

Eastern Kentucky University
Department of Psychology
Syllabus for Psychology 300W, Social Psychology (Writing Intensive)
(CRN = 13835)
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Gore
Office: 116 Cammack Building
Office Hours: MWF 9-10 or by appointment

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Catalogue Course Description: A writing intensive study of contemporary institutions and problems such as prejudice, affection, love, altruism, aggression, and small group behavior. Contemporary research and theory will be discussed. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for PSY 300.

Prerequisites PSY 200 and ENG 102 or ENG 105 (B), or HON 102.

Text

The following book will be used for this course:

- Myers, D. G. (2007). *Social Psychology* (9th edition). McGraw-Hill: Boston, MA.

The book should be available at the campus bookstore, and some used copies should still be available. You are assigned to read about a chapter every day, so try your best to keep up. Refer to the course schedule on page 3 for which chapter is assigned for each day.

Student Learning Objectives

EKU's Quality Enhancement Program Statement is, "EKU will develop informed, critical and creative thinkers who can communicate effectively."

By the end of the course, my goal is that all students will be able to:

1. Apply theories and findings in social psychology
How assessed: exams, chapter summaries, both papers
 2. Explain the different methodologies in social psychology and their importance
How assessed: exams, chapter summaries, first paper
 3. Critique research in social psychology
How assessed: first paper, chapter summaries
 4. Synthesize knowledge of social psychology with your own life experience
How assessed: second paper, chapter summaries
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General Education Goals and PSY 300W

Because this course satisfies a Writing-Intensive General Education requirement, I have adopted the four goals for social and behavioral sciences as well as the goals of a writing-intensive course. Here are the four social science goals and how I will address them:

1. Using appropriate methods of critical thinking and quantitative analysis (General Education Goal 2).
How addressed: multiple choice questions and essays on exams, both papers
 2. Analyzing the social and behavioral influences that explain how people relate to each other, to institutions, and to communities (General Education Goal 4).
How addressed: the content of this class pertains to this goal
 3. Understand the methods that underlie the search for knowledge in the social sciences (General Education Goal 7).
How addressed: we will focus on methodology throughout the semester and you will be required to demonstrate this knowledge in the first paper
 4. Integrate knowledge of social psychological concepts that will deepen their understanding of, and will inform their own choices about, issues of personal and public importance (General Education Goal 8).
How addressed: both papers require you to show evidence of this
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Evaluation Methods

Your grades will be based on four exams (50 points each), a cumulative final (25 points), five chapter summaries (10 points each; 50 points total), two papers (60 points for one, 40 points for the other), and attendance (25 points). The total points in this course are 400. There will also be opportunities for extra credit. Keep track of how much you earn as we progress through the course. Your grade will be based on the percentage scale below (there will be no curves).

100-90 = A 89-80 = B 79-70 = C 69-60 = D 59-0 = F
Exams (56%) + Papers (25%) + Chapter Summaries (13%) + Attendance (6%) = 100%

Student Progress

I will keep an updated record of your grade after each assignment and exam and you may ask to see your grade at any point in the semester. I will not be able to inform anyone but you of your grade on any assignment or in the course. I will update each person of their current course grade after each exam. You will also receive an update on your course grade prior to the final exam (during "dead week").

Attendance Policy

Your attendance is required in order to fully understand the course material. We will do many hands-on exercises that will enhance your understanding of the textbook material. In addition, you will be asked to complete "Quick Response Slips" at randomly placed points in the semester. These are worth 1 point a piece, and serve as an indicator of your attendance. More details about these are listed below.

Add/Drop and Withdrawal Deadlines

The last day to Add or Drop this course is **Sunday, August 30**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Friday, October 30**. Please inform me if you plan to either drop or withdraw from the course.

Disability Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the Office in Student Services Building Room 361 by e-mail at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933 V/TDD. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

Academic Integrity Statement

Students are advised that EKU's Academic Integrity policy will strictly be enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at www.academicintegrity.eku.edu. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Students found guilty of an academic honesty violation will receive a 0 on the assignment in question. Violations could also result in a 0 in the course and/or a referral to the Academic Council. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, and co-responsibility (i.e., "anyone who knowingly assists in any form of academic dishonesty shall be considered as guilty as the student who accepts such assistance").

Official E-mail

An official EKU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member, and each staff member. All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this EKU e-mail address.

Standards for Written Assignments

Students in all psychology courses are expected to use correct grammar, spelling and composition in written assignments. These elements of writing will be taken into consideration in grading all out-of-class writing assignments. If you would like free help with your writing, you may use the writing lab: Case Annex 173 (622-6191).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams

The exams will consist of 2 short essay questions (5 points each), and 40 multiple choice questions (1 point each). The cumulative final exam will consist of 25 multiple choice questions. The class before these exams, we will have a review session, but you will receive a study guide two weeks before each exam. Because this course presents a lot of material, I suggest you begin reviewing your notes *before* the day of the review session. Each exam will only cover one-fourth of the course (they are not cumulative), and each topic will be weighed equally in terms of the number of questions on the exam. All material in this course is fair game to use (i.e., lectures, films, book), but you'll get some hints on the review day what will be on it and what won't be on it. We will go over the answers to the exams two class periods after the exam date.

