, please put “PSY 320” in the subject line to prevent being sorted into Junk Mail by the e-mail filter.

## **Resources for students:**

- Tutoring-Learning Center: <https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/default.aspx>  
--Excellent resource for students who are in need of a little extra assistance.
- Counseling Center: <http://www.uwsp.edu/counseling/Pages/default.aspx>  
--Provides assistance for students for a number of issues including personal and academic concerns (including Time Management!)
- Psychology Club: <http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/Pages/stuOrgs.aspx>  
--Presentations, workshops, and meetings around the study of psychology
- Psi Chi: <http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/Pages/stuOrgs.aspx>  
-National Psychology Honor Society
- Peer Mentoring: <http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/Pages/stuOrgs.aspx>  
--Mentoring program for psychology majors

<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Text Reading</b>	<b>Additional Reading</b>
Jan. 15	Introduction and Syllabus	Module 1 & 2	
Jan. 17	History and Methods		
Jan. 22			Aronson Reading <b>(RP)</b>
Jan. 24	Self	Modules 3 & 4	
Jan. 29			
Jan. 31	Social Beliefs and Judgments	Modules 6, 7, 8	
Feb. 5			
Feb. 7	Attitudes and Behaviors	Module 9	Festinger <b>(RP)</b>
Feb. 12			
Feb. 14			
Feb. 19	<b>EXAM 1</b>		
Feb. 21	Discuss Mini Research Study/Culture	Module 12	
Feb. 26	Gender	Module 13	
Feb. 28			
Mar. 5	Social Influence	Module 14	Asch, Milgram (counts as 1 reading) <b>(RP)</b>
Mar. 7			
Mar. 12	Persuasion	Modules 15 & 16	Jonestown <b>(RP)</b>
Mar. 14			
Mar. 19	Group Influence/Power of the Situation	Modules 17-20	
Mar. 21			
April 2			
April 4	<b>Exam 2</b>		
April 9	Attraction	Modules 26 & 27	
April 11			
April 16	Aggression and Conflict	Module 24, 25, & 28	
April 18			
April 23	Prejudice	Modules 22 & 23	
April 25			<b>MINI-STUDY DUE</b>
April 30			
May 2	Altruism and Prosocial Behaviors	Module 30	
May 7			
May 9	Wrap-up Day		
<b>May 17</b>			