

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
The University of Toledo
Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Letters
43597 - PSY 2700 - 901

Course Information

Offered: Fall term, 2019

Course Website: [Blackboard Learn](#)

Class Location: [Blackboard Learn](#)

Credit Hours: 3 credits

Prerequisite: Psychology 1010, with a minimum grade of D-

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Geers

Instructor Office Location: 6524 University Hall

Instructor Office Phone: 419-530-8530

Instructor Email: Use the email function on our class home page

Office Hours: **I will be available for office hrs. Tuesdays from 10:30am to 1:00pm, and Fridays from 2:30pm to 4:00pm, or by appointment.**

Teaching Assistant Information

Teaching Assistant: Sam Oswald: Samuel.Oswald@rockets.utoledo.edu

Office Location: 6508 University Hall

Office Hours: Sam will hold office hours on Wednesdays from 10AM to 12PM, or by appointment.

Catalog/Course Description

Theoretical and empirical treatment of socially-based perception and cognition, interpersonal influence, small group processes and interpersonal relations.

Course Overview

Course Goals: The first goal of this course is to introduce students to classic and contemporary research in social psychology. An underlying theme to this work is that, in most cases, people do not fully appreciate the influence of situational forces on behavior. A second goal is to help students apply social psychology to their everyday lives and to see the world from a social psychological perspective. Thus, when the course has ended, I hope that it will be impossible for you to view your social world in the same way as when the course began.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Define social psychology and explain the primary research methodologies used in this field.
- Identify and describe the basic social psychological theories and concepts in the areas of socially-based perception and cognition, interpersonal influence, small group processes and interpersonal relations
- Apply theory as well as current and past research in social psychology to situations in everyday life such as social perception, interpersonal influence, small groups, and interpersonal relations.

Text Material

Aronson, Wilson, Akert, & Sommers. *Social Psychology*. (9th or 10th ed.). Addison Wesley Longman Inc.: New York (*ISBN number*: 0134131037). If you cannot afford to buy the textbook, please contact Dr. Geers and he will work with you to help you access the text material. FYI, earlier editions of the textbook are not appropriate.

Teaching Methodology

Class Days/Times: THIS is a **HYBRID** Distance Learning Class. It is designed to stimulate student learning through web-based delivery or readings, videos, audio, and discussion board activities. All of the course will take place on-line EXCEPT for the examinations, which are completed on the University of Toledo main campus.

Examination Location

Exams will be taken on the University of Toledo main campus. The only exception to taking the exams on campus is if you are 50 or more miles away from campus. If that is the case, we can work with the UT exam proctoring service which will allow you to take a proctored exam in your area (information is provided below). Exams are not given on-line in this course.

Technology Requirements, Skills, and Privacy Policies

Please view the [technology considerations](#) for this course, including technical skills needed, general technology requirements, and technology privacy policies.

Computer Skill Requirements

All students should be comfortable and able to navigate on-line. If you do not have strong computer skills, I do not recommend taking this course. A basic level of computer skills is a prerequisite and I will not be teaching these skills in the course. If you have never taken an on-line course before I highly recommend visiting http://www.dl.utoledo.edu/help_desk/help.htm to learn how to work with the on-line course system.

Accessibility of Course Technologies

Please view [Accessibility of Course Technologies](#) for information regarding the accessibility of Blackboard and other technologies used in this course.

Tour of Our Class Home Page

These are the areas on our home page that you need to visit and learn to use:

