Social Psychology (soci 4340)

Spring 2022; Chemistry Building, Rm. 106; T/TH 3:30-4:50

# Instructor Information

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| Instructor | Email | Office Location & Hours |
| Kevin McCaffree, PhD | Kevin.mccaffree@unt.edu | T/TH 2-3:15 288b Sycamore  Hall |

# General Information

## Description

Social psychology is a fascinating field that combines a traditional psychological focus on individual cognition with a sociological focus on socialization, interaction and groups. In this class we will be touring much of the field, though we will focus particularly on aggression and altruism towards the end of the course. At the end of this class, you’ll be able to identify and precisely apply key social psychological concepts like identity, exchange, socialization and expectation states.

## Required Texts

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., Nisbett, R.E. 2018. Social Psychology: Fifth Edition. W.W. Norton & Co.

Burke, P. 2018. Contemporary Social Psychological Theories: Second Edition. Stanford University Press

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| --- | --- |
| **Type of Assignment** | **Details** |
| **Attendance/ Reading Reflection** | In-person attendance is not required in this course, but it is recommended because exam questions will be drawn, in part, from lecture material.  Your attendance grade will be calculated from your submission of two reading questions each week. These questions should be in-depth, draw from specific material in readings or lecture, and should range from between 50-100 words *each*. These questions will be due Friday by midnight, uploaded to Canvas.  This assignment is NOT due the first two weeks of class (i.e., weeks 1 and 2), the last two weeks of class (i.e., week 16 and Finals Week) or Spring Break week (week 9).  Each set of questions is worth 10 points, and questions will be required for 12 weeks (total) of the course. |
| **Exams** | There are four multiple choice exams in this course. These will be of varying lengths but will be easily completed within the 80-minute class period.  On exam days, we will not meet in person. Instead, when class time would normally begin, you will log onto the course website on Canvas and take the exam. You will have the entire class period to complete the exam.  Each exam is worth 100 points, for a total of 400 points. |
| **Opinion Editorial** | The purpose of this assignment is to express your understanding of the material in a readable and compelling way.  This assignment will require you to identify 5 potential outlets where you might publish an opinion editorial. You will need to list out the requirements (page length/word count, format, submission process) for publishing an opinion editorial in these outlets.  Once you have identified your outlets, write your opinion editorial. This editorial should be between 2000-2500 words and should clearly, directly and carefully tie specific material covered in class to one or more current events. Your goal should be to write an informative piece about how social psychology can help us better understand current events.  “A”-range papers clearly describe the opinion editorial publishing requirements for 5 outlets, are well-written, well-organized, logical, have no or few spelling and grammar errors, and meet the requirement for the minimum number of words.  “C” range papers clearly describe outlet publishing requirements, are generally well-written but unclear in places and may be too short, non-specific, repetitive, logically inconsistent, or have distracting spelling and grammar errors.  “D/F”-range papers fail to describe outlet publishing requirements, are too short, not well-written, demonstrate consistent misunderstanding of the material and have serious logical flaws and spelling and grammar errors.  Your opinion editorial is worth 200 points. |

**Exam Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date | Subject |
| 2/17 | **Exam One** |
| 3/10 | **Exam Two** |
| 4/7 | **Exam Three** |
| 5/5 | **Exam Four** |

**Grade Breakdown**

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| --- | --- |
| Assignment | Possible Points |
| Reading Reflections | **120 points; ~18% of final grade** |
| Exams | **400 points; ~55% of final grade** |
| Opinion Editorial | **200 points; ~27% of final grade** |
| TOTAL | **720 points** |

**General Policies:**

\*\*Late work will not be accepted unless there are emergency circumstances; doctor’s note is required.

\*\*Instances of plagiarism will result in an automatic F and referral to the Dean of Students.

\*\*I will not be posting powerpoint slides.

\*\*There is no extra credit in this course, however, in-class participation will make students eligible for end-of-semester grade bumps.

\*\*The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course.

# Course Schedule\*

| Week | Topic | Reading | Exercises |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 (1/18;1/20) | Syllabus and Introductions | N/A |  |
| Week 2 (1/25;1/27) | Consciousness, Perception and the Philosophy of Science | Gilovich et al., Chp 1, 4 |  |
| Week 3 (2/1;2/3) | The Self | Gilovich et al., Chp. 3; Burke Chp. 1 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 4 (2/8;2/10) | Groups | Gilovich et al., Chapter 12; Burke Chp. 5 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 5 (2/15; 2/17) | Emotions | Gilovich et al., Chp. 6; Burke, Chp. 6 | Submit reading questions  **Exam 1 (on Canvas) 2/17** |
| Week 6 (2/22;2/24) | Persuasion and Manipulation | Gilovich et al., Chp. 8; Burke, Chp. 2 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 7 (3/1; 3/3) | Attitudes, Behavior and Rationalization | Gilovich et al., Chp. 7; Burke, Chp. 4 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 8 (3/8; 3/10) | Social Attribution | Gilovich et al., Chp. 5; Burke, Chp. 7 | Submit reading questions  **Exam 2 (on Canvas) 3/10** |
| Week 9 (3/15;3/17) | SPRING BREAK | N/A | N/A |
| Week 10 (3/22;3/24) | Social Influence | Gilovich et al., Chp. 9. ; Burke, Chp. 9 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 11 (3/29; 3/31) | Aggression | Gilovich et al., Chp. 13; Burke, Chp. 13 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 12 (4/5; 4/7) | Aggression | Readings Posted to Canvas | Submit reading questions  Exam 3 (on Canvas) 4/7 |
| Week 13 (4/12; 4/14) | Altruism and Cooperation | Gilovch et al., Chp. 14; Burke, Chp. 14. | Submit reading questions |
| Week 14 (4/19; 4/21) | Altruism and Cooperation | Gilovich et al., Chps. 10 and 11 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 15 (4/26; 4/28) | Future Directions in Social Psychology | Readings posted to Canvas | Submit reading questions |
| Week 16 (5/3; 5/5) | OPEN |  | Exam 4 (on Canvas) 5/5 |
| Finals Week |  |  | Opinion Editorial due midnight 5/11 uploaded to Canvas |

\*This syllabus, with its course schedule, is based on the most recent information about the course content and schedule planned for this course. Its content is subject to revision as needed to adapt to new knowledge or unanticipated events. Updates will remain focused on achieving the course objectives and students will receive notification of such changes. Students are responsible for attending to such changes or modifications posted on the CANVAS site ([https://unt.instructure.com](https://unt.instructure.com/)) for this course.