



PSYC 221 - Social Psychology

University of Maryland Summer 2021

Section YS01: Monday-Friday 1:00pm – 3:00pm Online

Instructor: Dylan Selterman, Ph.D.
Student Hours: After class every day

Teaching Assistants: Jaeun Lee – Graduate Teaching Assistant
Student Hours: After class every day

Contact: Please contact psyc221selterman@umd.edu for all course related questions (your TAs will have access to this email as well). Please include your section number and address emails to the appropriate person.

WHAT IS SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY?

Social psychology is the scientific study of how people's thoughts, feelings and behavior are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of other people (Allport, 1985). There is a tremendous reason to study social psychology... the more we understand about ourselves and those around us the more effective we can be at achieving our own personal goals (e.g., having healthy relationships, communicating with others) and advancing society (e.g., promoting ethical behavior, fostering social change and anti-racism).



REQUIRED MATERIALS

Social Intelligence by various authors, compiled by Dr. Selterman via the Noba Project. [Access the book online.](#)
Other readings will be made available electronically on ELMS. **You are not required to purchase a textbook for this course.**

You are required to register for a web-based Turning Technologies license, which is provided to all UMD students free of charge. [See this page for details](#), or the “Clickers” tab on the ELMS course page to help you get your device registered. **You should not purchase a clicker device.**

COURSEWORK AND FORMAT

The learning objectives for this course are based on University's [Scholarship in Practice objectives](#) and the [Department of Psychology's learning outcomes](#): 1) Knowledge in psychology, 2) Scientific inquiry & critical thinking, 3) Ethics, 4) Multiculturalism & diversity, 5) Communication, and 6) Professional development.

1) Course material & Participation

It is imperative that you attend class in order to learn the material. Periodically, we will have in-class writing exercises or web-based poll questions. You are responsible to have a working device (e.g., smartphone, tablet, laptop) for all class meetings and activities, along with an active web-based Turning Point account.

2) Interactive Activities

Scheduled class time will involve a variety of activities and out-of-class assignments (see the schedule). You are welcome (and encouraged) to work with classmates on these assignments.

3) Scientific Analysis Writing Assignments

Details for each assignment, as well as objectives and grading rubrics will be provided separately. All assignments (in-class activities or writing assignments) will be due on Fridays by 9pm EST on Canvas for regular semester (Fall/Spring) sections.

****Note: Summer session courses follow a different schedule (see below).**

3) Final Analysis Paper – Grant Proposal

This is the biggest and most rigorously evaluated assignment of the course. Your task is to come up with an original idea for a new research idea that has not yet been tested in the realm of social psychology, and to write a proposal for how you could carry out this research. The requirements are detailed separately in a document on ELMS and the due date is listed on the schedule below.

4) Quizzes

We will have six (6) quizzes, given twice a week, covering the material up to and including the previous class period. They will consist of multiple choice, matching, and fill-in-the-blank questions, and will cover material discussed in class and in the textbook. Quizzes are **not** cumulative, however, some concepts/facts fit into more than one unit (e.g., motivated reasoning), and may appear on an exam more than once. If that is the case, it will usually appear again during lecture or in the textbook. There will be some extra-credit questions built into the quizzes.



UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Please carefully read [my course policies](#), which include statements on diversity and inclusivity. As a member of the UMD community I expect that you also are aware of, and will adhere to, all relevant policies for students including [University policies](#), as well as [policies](#) on academic

integrity, accommodations for disabilities, excused absences, copyright laws, and grade appeals. Please also be aware of [policies](#) that specifically affect UMD undergraduate students. You are personally responsible for reviewing all of these policies, and I expect you to know the details within them. All documentation and official correspondence must be submitted digitally, whenever possible. This means that any forms or paperwork (including but not limited to ADS accommodations, travel letters, incomplete contracts) should be delivered to me through email whenever possible.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Participation = 10%