- How To Log On to Our Class Home Page: <https://blackboard.utdl.edu/>. Once you are there, you will see the following areas/icons in our home page:
 - **Course News**– This is basically the homepage to our course. It should provide a calendar of events, announcements, etc. I will often post links and stories for you regarding social psychology in the current news and media.
 - **Start Here (and Study tips!)**– This link provides information in starting the course and my suggestions for studying for our exams.
 - **Syllabus** – This link takes you to our course syllabus.
 - **Lectures** – This is the heart of the course. This is where the “Lectures” take place. The material is broken up into folders based on the chapters in our textbook. Each chapter we cover will get its own folder in the lecture room. To begin with, only the first four chapters are presented as that is the section of the textbook we are examining first. The folders will contain lecture notes, audio files, video files, and newspaper articles. Let me discuss each of these in turn. First, I will give you lecture notes for each chapter. The purpose of the lecture notes is to reinforce and expand on the ideas presented in the text. Naturally, there will be overlap between the text and the lecture notes, but, there will also be material unique to each. And, as with any course, material covered in the lecture notes will be on the exams. The lecture notes assume that you have already read the relevant chapter, so your understanding of the lecture notes will be best if you have done the reading first. The lecture notes will sometimes give you addresses for web pages relevant to ideas discussed in the chapters that you can explore. For some chapters, I will add in an audio file of me discussing a topic. These audio files will be in the chapter folders. Many chapters will also include video clips that elaborate on chapter topics. Finally, the folders will often contain newspaper articles. These are genuine newspaper articles that I selected for the course because they relate to the chapter. With these I hope you will see some of the real-world implications of the research we cover in the course. It will work out best if you examine the audio, video, and newspaper files after you have read the book chapter and read over the notes. Beware! The information given in audio files, video files, and newspaper articles can appear on the exams, so you will not want to skip them.
 - **Discussion Room** – This is where I will post discussion topics. I will post one discussion question here for each of our 4 sessions. You are required to post a minimum of one formal response to my question for each of the four discussion posts. The dates when my questions will be posted and the deadlines for your responses are given below in the time line for the course.
 - **Assessments** – This is the section of the class page to take practice exams. There will be 4 required Exams, each having a Practice Exam. I highly

recommend that you take the first Practice Exam a week before Exam #1. The practice exams give you a good idea of how I will ask questions on the exams. In addition to showing you what the exam questions will be like, the practice exams are also useful as they show you the format that will be used for all exams. Practice exams DO NOT count toward your grade.

- As explained in detail below, exams will be taken in the Department of Psychology Testing Room. When you are in the testing room on campus, you will log into our class page and find the exam waiting for you in the Assessments area. The exam proctor will open up the exam for you.
- **Email Messages** – This is where you can go to contact me. I will also send out emails periodically to individual students as well as to the entire class. This is the best email address to contact me at because I check it very frequently. Students emailing me at my main UT address typically wait longer for a response.
- **Grade Book** – This is where course grades will be given.
- **Help** – This link will take you to other pages for assistance.

Communication Guidelines

Instructor Communication: I am here to help, and will do my best to respond to inquiries in a timely manner. Learners can expect a reply to emails and discussion questions within 24-48 hours. The course schedule provides the dates by which feedback on assignments will be posted.

Netiquette: It is important to be courteous and civil when communicating with others.

Students taking online courses are subject to the [Student Code of Conduct](#). To ensure your success when communicating online, take time to familiarize yourself with the “dos” and “don’ts” of [Internet etiquette](#).

Email: Students are expected to check their UT email account frequently for important course information. If you are having trouble understanding any aspect of the course, please let me know.

Important Note on the Course Material

In the past, students have found this course to be quite challenging. I urge you to read and study the course material daily so you do not fall behind. Also, I recommend you read the book and notes well in advance of the exams so you have plenty of time to study the material prior to the exams. To make sure you are prepared for exams, I highly recommend you read the study advice I provide in the “Start Here (and study tips!)” link on the left menu. Also, both the course teaching assistant and I are available to help.

Course Expectations

Late Work: Late assignments and make-up tests are generally not permitted unless arrangements are discussed and approved before the required due date.

Copyright Notice: The materials in the course website are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course, and may not be retained or further disseminated.

Proctored Exams: The exams will be proctored and administered on campus. Details, including specific times and locations, are provided in the Exam and Course Schedule sections below. Learners parking on campus are advised to contact [Parking Services](#) for parking permit options and costs. Off-campus proctored testing is an option. Learners outside the Toledo area will be required to locate an approved proctor in their local area and pay for

any proctoring expenses. UT Online is available to assist students with off-campus proctoring arrangements. Please visit the [Student Requirements for Off Site Proctored Exams](#) webpage to learn more about this process. Proctored exams need to be set up with the UT proctoring service office and Dr. Geers during the first two weeks of the semester. Here are some additional general expectations:

- It is expected that you will keep up in reading the textbook and the lecture note throughout the entire course
- It is expected that you will take the practice exams before the real exam to be sure you are ready
- It is expected that you will begin studying for exams *at least* one week in advance and that you will take practice exams when offered
- It is expected that you will explore all the multimedia materials associated with each chapter
- It is expected that you will actively think about and engage the material in the course—considering how to apply it—going beyond the definitions and studies presented.
- It is expected that you will plan appropriately so as to have your discussion postings and exams completed by the designated deadlines

Absenteeism: This is NOT a self-paced, self-timed course. This course is designed to be a successive progression from one chapter to the next. If you have an illness that interferes with your ability to participate or meet deadlines in this class, you need to notify me ASAP. Such events may necessitate your dropping the course. This is particularly the case with an on-line course like this which is not self-paced. I have found that, in such situations, it often works better for a student to drop a course and take it again at a later time than to miss several days and then try to catch up the rest of the semester. If you have a medical emergency, documentation is required for extra accommodations and this documentation needs to be presented to me within two weeks of the date of the missed assignment.

Grading

There will be a total of 280 points available for the class. Exams and discussion posts will be the basis for your grade.

Grading:	Points
Exams	240
Discussion	40
Total Points:	280

Letter	Points
A	280-260
A-	259-251
B+	250-243
B	242-232
B-	231-222

C+	221-216
C	215-204
C-	203-196
D+	195-189
D	188-178
D-	177-169
F	168 & below

Exams: There will be **4 required exams (60 points each exam)**. Each exam will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions. **The emphasis in this course will be on ideas, theories, and research--much of which is presented in our textbook.** The exams will draw from the textbook, lectures, and the media presentations in the lecture room. You can expect some questions about definitions, research designs, theories, and results, but many of the questions will ask you to apply the materials of this course to some real world situation. These applied questions are crucial to achieving the goal of the course: to help you see your social world from a social psychological perspective. *Beware*, due to these application questions, the exams can be difficult as you are NOT just memorizing definitions. Instead, the exams also assess your ability to apply the knowledge presented in course--extrapolating from study findings and on the theories covered. Practice exams located in the **Assessment Area** will help you better understand what the exams will be like. I highly recommend preparing for the practice exam like it is the real exam and then seeing how you do. This will help you prepare for the real exams. There will be a practice exam in the Assessment Area for each of the 4 required exams. **Importantly, the practice exams do NOT factor into your course grade.**

Exam Time and Location: Exams are to be taken on the University of Toledo main campus in University Hall, room 5000. This room is a Department of Psychology computer lab and graduate students will be available on set times on exam days to proctor exams. All students are expected to take the exams on the main campus unless you live far from Toledo or have highly extenuating circumstances. If this is the case, you need to contact me ASAP about the test-taking. The testing room (University Hall room 5000) room will be open on **Mondays from 8:30AM to 5PM, Tuesdays from 8AM to 4PM, and Weds from 1PM to 6PM**. You do not need to reserve a time to take the exam, rather, you can simply arrive to the exam room during the exam time window on the exam days to take the exam. You will not be allowed to use notes, book, or electronic devices etc during the exam so you will need to prepare as you would for any other in-class exam. You will have 75 minutes to complete each exam. This gives you over 1 minute per question. In past semesters, students have not needed all of this time. Once you begin an exam, you need to complete it in **one sitting** (not multiple tries). As you will see on the course schedule below, you will be given 3 days to come to the computer lab to take each exam (see the course calendar for specific exam dates). Having three days to take the exam should be helpful. For example, if you have an unexpected emergency on the first two days you will still have an additional day to take the exam. I **STRONGLY** advise you to plan on taking the exam on the first or second day and to keep the 3rd day solely as a back-up. I especially urge you to not wait until the last minute on the 3rd day to take the exam as this leave you no time to deal with problems that may arise. If you are unable to make the open hours in the testing room, please alert Dr. Geers during the first two weeks of the semester so that we can work together on a different testing location.

Respondus Lock Down Browser: Exams in this course are taken through a program called "Respondus Lock Down Browser". The program inhibits the usage of other programs during the examination. You should not need to do anything additional to use this program, it will already be on the computers in the testing room.

