# SOCI 4340.400: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR (Online)

# FALL 2025

## Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Helen Potts

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Office Location: Sycamore Hall, Suite 288F

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 1-2:30pm, online as needed, or by appointment

### Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

This is a 3-hour course. Primarily we will investigate a sociological interpretation of the field of social psychology. It will cover social and cultural bases of diverse human behavior. It will also include investigating the social matrix of personality, organization and disorganization.

*Please be prepared to discuss sensitive topics throughout this course.*

### Course Structure

This course is taught completely online. There are no in-person meetings or exams. All course information will be posted in CANVAS. This course is 16 weeks long. In general, to keep pace with the course you will be responsible for about one chapter per week. There are four modules in this course grouping two or three chapters together.

### Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, students should have a reliable internet connection, access to a computer, and proficiency in Word and CANVAS. Please know there is a 24-hour computer lab available at Willis Library.

### Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the foundation concepts of sociological social psychology
2. Identify the similarities and differences between psychological social psychology and sociological social psychology
3. Discuss the major theoretical perspectives in sociological social psychology
4. Relate the role of social psychology in personal and professional settings
5. Review ways to apply social psychology concepts to personal and professional situations

## Required/Recommended Materials

Rohall, David E., Milkie, Melissa A., and Lucas, Jeffrey W. (2014). Social Psychology: Sociological Perspectives (3rd Ed.). Allyn and Bacon (Pearson): Upper Saddle River, NJ (ISBN: 9780205923717) **OR** The same text by Waveland Publishing (2021) (ISBN: 978-1478646433)

This course has digital components.  To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content.  Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](https://online.unt.edu/learn).

## How to Succeed in this Course

As this is an online course, I am available via email to answer any questions or concerns you may have. My door (or email inbox) is always open. I will respond to any student email within 48 hours on weekdays (usually sooner). However, my goal is to take weekends and holidays off from email.

Students will be responsible for keeping up with the readings (both the text and module summaries). Students should feel welcomed to reach out if they do not understand topics or feel lost. It is always best to reach out early on as topics tend to build upon themselves throughout the course. I am happy to meet with students at a time that works best for them and cares about their success and participation in the course. Please stay aware of the deadlines and due dates given in the course. Based upon the format of this course, students are expected to work at their own pace and maintain a high level of personal responsibility.

The best way to succeed in this course is to complete all readings in a timely manner so you have the information to best answer the quiz and exam questions correctly. Please stay on top of all due dates as no extensions can be provided. Please also utilize exam reviews listed in the modules as you read through the chapters. This will help you narrow down the information you will need for the exams.

Below is UNT’s ADA accommodation statement:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You 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 deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty 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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to [UNT Success](https://www.unt.edu/success/) and explore [UNT Wellness](https://wellness.unt.edu/). To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to [Scrappy Says](http://scrappysays.unt.edu/).

## Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

Sociology, by its nature, recognizes and values diversity. Much of the material we will approach in this course investigates issues of diversity and structural hinderances to equity and inclusion. While I encourage participation and discussion please remember to be respectful to others. I encourage you to review UNT’s student code of conduct so we are all on the same page ([Code of Student Conduct](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012)).

## Grading Scale

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Letter Grade:* | Point Range: | Percentage Range: |
| *A* | 385-430 | 90-100% |
| *B* | 342-384 | 80-89% |
| *C* | 299-341 | 70-79% |
| *D* | 256-298 | 60-69% |
| *F* | 255 or below | 59% or below |

**Late work will not be accepted.** A rubric for each assignment is attached to the assignment page. If a problem arises, please contact the professor as soon as possible.

#### Incompletes

Incompletes must be requested in writing at least one week prior to the Final Exam Week. The written request must be accompanied by documentation of the reason that the course cannot be completed before the end of the semester. Incompletes are only considered if at least 50% of the course exams and assignments have been completed with a passing grade.

