

PSYCHOLOGY 3100: Social Psychology
Section 001, Fall 2026
Tuesday, Thursday; 3:55p-5:15p; GAB 104

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Course Goals and Overview: This course focuses on the complex relations among the individual and social processes, both proximal (close to the individual) and distal (further away from the individual), in explaining and predicting human behavior. In other words, we will explore and discuss topics such as the importance of knowing yourself, subtle yet pervasive ways people are often awful to one another, how one can get lost in a movement, and how we can try to help ourselves and others as social animals.

The basic format of this course will consist of lectures, selected multimedia components, a ‘research check’ project, and in-class discussion. Regular attendance is not technically required but it is expected and **very, very strongly encouraged**. As we will not be using a textbook, lecture material is your primary source for Weekly Quizzes described below. Further, throughout the course, in-class activities (i.e. **requiring attendance**) will include Movie Response forms, Research Check discussions, and the opportunity to earn extra-extra credit points, presenting another benefit of regular attendance (see relevant sections below for more information).

Course Policies: This course is designed to foster and maintain a positive learning environment. Your attention is expected during lectures, thus outside material and other distractors should be put up, and laptops/cellphones should be used for note-taking only (otherwise, please silence/put away). **Remember: your unrelated activities will distract other students as well!** Likewise, your active participation during discussions will be encouraged and class-relevant questions or comments during lectures are welcomed. Importantly, all comments and responses should be friendly and respectful of the other students in the class. Please feel free to share any suggestions for maintaining a positive learning environment that you may have.

Class begins at the scheduled time, and typically will take the entirety of the period. Activities may occur at any point during the class period; if you are not there to receive the form/engage in the discussion you will not receive credit for the activity. If exceptional circumstances have you running late or needing to leave early (e.g., family emergency; rare and/or uncontrollable conflict) please do so with utmost respect to your colleagues – remember that the layout of the room can make late seating/early exit quite disruptive if not approached with care, the doors to this room slam loudly if not carefully closed, etc.. Life happens! Please simply ensure that you remain conscientious of your colleagues’ learning experience along with your own.

In regard to INCLEMENT WEATHER, class will be held if the University is open. Students should not jeopardize their safety, however, to attend class. If there is any question about whether our particular class will meet, students should check the announcement board for this class on Canvas.

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the UNT Learning Management System (currently Canvas) for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Finally, please be aware that UNT policy (See <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/16-005>) based on Title 9 of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681(a); see <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/sex-discrimination>) entails a duty for institutional employees to report to the University any knowledge regarding events of sexual misconduct involving students or employees. If you report any information indicating that you have been a victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking while being a student or employee at UNT, we are required to report this information to concerned authorities as mandated by Texas State Law.

Specific Accommodations: If you need (or just want to ensure that you have in place) specific accommodations, or feel there is anything that I need to know that might improve your learning environment in this class, please discuss this with me as soon as possible. Remember, UNT requires that students go through the [Office of Disability Access](#) before receiving any accommodations for a course. Specifically:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities. Students needing a reasonable academic accommodations must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the student will request their letter of accommodation. ODA will provide faculty with a reasonable accommodation letter via email to begin a private discussion regarding a student's specific needs in a course. Students may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding their accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access> or contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

To ensure that we adapt the course appropriately, I do need to meet with you to discuss the course structure, options, your preferences, etc. BEFORE any accommodations can be put into place.

Social Justice: The University of North Texas prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law (please see <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/16-004>). I concur with this commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination.

Classroom Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and I may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>).

Canvas: Canvas will serve as the primary resource for course updates, class materials (e.g., power point lecture outlines, project rubrics), host the links to online course assessment activities (e.g., quizzes), and provide our gradebook. Simply go to <https://unt.instructure.com/login/ldap> and enter your EUID and password to access the webpage for this course. **Students should monitor the announcement board regularly and check the announcement board and syllabus prior to e-mailing/calling the instructor or TA.** Emails with questions readily addressed in this document/on Canvas may not receive a reply so that those needing additional information can be prioritized.

Measurement and Examination of Student Achievement: Final grades are allocated as follows:

<u>Weekly Quizzes</u> (9):	90 points	<u>Letter Grade:</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Points Required**</u>
<u>Movie Responses</u> (4):	100 points	A	90-100	270-300
<u>Research Check</u>		B	80-89	240-269
Identification	20 points	C	70-79	210-239
Review	35 points	D	60-69	180-209
Evaluation	50 points	F	0-59	< 180
Discussion	5 points			
<u>Base Total Points:</u>	<u>300 points</u>			
		+++++++		
		Special Topics (4x2 points):	8 points	
		Service Activity (2x3 points):	6 points	