Optional exam: From time-to-time, students miss scheduled exams or score much lower on an exam than they anticipate. In the past when students missed an exam or scored very poorly on an exam, I did not allow any make-up exams or extra credit points. I am now trying something different. Specifically, all students will be given the opportunity to take an "optional exam" near the end of the course. The optional exam can be used to *replace* one prior exam. Thus, the optional exam will be worth the same points as our main exams (60 points) and should be taken if you missed an exam or scored lower than you anticipated on one of our 4 main exams. The optional exam cannot be taken to earn additional/ extra credit points—rather, it is just an opportunity to replace one existing poor or missing exam grade. The optional exam will cover chapters not previously covered in the class (noted on the schedule below). Also, there is no possible way to lose points by taking the optional exam. If you score lower than on a different exam, the optional exam grade will be the grade that is dropped. I strongly encourage all students to study hard for and take each of our four main exams—thus making it so the optional exam is unnecessary. That is, I do not recommend skipping exams and relying in the optional exam. But, if unexpected event occurs, the optional exam is there to help (e.g., if you have an unexpected emergency). You should consider the optional exam your safety-net. Because of the optional exam, I rarely give make-up exams. Finally, like the main four exams, the Optional Exam will be taken in the Department of Psychology computer labs.

Make-up exam policy: Missed exams will result in the grade of "0"--and as noted above this "0" can be replaced by taking the Optional Exam. Under unusual circumstances, make-up exams may be given. Please contact me in advance to request a make-up and please provide documentation for the make-up. Make-up exams must be taken within two weeks of the original exam. There are no make-ups for the Optional Exam and make-up exams will not be given during finals week.

Exam Review Sessions. Our class teaching assistant, Sam Oswald will be holding study sessions before each of the required exams in our course. Below are the *tentative* review session times and days:

- Exam 1 Review: Wednesday, 5:00PM to 6:30:PM, September 11, main campus, University Hall, room 6400
- Exam 2 Review: Wednesday, 5:00PM to 6:30:PM, October 2
- Exam 3 Review: Wednesday, 5:00PM to 6:30:PM, October 23
- Exam 4 Review: Wednesday, 5:00PM to 6:30:PM, November 13

Discussion: To stimulate engagement of the course material, I will post **4 discussion topics** throughout the semester (see calendar for post and due dates) in the Discussion Room. You are responsible to respond by posting at least one thoughtful, academic-style, response for each of the four topics. Your responses to the topics will be graded. Responses can be made any time between the posting of the discussion topic and the due date. Thus, you do not have to wait until the last day to post a response. **Each response is worth up to 10 points.** To receive full credit, responses must be insightful, relevant to the topic, clear and readable, and be a minimum of 8 sentences in length. Thus, a response of "I agree", or anything of that

nature will receive zero points. Points will also be taken off for posts that are hard to comprehend (e.g., poor grammar, spelling). Post your response under the appropriate topic # on the discussion page with your name and topic # under the subject heading. Please do not email me your discussion responses. Discussion posts are due by 11:59pm on the listed due date. Late discussion posts will be docked two points per day late. Late posts may not be graded promptly.

SESSION 1 – CHAPTERS 1-4: Introduction, research methodology, social cognition, social perception

Discussion Topic 1- Will be posted on August 26 and due September 6.

Exam 1– This exam covers chapters 1-4 and may be taken on September 16, 17, and 18.

Grades for Discussion Topic 1 will be posted on or before September 13, grades for Exam 1 will be posted on or before September 27.

SESSION 2 – CHAPTERS 5-7: The self, justification of actions, and attitudes

Discussion Topic 2 - Will be posted on September 19 and due September 27.

Exam 2 – This exam covers chapters 5-7 and may be taken on October 7, 8, and 9.

Grades for Discussion Topic 2 will be posted before or on October 4, grades for Exam 2 will be posted on or before October 18.

SESSION 3 – CHAPTERS 8-10: Conformity, group processes, and attraction

Discussion Topic 3 - Will be posted October 10 and due October 18.

Exam 3 – The exam covers chapters 8-10 and may be taken on October 28, 29, and 30.

Grades for Discussion Topic 3 will be posted on or before October 25, grades for Exam 3 will be posted on or before November 4.