6 Quizzes = 25%

1 Final Analysis Paper = 25%

Interactive Activities = 15%

Scientific Analysis Writing Assignments = 25%

Total = 100%

There is an optional extra credit assignment: “Violating a social norm.” The assignment is to creatively violate a social norm (without breaking any laws or harming anyone) and then write a 2-page paper about your experience (as well as addressing specific questions from a detailed guidelines document posted on ELMS).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics (Textbook Readings)	What is Due
Mon July 12 th	<p><u>Introduction</u> Ch. 1 <i>Why Science?</i> Ch. 2 <i>An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology</i></p> <p><u>Theories & Methods</u> Ch. 3 <i>Research Designs</i> Ch. 4 <i>Research Methods in Social Psychology</i> Ch. 5 <i>The Replication Crisis in Psychology</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Skim over</i> the chapters on social neuroscience, I/O psych, and culture (Chs 6-8). You <u>will not</u> be tested on these, but they are worth reading when you have time.
Tues July 13 th	<p><u>Social Cognition</u> Ch. 9 <i>Social Cognition & Attitudes</i> Ch. 10 <i>Social Comparison</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus Quiz due Tues July 13th at 11:59pm • Science Writing Quiz due Tues July 13th at 11:59pm
Wed July 14 th	<p><u>Personality Traits & The Social Self</u> Ch. 11 <i>Self & Identity</i> Ch. 12 <i>Personality Traits</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive Activity #1: “Fast Friends” due Wednesday July 14th at 11:59pm • Quiz #1 due Wed July 14th at 11:59pm
Thurs July 15 th	<p><u>Motivation</u> Ch. 13 <i>Self-Regulation & Conscientiousness</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Analysis #1 due Thurs July 15th at 11:59pm

	Ch. 14 <i>Judgment & Decision-Making</i> Ch. 15 <i>Motives & Goals</i>	
Fri July 16 th	<u>Social Influence</u> Ch. 16 <i>Persuasion: So Easily Fooled</i> Ch. 17 <i>Conformity and Obedience</i> <i>Re-read the last section of Ch. 9 on attitudes</i> <i>Film: The Last Great Ape</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive Activity #2: Personality Assessment due Fri July 16th at 11:59pm • Quiz #2 due Fri July 16th at 11:59pm
Mon July 19 th	<u>Altruism & Aggression</u> Ch. 18 <i>Helping & Prosocial Behavior</i> Ch. 19 <i>Aggression & Violence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive Activity #3: Among the Wild Chimpanzees due Mon July 19th at 11:59pm
Tues July 20 st	<u>Emotions & Affect</u> Ch. 20 <i>Emotion Experience and Well-Being</i> Ch. 21 <i>Functions of Emotions</i> Ch. 22 <i>Happiness: The Science of Subjective Well-Being</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Analysis #2 due Tues July 20th at 11:59pm
Wed July 21 st	<u>Religion & Morality</u> Haidt (2007) – <i>The New Synthesis in Moral Psychology</i> Also watch: <i>The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #3 due Wed July 21st at 11:59pm
Thurs July 22 nd	<u>Political Psychology</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive Activity #4: Open Minds Module due Thurs July 22nd at 11:59pm
Fri July 23 rd	No Lecture; Morality, Religion, & Politics Discussion Review Final Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #4 due Fri July 23rd at 11:59pm • Scientific Analysis #3 due Fri July 23rd at 11:59pm • Optional social norm paper due Fri July 23rd
Mon July 26 th	<u>Social Groups</u> Ch. 23 <i>The Psychology of Groups</i> Ch. 24 <i>Cooperation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Analysis #4 due Mon July 26th at 11:59pm
Tues July 27 th	<u>Social Groups (Part 2)</u> Ch. 25 <i>Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive Activity #5: Interview due Tue July 27th at 11:59pm
Wed July 28 th	<u>Gender & Sexuality</u> Ch. 26 <i>Gender</i> Ch. 27 <i>The Psychology of Human Sexuality</i> Also watch: <i>The Urgency of Intersectionality</i> by Kimberlé Crenshaw Baumeister (2007) - <i>Is There Anything Good About Men?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #5 due Wed July 28th at 11:59pm • Final Paper due Wed July 28th at 11:59pm
Thurs July 29 th	<u>Attraction & Relationships</u> Ch. 27 <i>Attraction & Beauty</i> Ch. 28 <i>Love, Friendship, and Social Support</i> Ch. 29 <i>Positive Relationships</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive Activity #6: Peer Review due Thurs July 29th at 11:59pm
Fri July 30 st	Wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #6 due Fri July 30th at 11:59pm

This syllabus is *not* a binding document. I reserve the right to modify the syllabus at any time and for any reason. If anything is modified, I will notify the class but it is your responsibility to keep up with class announcements and updates (in class and through ELMS). In addition, if you are confused about anything on the syllabus, then you are responsible to ask either me or the TAs for clarification. Also, if you notice minor errors (e.g., incorrect dates), please kindly let us know!