## Course Requirements

Below is a list of all required assignments and graded activities for this course.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ASSIGNMENTS | Points Possible | Percentage of Final Grade |
| Assignment 1 – Advertisement Analysis |  25 points | 5.8% |
| Assignment 2 – Applying 3 Theories to Advertisements |  25 points | 5.8% |
| Assignment 3 – Twelve Angry Men & Groupthink |  25 points | 5.8% |
| Assignment 4 – Stanford Prison Experiment |  25 points | 5.8% |
| DISCUSSION | **Points Possible** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| Assignment/Discussion 5 – Goffman Discussion | 25 points | 5.8% |
| QUIZZES | **Points Possible** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| Quiz 1 - Syllabus Quiz | 15 points | 3.5% |
| Quiz 2 - Chapters 1 & 2 Quiz | 15 points | 3.5% |
| Quiz 3 - Chapter 3 Quiz | 15 points | 3.5% |
| Quiz 4 - Chapter 4 & 5 Quiz | 15 points | 3.5% |
| Quiz 5 - Chapter 6 & 7 Quiz | 15 points | 3.5% |
| Quiz 6 - Chapter 8 Quiz | 15 points | 3.5% |
| Quiz 7 - Chapter 9, 10, & 11 Quiz | 15 points | 3.5% |
| EXAMS | **Points Possible** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| Midterm Exam – Chapters 1-5 | 100 points | 23% |
| Final Exam – Chapters 6-11 | 100 points | 23% |
| TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE | **430 points** | **100%** |

## Course Schedule

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module** | **Week** | **Chapters in Module** | **Activity** | **Points** | **Due Date** |
| **1** | **1-4** | 1: Intro to Sociological Social Psychology (SSP)2: Perspectives in SSP3: Studying People | a. Quiz 1: Syllabusb. Quiz 2: Ch. 1 & 2c. Quiz 3: Ch. 3 d. Assignment 1: Ads e. Assignment 2: Theory  | a. 15b. 15c. 15d. 25e. 25 | Mon., Sept. 15th by midnight |
| **2** | **5-8** | 4: The Individual in Society5: Self and Identity | a. Quiz 4: Ch. 4 & 5b. Assignment 3: Groupthinkc. Midterm Exam: Ch. 1-5 | a. 15b. 25c. 100 | Mon., Oct. 13th by midnight |
| **3** | **9-11** | 6: Socialization over the Life Course7: The Social Psychology of Deviance8: Mental Health and Illness | a. Quiz 5: Ch. 6 & 7b. Quiz 6: Ch. 8c. Assignment 4: Stanford  | a. 15b. 15c. 25 | Mon., Nov. 3rd by midnight |
| **4** | **12-16** | 9: Social Attitudes10: The Sociology of Emotions and Relationships11: Collective Behavior | a. Quiz 7: Ch. 10 & 11b. Assignment 5: Goffman \*\*DUE Dec. 1 by midnight\*\*c. Final Exam: Ch. 6-11 | a. 15b. 25c. 100 | Wed., Dec. 10th by midnight |

## Academic Integrity/Plagiarism/AI Usage

All papers, exams and quizzes should be **done individually**. However, you may use all texts and notes. Please keep in mind that all quizzes and exams are timed. If you have technical difficulty please stop and email me immediately**. There are no makeup papers, quizzes or exams in this course and no exceptions.** If you have an issue arise please talk to me before the due date and as soon as possible. Students are advised to contact the Student helpdesk and document the remedy ticket number before contacting Dr. Potts.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, the use of AI, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. To be clear, assignments found to be plagiarized or to use AI (which is also a form of plagiarism) will be given a 0 and reported to the University. [Academic Integrity Policy (PDF)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049).

Every student in my class can improve by doing their own work and trying their hardest with access to appropriate resources. Students who use other people’s work without citations will be violating UNT’s Academic Integrity Policy. Please read and follow this important set of [*guidelines for your academic success*](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003). If you have questions about this, or any UNT policy, please email me or come discuss this with me during my office hours.

### Turnitin Required for All Assignments

Students are required to submit written assignments for this class to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism and AI generation detection service. Before submitting your paper to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information. Any paper that is not submitted to Turnitin will not be accepted by the instructor and will not be graded.

## Attendance and Participation

This class does not meet in-person or online. Students are expected to work at their own pace and abide by the due dates listed in the syllabus. Students who log into our Canvas course and spend time reviewing the notes tend to do better than students who do not access online materials or check in regularly.

The instructor will use the tracking feature in Canvas to monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as papers, quizzes and exams.

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class. The schedule below is subject to change (please see: [Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049)).

## Academic Support & Student Services

### Student Support Services

#### Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

* [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
* [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
* [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
* [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)

### Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

#### Federal Regulation

Federal regulations state that students may apply only 3 fully-online semester credit hours (SCH) to the hours required for full-time status for [F-1 Visa (PDF)](https://clear.unt.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/page-assets/Online/clear_f1_online_student_procedures_rev2018_10_08.doc) holders. Full-time status for F-1 Visa students is 12 hours for undergraduates and 9 hours for graduate students.