SESSION 4 – CHAPTERS 11-13: Prosocial behavior, aggression, and prejudice

Discussion Topic 4 - Will be posted October 31 and due November 8.

Exam 4 – The exam covers chapters 11-13 and may be taken on November 18, 19, and 20.

Grades for discussion topic 4 will be posted on or before November 15, exam 4 grades and final grades will be posted on or before December 14.

OPTIONAL EXAM – CHAPTERS 14-16: Using social psychology for a happy, sustainable future, health, and the law

Optional Exam – The optional exam will cover the “Social Psychology in Action” Modules 1 – 3 at the back of the book. The Optional Exam may be taken on December 2, 3, and 4.

*Please note that the schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances and when the instructor needs to do so.

Additional Course Support

Technical Assistance: I am not a computer expert. Therefore, if you are having technical problems, please contact the Distance Learning Department at 419-530-8835 or toll free at 866-utoledo (866-886-5336) or by email at UTDL@utoledo.edu. Please contact them when problems arise—they want to help.

Notification of Technical Problems: If you are having problems with your computer and you are unable to notify me of this event by email, please contact me by phone. My contact

numbers are listed on the top of our syllabus. Technical problems with your computer are not a legitimate reason for failing to complete assignments or exams by posted deadlines. There are many computer options available to you, such as the many University of Toledo computer labs and the computers at public libraries. To find out the hours of the University of Toledo computer labs, you can call this number: 419-530-4636. Each student is responsible for finding their own alternative methods or locations to complete assignments by the given deadlines.

Academic Policies

All students at the University of Toledo are expected to read, understand, and follow the academic policies that govern their attendance at the University. These policies include, but are not limited to, academic dishonesty, academic forgiveness, adding and dropping a course, grades and grading, and the missed class policy. Please use the following URL to read a comprehensive list of academic policies that pertain to you in this class and throughout your academic journey: [Undergraduate Academic Policies](#). If you have any questions after reading through the policies, please let me know.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability (ADA)

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read [The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability – Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance](#).

Academic Accommodations

The University of Toledo embraces the inclusion of students with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring equal opportunity and seamless access for full participation in all courses. For students who have an accommodations memo from Student Disability Services, I invite you to correspond with me as soon as possible so that we can communicate confidentially about implementing accommodations in this course. For students who have not established affiliation with Student Disability Services and are experiencing disability access barriers or are interested in a referral to healthcare resources for a potential disability or would like information regarding eligibility for academic accommodations, please contact the [Student Disability Services Office](#) by calling 419.530.4981 or sending an email to StudentDisability@utoledo.edu.

Student Policies

Your safety and well-being as a University of Toledo Student is important to the faculty, staff, and administration; as such, please take a minute to review the comprehensive list of university policies that apply to you as a student of the University: [Student Policies](#).

ACADEMIC AND SUPPORT SERVICES

SAFETY AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR UT STUDENTS

Please use the following link to view a comprehensive list [Campus Health and Safety Services](#) available to you as a student.

Resources Related to Sexual or Gender-based Violence and Harassment

The University of Toledo cares greatly about the health and well-being of our students, staff, and faculty, and takes all sexual or gender-based violence and harassment very seriously. If you have experienced sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking and want a confidential place to obtain support and information, please contact the Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness on the main campus in Health and Human Services Room 3017. You can call 419.530.2497 during regular business hours and 419.530.3431 for 24 hour assistance from a trained advocate. In-person, walk-in appointments are also available Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness provides free and confidential advocacy and counseling services to students, faculty and staff. The YWCA H.O.P.E. Center also can be accessed as an off-campus confidential resource at 419.241.7273. Faculty, teaching assistants, and other university employees are mandated reporters of any incidents of sexual or gender-based violence or harassment. Thus, any disclosures of sexual or gender-based violence or harassment on or off campus made to faculty or teaching assistants, or other university employees must be forwarded to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Office will then contact you regarding your rights, your option to participate in the investigation, interim safety measures and/or academic accommodations, and the need to proceed with an investigation (even if none is requested). Your participation in the process is voluntary. You may call 419.530.3152 to file a complaint or visit the following website for more information and resources: <http://www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/>. Policies relating to Title IX can be found at: <http://www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/policies.html>.