



PSYX 360 Online: Social Psychology

Summer 2019

Instructor: Linus Chan

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Textbook: Psyx 360 Social Psychology (2019). NOBA Publishers.

Office Hours: By request - Email me to set up an appointment via audio chat

Course Description

The purpose of this six-week online course is to provide an overview of the scientific study of how individuals think, feel, and behave in different social contexts. We will cover six broad topics:

- 1) Social Psychology as a Science
- 2) Understanding the Self and Others
- 3) Groups and Group Processes
- 4) Social Influence & Conflict
- 5) Positive Relationships
- 6) Romantic Relationships

We will cover major theories and topics pertinent to social psychology, with a strong emphasis on scientific theory, methods, and application, which can all be tied to everyday experiences.

Objectives

I hope that students gain:

1. An understanding of the major topic areas and theories within social psychology;
2. An understanding of the major research methods in social psychology;
3. A healthy skepticism concerning both scientific research and "common sense."
4. An appreciation of studying how people interact in social contexts. Social Psychology studies people, and people are VERY interesting. I want you to *become interested in social psychological research*. If I have failed to spark your interest in this compelling field, then I have failed indeed.

Required Readings

Textbook. For the first five (out of six) weeks of class, we will be using an open textbook that I designed specifically for this class. NOBA is a non-profit publisher that created our textbook by getting top scholars in various areas of social psychology to write one chapter of the book. NOBA then makes the book completely free to students, if they access the book online. To access the free textbook, go to: <http://noba.to/4vt9bhys>. The textbook is posted on Moodle and is fully downloadable.

Journal Article and Book Chapter. For the last week of class, we will read one journal article and one book chapter. Both are available on Moodle.

PowerPoints (Optional): Textbook chapters comes with PowerPoints I used to teach PSYX 360 in previous semesters. Some of these PowerPoint slides go beyond what is covered in the textbook.

Course Schedule

Week & Assignments Due	Topic & Texts
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 1: May 13 - 19</p> <p>Due: Quizzes 1,2,3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Psychology as a Science</p> <p>Textbook Chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology (Quiz 1) • Research Methods in Social Psychology (Quiz 2) • Conducting Psychology Research in the Real World (Quiz 3)
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 2: May 20 – 26</p> <p>Due: Quizzes 4,5,6 Due: Discussion Forum 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Understanding the Self and Others</p> <p>Textbook Chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality Traits (Quiz 4) • Social Cognition and Attitudes (Quiz 5) • Evolutionary Theories in Psychology (Quiz 6)
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 3: May 27 – June 2</p> <p>Due: Quizzes 7,8,9 Due: Lab Assignment 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Groups and Group Processes</p> <p>Textbook Chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Psychology of Groups (Quiz 7) • Culture (Quiz 8) • Social Comparison (Quiz 9)
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 4: June 3 – 9</p> <p>Due: Quizzes 10,11 Due: Discussion Forum 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Social Influence & Conflict</p> <p>Textbook Chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformity and Obedience (Quiz 10) • Persuasion: So Easily Fooled (Quiz 10) • Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping (Quiz 11) • Aggression and Violence (Quiz 11)
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 5: June 10 – 16</p> <p>Due: Quizzes 12,13 Due: Lab Assignment 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Positive Relationships</p> <p>Textbook Chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping and Prosocial Behavior (Quiz 12) • Cooperation (Quiz 12) • Love, Friendship, and Social Support (Quiz 13) • Attachment Through the Life Course (Quiz 13)
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 6: June 17 – 21</p> <p>Due: Quiz 14 Due: Discussion Forum 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Romantic Relationships</p> <p>Book chapter: Mattingly, B. A., McIntyre, K. P., & Selterman, D. F. (2018). Individual differences and romantic relationships: Bidirectional influences on self and relational processes. In <i>The SAGE Handbook of Personality and Individual Differences</i>. (Quiz 14)</p> <p>Journal Article: Buss, D. M. (2017). Sexual conflict in human mating. <i>Current Directions in Psychological Science</i>, 26(4), 307-313. (Quiz 14)</p>

Grading

500 Points Total

- Quizzes (20 points per quiz x 14 quizzes = 280 points; 56% overall grade)
- Discussion Forums (40 points per discussion x 3 forums = 120 points; 24% overall grade)
- Lab Assignments (50 points per assignment x 2 assignments = 100 points; 20% overall grade)