You need to let me know if you are unable to take the exams *as soon as possible*. Otherwise, you need to make sure that you can attend classes on each exam day.

If you miss an exam and have a legitimate, documented excuse, you need to contact me (622-1115, 116 Cammack) before exam answers are covered in class to make it up. **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME REGARDING A MISSED EXAM WILL RECEIVE A SCORE OF ZERO ON THE EXAM.** To be excused from an exam, you must present written verification from a physician or a professional. For excused absences, a score will be calculated for your missing exam based on the average of your scores on the other exams. You may be excused from only one exam. If your situation causes you to miss two exams, you will receive an incomplete in the course.

Chapter Summaries

You will be asked to complete 5 chapter summaries (10 points each; 50 points total). These will involve outlining the chapter, answering questions about the content, and applying the material to your own life. These are due on the day of each review session. Refer to the assignments for more details.

Papers

This course satisfies a Writing-Intensive General Education requirement, and therefore will involve a significant amount of both formal and informal writing. These papers will serve as your formal writing component. The first paper involves outlining and critiquing a research article from a social psychological journal (60 points), and the second paper will involve applying social psychological concepts to a movie (40 points). Both of these papers will be revised and resubmitted and **MUST BE TYPED**.

For the first paper, you must send an electronic copy of the outline and final critique to me at jonathan.gore@eku.edu. (1) The document must be in Microsoft WORD; (2) You must include your ID number on the document. A copy of this document will be sent to a committee to evaluate the overall success of writing-intensive courses. Your ID number will allow the University to track students' progress over time, without seeing your name. Very rarely, a paper may be printed to use for training purposes. When this occurs, the ID number is removed before printing.

Quick Response Slips

I will randomly hand out a slip of paper 25 times this semester. On that slip, you will be asked to write about something you learned during a lecture or a film, or a question you had about the lecture or film, and turn that in at the end of those class periods. Each one is worth 1 point (for a total of 25). Although you will not be allowed to complete this assignment for any type of absence, you can make up the points by doing extra credit.

Extra credit

For those of you interested in securing a good grade in the class, some days you will get an assignment that is worth extra credit, which will be worth 1-2 extra credit points each. Some of these will be completed in class, and others are to be completed at home. You will not be informed ahead of time when these assignments will be handed out, and there will be no make-up extra credit. You may also earn extra credit by participating in up to five hours of research studies in the Psychology Department (refer to the Research Participation sheet for instructions and details). You may complete extra credit assignments handed out in class if you have an excused absence.

Course Outline

If this changes in any way, I'll let you know

Date	Subject	Homework/Due Dates
8/24	The Field of Social Psychology	Read Chapter 1 (social section)
8/26	Self-Concept	Read Chapter 2
8/28	Self-Related Processes	
8/31	Gender	
9/2	Paper #1, Film: Killing Us Softly	
9/4	Beliefs & Judgments	Read Chapter 3
9/9	Judgments; Attitudes & Behavior	Read Chapter 4
9/11	Attitudes & Behavior continued	
9/14	Genes & Environment	Read Chapter 5
9/16	Culture	
9/18	Review Session	2 CHAPTER SUMMARIES DUE
9/21	EXAM 1	
9/23	Persuasion	Read Chapter 7
9/25	NO CLASS	
9/28	Exam 1 Answers; Research (ethics)	ARTICLE OUTLINE DUE
9/30	Research (validity and measurement)	Read Chapter 1 (research section)
10/2	Research (correlational designs)	
10/5	Research (experimental designs)	
10/7	Film: Zimbardo's Prison	DRAFT OF CRITIQUE DUE
10/9	Groups & Task Performance	Read Chapter 8
10/14	Groups & Decisions	
10/16	Review Session	CHAPTER SUMMARY DUE
10/19	EXAM 2	
10/21	Reciprocation & Commitment	Read Chapter 6
10/23	Exam 2 Answers; Social Proof	
10/26	Liking & Scarcity	
10/28	Authority & Paper Meetings	
10/30	Film: Milgram experiment	FINAL DRAFT OF PAPER #1 DUE
11/2	Stereotypes	Read Chapter 9
11/4	Paper #2, Prejudice & Discrimination	
11/6	Aggression	Read Chapter 10
11/9	Aggression: Media Violence & Prevention	
11/11	Review Session	CHAPTER SUMMARY DUE
11/13	EXAM 3	
11/16	Close Relationships	Read Chapter 11
11/18	Exam 3 Answers; Helping (theories)	Read Chapter 12
11/20	Helping (steps and obstacles)	DRAFT OF PAPER #2 DUE
11/23	Clinical Applications (therapy)	Read Chapter 14
11/30	Clinical Applications (problems, stress & coping)	
12/2	Legal Applications (the crime) & Paper Meetings	Read Chapter 15
12/4	Legal Applications (the court)	FINAL DRAFT OF PAPER #2 DUE
12/7	Conflict & Peacemaking	Read Chapter 13
12/9	Film: A Class Divided	
12/11	Review Session	CHAPTER SUMMARY DUE

FINAL EXAM WILL BE ON MONDAY, **DECEMBER 14 from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**