****Grades will NOT be rounded up; extra activities are made available for this reason****

Weekly Quizzes: Almost every week there will be a quiz on the material presented in the prior two-three class periods (i.e. since the last quiz). **Quizzes will open on Thursdays at 5:15pm (after class) and close the following Tuesday at 3:55p (right before class/new material).** Weekly quizzes can be opened/started only once, but there will be no time limit on completion outside of the 3:55p Tuesday deadline. If you so choose, you may use your notes, lecture recordings, even internet searches (though be warned – there’s tons of incorrect info out there!!); however, questions can be answered using your memory and understanding of the recent material just with typical engagement/class attendance. Indeed, ‘working backwards’ (i.e., using quizzes to search material) will likely take much longer (and be far less interesting) than listening, taking notes ahead of time, and knocking it out. Given the open note/time-to-complete structure, **you are NOT to share questions via any modality with anyone else** (e.g., other students, electronic forums). Such behavior undermines the entire purpose of a class, and is one of the few behaviors that will be considered cheating in the current course. There are 9 quizzes (90 points) built into the point structure of the course; however, there will be 10 quizzes available, so points from your lowest quiz will be dropped. In addition to the structure noted above, for this reason there will be **no extensions or make-ups for weekly quizzes without documentation from our ODA or Dean of Students Office.**

Movie Responses: There will be four [4] movie responses at specific times throughout the course, each worth 25 points. These will include a series of ‘short answer’ questions addressing a relevant documentary that we will watch in class together. **Students must be in class to receive credit for the activity, and answers must be written on the form provided.** Importantly, grading will be based on an objective scale: opinions expressed will not influence grades awarded (also see Social Justice above).

Movie Response days are detailed in the schedule below (barring uncontrollable schedule changes, such as shifts due to inclement weather closure); if you have an approved University activity (e.g., required athletics), relevant accommodation through the Office of Disability Access, or the [Dean of Students Office](#) has emailed me to confirm additional accommodation, please email our designated class TA to confirm and schedule a make-up. Please note that you must secure and watch the movie on your own ahead of completing the Response Form in-person with our TA.

If you miss for any other reason/do not have such documentation, a no-questions-asked make-up day will be held during our last class period (or during our Finals week class period should inclement weather/other needs shift our schedule) – for this (1) you must find and watch the video ahead/on your own (see Canvas Announcements for movie information upon class viewing), and (2) 10 points will be taken off the top, so Forms completed on make-up day will only be worth up to 15 points.

Research Check (“Well I heard that...”) Project: For this project you will examine a real social media trend using concepts and research from (social) psychology. Across four activities you will identify a trend, review scientific evidence, and evaluate/discuss whether research supports or challenges the claims made online. Materials to support these activities are/will be available on Canvas (e.g., detailed project overview document, grading rubrics); all assignments are to be submitted by the specified deadline using the links provided on Canvas. Please note that you may discuss ideas with classmates and use course/outside resources while planning, but **all final submissions must be your own original work and written in your own words.**

For the first assignment you will complete the Assignment 1/Identification ‘quiz’ on Canvas (20 points) before 5p on September 8th. Here you will share specified information about two online trends that you’ve observed, including why/how they are related to our class. The instructional team will review submissions and select approved options for the remaining activities. For this reason *NO late submissions of Assignment 1 will be accepted*. For the second assignment, you will review the empirical literature (published articles detailing original research studies), select and provide a pdf of three peer-reviewed studies, and create a detailed Evidence Table using the template provided on Canvas. Assignment 2/Review submissions (35 points) are due by 5p on October 1st; late submissions (*available 5:01p 10/1 – 5p 11/19*) will be graded and awarded half points. The third assignment includes creating an Evaluation Table by updating your Evidence Table with information on key findings, limitations, and relation to your selected trend, as well as submission of a brief summary of your selected literature and whether/how it supports the trend. Assignment 3/Evaluation submissions (50 points) are due by 5p on November 19th; late submissions (*available 5:01p 11/19 – 5p 12/4*) will be graded and awarded half points. Finally, within at least three lecture periods across the semester we will hold class-wide discussion on project progress, findings, and implications thus far; to receive credit for the Assignment 4/Discussion component (5 points) you simply need to be present for and engage in one of those discussions. As this opportunity will occur at least three different times over the course, *no make-up options for Assignment 4 will be offered*. Please review documents under the Canvas ‘Project’ module for details.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

Special topics-extra credit: There will be four [4] special topics activities available at specific times throughout the course, each worth 2 points. These will include a mix of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions addressing a relevant multimedia component (e.g., podcast, video clip). You can re-open and continue to work on the special topics questions throughout the availability period as needed. Please see below and the additional course calendar for specific days and times each will be available. Importantly, grading will be based on an objective scale: opinions expressed will not influence grades awarded (also, see Social Justice above). Finally, although I strongly encourage you to discuss the content with others, **writing and submitted work here must be your own**. This is an individual activity, and thus use of generative AI, or sharing responses/extensive information prior to both parties completing the assessment is one of the few behaviors that will be considered cheating in the current course.