Quizzes (56%)

There are fourteen quizzes, each comprised of 20 multiple-choice questions. Each multiple-choice question has four answer choices (a, b, c, d) and only has one correct answer (i.e. only choose one answer choice per question). You only have one attempt per quiz, and each quiz will have a 30-minute time limit. Quizzes are due by 11:55pm on Friday of the week assigned. Quizzes are administered using the adaptive mode that allows multiple attempts at each question before moving on to the next question but subtracts a penalty for each wrong attempt. For example, choosing the correct answer on the first attempt would earn 1 point, second attempt would earn 0.67 points, third attempt would earn .33 points, and fourth attempt would earn 0.00 points. Please do the readings before the quizzes. The quiz questions only cover content in the textbook, not content on supplementary PowerPoints.

Discussion Forums (24%)

There are a total of three discussion forums. Forum 1 covers week 1 and 2's topics; Forum 2 covers week 3 and 4's topics; Forum 3 covers week 5 and 6's topics. For each forum, post one original discussion question/topic about the readings. This original discussion question/topic is due Monday of each week. You are also expected to post three replies to other student's topics on three separate days. Each discussion forum will open on the Monday of that week at 12am and close on that Friday at 11:55pm. You must post your topic and replies within this timeframe to earn credit.

These discussion forums are designed to facilitate a discussion among your peers to assist and enhance your knowledge in social psychology. These discussion forums are your "attendance" in this course. Please see the discussion forum rubric (at the end of this syllabus) for grading criteria.

Lab Assignments (20%)

There are two lab assignments: one lab on psychological profiling is due on week 3, and one lab on designing an online dating app is due on week 5. The labs will incorporate material you have learned in the course and you will apply it through critical analysis of social psychology. More details about each lab is on Moodle. Labs are due by 11:55pm on Friday of the week assigned. Lab assignments will be graded within a week after the due date.

The chart below shows the grade scale for the final course grade.

Final Course Grade	Number of Points	Percentage
A	450 - 500	90% - 100%
B	400 - 449	80% - 89%
C	350 - 399	70% - 79%
D	300 - 349	60% - 69%
F	0 - 299	< 60%

Course Guidelines and Policies

1. **Read the assigned textbook chapter/articles** to get a grasp on the key concepts before attempting the quizzes, discussion questions, and lab assignments.
2. **All viewpoints are welcome from your discussion posts and lab assignments.** No ideas are immune from scrutiny and debate. Because constructive disagreement sharpens thinking, deepens understanding, and reveals novel insights, it is not just encouraged, but expected.
3. **Work hard!** The national standard for course workload is that you should be working 3 hours a week for every class credit you take (thus, you should be working nine hours a week for a three credit-hour class). This means that you should be devoting at least 54 hours over the 6 weeks of this course.
4. I will **respond to email** as quickly as possible (within 48 hours). But, please remember that there are a lot more of you (~50 students) than there are of me.

Electronic Devices

Please contact UM Online if you experience technical difficulties. Though I would love to be able to help, I am not qualified to do so. Critical note: I do not allow technical issues for not having the proper software as reasons for late or incomplete work. To ensure your protection, please keep technical support contact information available offline and please do not wait until the last minute to complete your work each week. To access technical support (and save their contact information offline) please click on the "Tech Support" link on your class Moodle page.

Also, keep in mind your technical alternative if you have computer difficulties. If you live near the University, campus computers are an option. Otherwise, consider the public library, an Internet café, a computer at work, or a friend or family member's computer. Have a plan of action in mind so that you can complete the required work each week if an issue arises.

Assignment Due Dates, Late Work, and Make-up Work

Assignments are due every week on Friday by 11:55pm MST. Please be sure to start your assignments early enough to complete them by the time the week closes. Students cannot, under any circumstance, make up the discussion posts assignment. Due to the interactive nature of this assignment, students must be engaged in this process throughout the week each week in order to receive credit.

To make up missed quizzes or lab assignments, it is mandatory that you 1) notify me before the time of the assignment and 2) provide proper documentation verifying the reason for your absence. Examples of proper documentation include a medical note or a death or family emergency. You can provide documentation by scanning and emailing documents. I do not allow students to make up work until I have received the proper documents.

