

Instructor: Dr. Jared Kenworthy (kenworthy@uta.edu)
Office & Hours: 525 LS, TUE & THU, 3.30 – 4.30 pm, or by appointment
Telephone: 817-272-0746 (email is preferred; voicemail not answered)
Course location, time: LS 122, TUE & THU 11.00 am – 12.20 pm

Course description: 3315. Social Psychology (3-0) 3 hours credit. General survey of topics in social psychology. The theories and research dealing with individual behavior in the social environment. Social influence processes, interpersonal attraction, group behavior, aggression, conformity, and attitude formation and change. PSYC 3144 is an optional laboratory which, when added to PSYC 3315, satisfies a portion of the laboratory requirement.

Text: Baumeister & Bushman, *Social Psychology & Human Nature*, Thomson.

Course Business communication

The use of **webct** is required in this course. Occasional syllabus updates and course announcements will be communicated via webct. Exam and course grades are posted on webct only.

Go to <http://webct.uta.edu> and login with your usual UTA Net ID and password.

IMPORTANT: Send webct email to your normal email account. In the menu at the left side of the page (after logging in), click on “mail” and then on “message settings”. Click on the box for forwarding to an external account, and enter **your** email address. This should be the email account that you use daily, or most often.

Examinations and Grading:

EXAMS: There will be four multiple-choice examinations. Exam content will be a mix of lecture material and text material. Exam study guides will be provided on webct. You are required to take all 4 exams. If you miss an exam, a grade of zero will be given for that exam. The total of the 4 exams will constitute 100% of the course grade (before any extra credit is applied).

Exam scores will be posted to webct (<http://webct.uta.edu/>). It is your responsibility to compute a percentage for each score and convert it to a letter grade (see below) as the course progresses.

OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT

Choose either option below for a 3% bump to your final score. You may choose one of the two options only. Either option must be done completely; there will be no partial credit given. Extra credit is an all-or-none option.

OPTION A: Research participation

Participate in 3 credit hours of research in the psychology department subject pool (i.e., SONA). ½ credit (.5) will be awarded for taking the online pre-test, and other experiments have varying credit hours. The deadline for this option is departmental and will be detailed at a later time.

No extra credit will be given for anything less than 3 credit hours, and no more than 3% extra credit will be given under any circumstances.

OPTION B: Application paper

Write a summary/reaction paper (typically 1 – 2 pages), identifying 5 social psychological principles (e.g., from chapter 12), based on your experience with ONE of the following four options:

- (1) Visit the **Dallas Holocaust Museum**. Museum has a \$4.00 student entrance fee. Describe your reactions to your visit. Identify and discuss 5 social psychological principles contributing to this mass violence. **Ticket stub required with paper.**
(<http://www.dallasholocaustmemorialcenter.org/>)
- (2) Read chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 217-325) from: Litwack, L. F. (1998). *Trouble in mind: Black Southerners in the age of Jim Crow*. New York: Knopf. This book will be on print reserve at the central library. Summarize your chapters, and describe your reactions to the readings. Identify and discuss 5 social psychological principles contributing to this mass violence.
- (3) Read Part 1 (Somalia), Part 2 (Sudan), OR Part 3 (Rwanda) from: Peterson, S. (2001). *Me against my brother: At war in Somalia, Sudan and Rwanda*. New York: Routledge. This book will be on print reserve at the central library, but is also available electronically via netLibrary. Summarize your chapters, and describe your reactions to the readings. Identify and discuss 5 social psychological principles contributing to this mass violence.

The paper will be evaluated on a PASS or FAIL basis, and is worth 3% extra credit. PASS will receive 3% extra credit, and FAIL will receive 0%. You must display evidence that you have visited (i.e., turn in museum ticket stub) or read the assigned works (e.g., quotes with page numbers).

The 5 social psychological principles identified must come from the text or the lectures, and must be highlighted/underlined, defined correctly, and applied appropriately.

The paper must be turned in physically – no electronic copies will be accepted. Turn in your paper personally, either during my office hours, or in class on or before the 4th of December. **The paper is due no later than 4:30 pm on Thursday, 04 December 2008.** Papers received after this deadline – under any and all circumstances – will receive a FAIL score. In other words, turn it in on time, or do not turn it in at all. No revisions will be allowed for FAIL papers. No make-up papers will be allowed.

THE FINAL COURSE GRADE will be determined by dividing the total number of earned points by the total number of possible points from all exams and the paper. Grades will be determined as follows:

A:>88%, B: 87.9 – 78%, C: 77.9 – 68%, D: 67.9 – 58%, and F:<57.9%

If you are doing poorly in this course, do not wait until after the final exam to see me about doing better. It is your responsibility to verify with me that the percentages that you think you've earned are accurate. If you are near the border of a grade boundary (e.g., between a B and an A), this is especially important. I will not make grade changes based on your failure to verify percentages before the final grades are issued.

