

**Social Cognition (PSY-3720) / Fall 2021**  
**12:55pm-2:15pm T/R Remote/Synchronous Online**

<p><b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Jason Rose <b>Office:</b> UH 6516 Telephone: (419) 530-2278 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:Jason.Rose4@utoledo.edu">Jason.Rose4@utoledo.edu</a> <b>Office hours:</b> <i>Virtual Office Hours M 9-10:30am, T 10:30am-noon, or by appointment on Web Ex</i> (<a href="https://utoledo.webex.com/join/jason.rose4">https://utoledo.webex.com/join/jason.rose4</a>)</p>	<p><b>TA:</b> Michael Vang <b>Office:</b> UH 6509 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:mvang@rockets.utoledo.edu">mvang@rockets.utoledo.edu</a> <b>Office hours:</b> <i>Virtual Office Hours T 2:30pm-4pm, TR 2:30pm-4pm, or by appointment on Web Ex</i> (<a href="https://utoledo.webex.com/meet/michael.vang">https://utoledo.webex.com/meet/michael.vang</a>)</p>
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**Course Description**

The objective of this course is to provide an in-depth analysis of selected theories, empirical findings, and methodologies in field of social cognition. Social cognition is an approach to studying how people make sense of other people, themselves, and social situations by focusing on the cognitive processes and structures that underlie judgments, decisions, perceptions, beliefs, and behaviors. The topics include (but are not limited to) attribution, counterfactual thinking, judgment heuristics, schemas, person perception, attitudes, and stereotypes/prejudice. By the end of this class, you should be able to:

1. understand how and why cognitive processes and structures are relevant to social situations,
2. recognize the complexities underlying social thought and behavior,
3. critically evaluate research findings in scientific journal articles, and
4. apply basic science findings in social cognition to everyday judgments, decisions, and behaviors involving the self and other people.

**Course Readings and Text**

The readings are from various textbooks, edited books, and journal articles. All of these required readings and can be accessed through Blackboard (see “Lecture Content and Readings” link). On occasion, I may post additional, testable material (e.g., a short reading, a graph, supplementary lecture information) on Blackboard. In the event that I do post such material, I will announce this in class or via email.

**Class “Meetings” in Blackboard**

The course will be run synchronously online. This means that we will have a “live” meeting during normal class time in Blackboard using Collaborate Ultra. To join the course meeting, you log into Blackboard and click the link on the left-hand side of our Blackboard site labelled “BB Collaborate Ultra for Live Class Meetings”. Once inside that link, you should click on the icon labelled “Blackboard Collaborate Ultra” (with the video camera icon). Next, you should click on the link called “2021:4 Fall, PSY3720:001 Social Cognition - Course Room”. This should allow you to join the meeting. You should be able to “join” the live

meeting/course room 15 minutes before the start of class. Please make sure to login on time. If you have questions during the meeting, please use the chat function to either ask your question or use the “raise hand” function to indicate that you would like to ask a question. More information on how to join the live sessions can be found here:  
<http://utlv.screenstepslive.com/s/student/m/56924>

## **Course Requirements**

### **Exams**

There will be **4 exams over the course of the semester worth 100 points each (400 total)**. Each exam will draw from the readings, lectures, and other content presented and/or assigned since the previous exam (i.e., none of the exams, including the final, are comprehensive). 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. **Exams are taken online through the Blackboard system.** On the day of the exam (see schedule below), log into Blackboard and click on the “Exams” link on the left side. The relevant exam will be open from 8am-midnight on the day of the exam, and you can take it at any point during that time frame. You should not use your notes, book, journal articles, electronic devices, etc. during the exam. Thus, you should prepare for these online exams in the same way you prepare for any other in-class exam. Given that these are being taken online, you have a limited amount of time to complete each exam. Specifically, you will have 50 minutes to complete each exam, which will give you about 1.5 minutes per question. Once you begin the exam, you will need to complete it in one sitting (not in multiple tries). Under extreme circumstances, I will allow a given exam window to be extended if the student has a legitimate, university-appropriate reason for missing the window the first time. Please contact me (Dr. Rose) via email ASAP if you find yourself in this situation.