Academic Misconduct & Academic Integrity

All students must practice academic honesty. You are expected to be familiar and adhere to the university's [Student Conduct Code](#) with regard to academic integrity. Academic misconduct is subject to academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary action by the university. In short, don't cheat.

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call [406.243.2243](tel:406.243.2243).

Incompletes

Be aware that if you earn an "Incomplete" in any course at UM, an "I" remains on your record permanently, even if you eventually complete the work. Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing "incomplete" grades after one year has passed since the "I" was granted.

Disclaimer:

Linus Chan reserves the right to make changes in (a) the course schedule, (b) course requirements, (c) the course grading procedures, and/or any other aspects of the course at any time. Any alterations will be circumspect and will be made in the best interests of the students, the course, and the instructor.

Discussion Forum Rubric

Doing well on the Discussion Forums requires consistent and detailed participation each week and is the participation portion of the course. Grades are based on (1) attendance and (2) quality of your posts. Full credit requires high quality and frequent posts. The two charts below explain how your discussion posts are graded.

Attendance Grading		40 points possible
Students must post (respond) a minimum of three separate days per week. You can post more than three days, and post more than three times, but, at a minimum, you must post on three separate days.	3 days	40 points
	2 days	30 points
	1 day	20 points
	0 days	0 points

Once the number of days is calculated, students are then graded based on their contributions to the discussion. The following points are deducted, not added, from the points earned above, to yield a final weekly “attendance” score. (Students cannot earn negative points. The lowest possible score is zero.)

Students must make a post to the discussion question (DQ) in the weekly discussion forum. Each weekly DQ post will be due by Monday at 11:55 pm	Each day late	2 points lost
Students must post (respond) to a minimum of three of their peers. You can post to more than three, but, at a minimum, you must reply to three of your peers. This promotes student engagement with each other, rather than just responding to the DQ posted by the instructor.	3 peers	0 points lost
	2 peers	5 points lost
	1 peer	10 points lost
	0 peers	15 points lost

Once I have calculated your weekly “attendance” score, then I grade the quality of your posts, as explained below. Again, the following points are deducted, not added, from the final weekly “attendance” score, to yield a final weekly “Discussion” score. (Students cannot earn negative points. The lowest score is a zero.)

Quality Grading		
Students must make detailed and thoughtful posts that reflect an appropriate application of emerging knowledge and vocabulary in the topic area. Each post must add value to the discussion and be related to the required readings for the week. Below are additional details of how I grade the quality of your posts.	Superior	0 points lost
	Above Average	5 points lost
	Average	10 points lost
	Below Average	15 points lost
	Unacceptable	20 points lost

Superior

Your contributions demonstrate a complete mastery of the materials assigned. Your responses might integrate multiple views and/or show strong analysis and reflection on topics and other student's posts. You provide evidence that you are reading the assigned materials and other student postings and are responding accordingly, bringing out interesting interpretations. You know the facts and are able to analyze them, apply them to real life scenarios and handle conceptual ideas. It is highly unlikely that you could get full credit in less than two paragraphs.

Above Average

Your responses build on the ideas of other participants and dig deeper into assignment questions or issues. When you make intelligent posts during the week, including some good critique of the material, then you have demonstrated you have an understanding of the material, are reading posts of your colleagues, and are contributing to the class. Your posts demonstrate confidence with the materials, but may be just a bit off target in one area or another.

Average

You have meaningful interaction with other participants' postings. Posts that state, "I agree" or "I disagree" and include a detailed explanation of what is disagreed or agreed upon and why, or introduce a perspective or concept that adds to the discussion. However, you may have rambling, lengthy posts with no clear point, your writing has a lack of clarity and comprehension, or there are considerable typos and grammatical errors.

Below Average

You answer questions asked by me or other students but do not expand upon your response or you answer questions based only on your opinion, rather than on research or proper evidence. Your posts are unusually short (one paragraph or less) and you fail to demonstrate a clear working knowledge of the material covered for the week.

Unacceptable

You will receive little credit in the week's discussion by just showing up and making trivial comments, without adding any new thought to the discussion. At the low end of the spectrum, no participation gets a "0." If you are not in the discussion, you do not earn any points. Comments such as "I agree" or other one-sentence responses will result in zero points. Copying and pasting from a website without providing your own substantial insight is also an unacceptable post – even if you have properly cited your sources. This assignment is an assessment of your understanding of the information covered in this class. Copying and pasting from websites does not demonstrate a working knowledge of the material.