Also note that the letter grades begin at an adjusted percentage (e.g., A = 88% and above). For this reason, do not ask to be bumped to the next letter grade up if you are near the letter grade boundary, especially if you have not taken advantage of extra credit opportunities.

****Note: Make-up exams** will only be given to those with University-approved excuses (see Catalog) or at the discretion of the instructor. Written documentation of a death in the family, personal illness, or accident will be required. Individual make-up exam times will not be arranged. Rather, the final class day (Thursday, December 4th) will be used to schedule all make-up exams. Make-up exams are typically all written, rather than multiple-choice, but the format is up to the professor.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to describe and discuss the major cognitive and motivational underpinnings of human social behavior. Students will be able to recognize (and, when appropriate, resist) social influence techniques; in addition, they will demonstrate comprehension of social influence tactics by identifying novel instances. Students will identify and explain theories of group behavior, group interaction, intergroup conflict, human aggression, helping behavior, and interpersonal relationships. Students will describe key terms and concepts from experimental methods used in social psychological research.

Scholastic Dishonesty: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

“Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2 Subdivision 3.22)

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference to Public Law 93112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act – (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I will happily provide, as required by law, “reasonable accommodation” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester, and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Drop for Non-payment of Tuition: If you are dropped from this class for non-payment of tuition, you may secure an Enrollment Loan through the Bursar’s Office. You may not continue to attend class until your Enrollment Loan has been applied to outstanding tuition fees.

Please see departmental and university policies regarding other add/drop procedures.

Student Success Programs: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admissions and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Bomb Threat Policy: If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA has the technology to trace such phone calls. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats to the Business Building. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. If a student who has a class with a scheduled test or presentation arrives and the building has been closed due to a bomb threat, the student should immediately check for the alternate class site notice which will be posted on/near the main doors of the building. If the bomb threat is received while class is in session, your instructor will ask you to leave the building and reconvene at another location.

ADDITIONAL COURSE RULES

1. Do not email or call to let me know that you will be missing class.

There is no class attendance policy. Generally speaking, students do not do well in this course unless they are present, but I have no attendance requirement. If you will be missing class, I don't need to know about it.

2. Do not email or call to ask what materials will be in missed classes.

I supply materials in class and on webct, but not individually to people missing class.

3. Do not email or call if you will miss (or have missed) an exam.

I require written documentation of a University approved excuse. That's all I need. Bring it to class, or to my office.

4. Do not email or call asking to be bumped up to the next letter grade.

The curve is bent down for a reason, and that reason is to prevent such requests.

5. Do not email using poor communication form.

I consider email to be a formal channel of communication. Therefore, I expect you to identify yourself, to use proper capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. Do not use « text language » or associated abbreviations. When you address me, please make an effort to spell my name correctly.

6. Outside of my office hours, do not drop in without an appointment.

This is common courtesy.

7. Do not email or call about anything that is already explained in the syllabus.

Any emails in violation of these basic rules will be ignored or returned without a reply.

Social Psychology

Goals: The general course goal is to understand the scientific study of human behavior across social contexts, including intrapersonal, interpersonal, intragroup, and intergroup. The focus will be on experimental methods as the vehicle to drawing valid conclusions about social behavior.

Lecture Schedule:

date	session	topics	read ahead
26 aug	1	Course overview + syllabus	
28 aug	2	What is social psychology? + Research methods	Chapter 1
02 sep	3	Culture and Nature	Chapter 2
04 sep	4	The self	Chapter 3
09 sep	5	Self-esteem and self-presentation	Chapter 3
11 sep	6	Behavior control	Chapter 4
16 sep	7	Exam 1	Chapters 1-4
18 sep	8	Social cognition	Chapter 5
23 sep	9	More social cognition	Chapter 5
25 sep	10	Emotions	Chapter 6
30 sep	11	Emotions	Chapter 6
02 oct	12	Attitudes and consistency	Chapter 7
07 oct	13	Attitudes and consistency	Chapter 7
09 oct	14	Prosocial behavior	Chapter 8
14 oct	15	Prosocial behavior	Chapter 8
16 oct	16	Exam 2	Chapters 5-8
21 oct	17	Aggression	Chapter 9
23 oct	18	Aggression	Chapter 9
28 oct	19	Attraction and exclusion	Chapter 10
30 oct	20	Close relationships	Chapter 11
04 nov	21	Close relationships	Chapter 11
06 nov	22	Prejudice and intergroup relations	Chapter 12
11 nov	23	Prejudice and intergroup relations	Chapter 12
13 nov	24	Exam 3	Chapters 9-12
18 nov	25	Social influence & persuasion	Chapter 13
20 nov	26	Social influence & persuasion	Chapter 13
25 nov	27	Groups and group dynamics	Chapter 14
27 nov	28	HOLIDAY	NO CLASS
02 dec	29	Groups and group dynamics	Chapter 14
04 dec	30	Make-up exams only	NO CLASS Make-up exams only
09 DEC	31	Exam 4 TUE 09 DECEMBER 2008, 11.00am - 1.30pm	Chapters 13 & 14

This schedule subject to change