Service activity-extra credit: At any point prior to Finals Week you may complete and turn in a brief description of a service activity relevant to course objectives. You may do this twice, and will receive up to three [3] points of credit for each. Activities must take at least one hour of your time (not including write-up), and you must clearly detail both what you did and how it connects to content discussed in this course. The recipient(s) must be individuals outside of your home and immediate/close family, and the service must be one of time and effort, NOT just product/financial donation. Get creative here! As long as you are giving back in some way, I know it can be connected to the course! Completion forms will be available for viewing throughout the semester, and both your TAs and I are happy to answer questions as needed. As with all other aspects of the course, this is an individual activity, and **work/reports made must be your own**. Here are just a few links to get you thinking about some of the many, many things you could do:

<https://www.servedenton.org/volunteer>
<https://unitedwaydallas.org/volunteer/>
<https://www.idealists.org/en/volunteer>
<https://www.catchafire.org/>
<https://www.dosomething.org/us>
<https://girlsinc.org/take-action/advocacy/>
<https://translatorswithoutborders.org/>
<https://librivox.org/pages/volunteer-for-librivox/>

In class-extra credit: The opportunity to earn a few extra-extra credit points for engaging in in-class activities will occur throughout the course. Extra credit opportunities will take the form of in-class review, activity, and/or discussion. There will be no specific studying/preparation required; you'll simply have to be present for that class, and engage in the activity (worth 1 point each).

Academic Honesty: The University of North Texas is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity. It is a violation of University guidelines regarding academic dishonesty to cheat, plagiarize, forge, or commit fraud. Accordingly, severe penalties will follow from the discovery of any representation of another individual's work (in any form) as your own. Further, both/any/all parties involved, regardless of stated intent, will be held responsible for the incident. Cheating in any form can result in a "F" for the course, and violators of the Code of Conduct (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/conduct>) will be referred to the Academic Integrity Office for action. If cheating is suspected but definitive proof is not available, we also reserve the right to re-administer any examination in question. See UNT Honor Code and UNT Policy [06.003, Student Academic Integrity](#) at <https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity> for more information.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule as necessary; some topics will cross over specified weeks.
REMEMBER!

Quizzes open after class on Thursdays (5:15p), and close BEFORE class start on Tuesdays (3:55p)

<u>Date and Topic</u>	<u>Base Assessment</u>
<i>Part I: Foundations</i>	
8/18 Welcome and Course Overview	
8/20 Intro to Social Psychology	
8/25 Research Design and Considerations*	
8/27 Research Design and Considerations	<u>Quiz 1</u> opens 5:15p; closes 3:55p 9/1
9/1 Self-concept & Self-esteem	
9/3 Intimate Relationships	<u>Quiz 2</u> opens 5:15p; closes 3:55p 9/8
9/8 NO CLASS – Project Workday	<u>Assignment 1</u> due by 5p
9/10 Prosocial & Helping Behaviors	<u>Quiz 3</u> opens 5:15p; closes 3:55p 9/15
9/15 Movie day! – <u>Movie Response 1**</u>	
<i>Part II: Prejudice, Discrimination, & Aggression</i>	
9/17 Stereotypes	
9/22 Prejudice & Discrimination*	
9/24 Movie Day! – <u>Movie Response 2</u>	<u>Quiz 4</u> opens 5:15p; closes 3:55p 9/29
9/29 Opportunities	
10/1 NO CLASS – Project Workday	<u>Assignment 2</u> due by 5p
10/6 Aggression	
10/8 Attributions & Biases**	<u>Quiz 5</u> opens 5:15p; closes 3:55p 10/13
<i>Part III: The Power of Others</i>	
10/13 Group Processes	
10/15 Conformity	<u>Quiz 6</u> opens 5:15p; closes 3:55p 10/20
10/20 Attitudes, Persuasion, & Behavior*	
10/22 Behavioral Influence	<u>Quiz 7</u> opens 5:15p; closes 3:55p 10/27
10/27 Obedience	
10/29 Obedience	<u>Quiz 8</u> opens 5:15p; closes 3:55p 11/3
11/3 Movie Day! – <u>Movie Response 3**</u>	
<i>Part IV: Wrapping it all up</i>	
11/5 Stress & Resilience*	
11/10 Stress & Resilience	
11/12 NO CLASS – Project Workday	<u>Quiz 9</u> opens 5:15p; closes 3:55p 11/17
11/17 NO CLASS – Project Workday	
11/19 NO CLASS – Project Workday	<u>Assignment 3</u> due by 5p
11/25 & 27 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK!	
12/1 Movie Day! – <u>Movie Response 4</u>	<u>Quiz 10</u> opens 5:15p; closes 3:55p 12/3
12/3 Movie Response Make-up Day**	

Class Final Period – Monday December 7th, 3:30-5p (to be used if needed)

*Section special topics extra credit opens 12:01am

**Section special topics extra credit closes 11:59pm