*Respondus Lock Down Browser:* Exams in this course are taken on-line through "Respondus Lock Down Browser" in Blackboard. This program is already on computers at the Field House and main campus library, but you may need to take several minutes to download on your computer prior to the examination. Information about this program is located at the following page: [https://www.utoledo.edu/dl/students/lockdown\\_pc.html](https://www.utoledo.edu/dl/students/lockdown_pc.html). This webpage also gives instructions on how to use this program for test taking. The program reduces the usage of other programs on your computer during the examination. You can download the program here: <http://www.utoledo.edu/dl/main/downloads.html>

### **Portfolio Reaction Papers**

One important aspect of learning this material is developing your ability to relate it to the real world. To this end, at **4 different points** throughout the course, you will be asked to identify and document examples of social-cognitive phenomena out in the real world. These can be based on your own personal experience (e.g., conversations with others, your observations of other people, of yourself, etc.), or taken from the media (news programs, pundits, magazines, etc.) or from popular culture (e.g., films, paintings, music, etc.). For each example, you would identify and describe the example, provide any references (e.g., news article, movie, etc.), and then explain exactly how it relates to a social cognitive theme, topic or process covered in lectures or readings. The examples do not need to relate to any particular course content; that is, they can relate to anything in

the entire course, whether presented in a lecture, reading, video, etc. Your explanation of each example must be between half a page and 1 full page (typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font). These will be submitted on Blackboard by the due dates listed below (see schedule). To submit these, go into Blackboard and click on the link for “Portfolio Papers”. Next, you will see four assignments corresponding to each of the four portfolio papers you will complete throughout the semester (e.g., Portfolio Paper 1, Portfolio Paper 2). Click on the relevant portfolio paper that you will be submitting to attach your paper. Papers handed in late will receive 5 points off for each class day they are late unless the student has a university-appropriate excuse. Also, failure to follow instructions (e.g., formatting, page limits) will result in point deductions.

**Grading Policy**

You earn points in the class as follows:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
4 Exams - 100 pts each	80%	400 points
4 Portfolio Papers – 25 pts each	20%	100 points
<i>Total</i>		<i>500 points</i>

**Letter Grades**

A	93+% > 463 points	C	73-76%	363-382
A-	90-92% 448-463	C-	70-72%	348-362
B+	87-89% 433-447	D+	67-69%	333-347
B	83-86% 413-432	D	63-66%	313-332
B-	80-82% 398-412	D-	60-62%	298-312
C+	77-79% 383-397	F	< 60%	<298

**Tentative Course Schedule**  
**(Subject to change based on in-class announcements)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment/Exam</b>
1	Aug. 31	Introduction & Themes in Social Cognition	(1) Ross & Wilson 66-69	
	Sept. 2	Introduction & Themes in Social Cognition		
2	Sept. 7	Dual Modes: Controlled & Automatic Processing	(2&3) Baron & Byrne 50-57, Lord 139-155	
	Sept. 9	Attribution	(4) Gilbert et al. 189-210	
3	Sept. 14	Attribution	(5) Noel et al. 151-162; (6) Rose et al 147-165	
	Sept. 16	Counterfactual Thinking	(7) Medvec et al. 603-610	<b>Portfolio Paper # 1 - Due 9-16 by midnight</b>
4	Sept. 21	Confirmation Bias	(8) Thornhill 1-9	
	Sept. 23	<b>Exam 1</b>		<b>Exam # 1 – Open Sept. 23, 8am to midnight</b>
5	Sept. 28	Heuristics & Biases – Big 3	(9) Kahneman & Tversky 1124-1131	
	Sept. 30	Heuristics & Biases – Big 3 / Other Biases ( <i>Durability Bias</i> )	(10) Gilbert et al 617-638	
6	Oct. 5	Heuristics & Biases – Big 3 / Other Biases ( <i>Spotlight effect</i> )	(11) Gilovich et al. 211-222	
	Oct. 7	Other Biases ( <i>Perseverance, Hindsight</i> )	(12) Ross et al. 880-892	
7	Oct. 12	Other Biases ( <i>Overconfidence/ optimism, Covariation</i> )	(13) Wells & Bradfield 360-376	<b>Portfolio Paper # 2 - Due 10-12 by midnight</b>
	Oct. 14	<i>No class – Fall Break</i>		
8	Oct. 19	Other Biases ( <i>Desirability-Related Biases</i> )	(14) Kay et al. 1300-1312; (15) Windschitl et al. 73-86	
	Oct. 21	<b>Exam 2</b>		<b>Exam # 2 – Open Oct. 21, 8am to midnight</b>
9	Oct. 26	Schemas/ Prototypes / Priming	(16) Lord 56-59, 61-65	
	Oct. 28	Schemas/ Prototypes / Priming	(17) Bargh et al. 230-244	

10	Nov. 2	Person Perception	(18) Tamir et al. 237-249; (19) Vogel et al. 2020	
	Nov. 4	Person Perception  The self / Egocentrism / Social Comparison	(20) Kruger 221-232	
11	Nov. 9	The self / Egocentrism / Social Comparison	(21) Rose et al. 1236-1248; (22) Savitsky & Gilovich 1-8	<b>Portfolio Paper # 3 - Due 11-9 by midnight</b>
	Nov. 11	<i>No Class – Veteran’s Day</i>		
12	Nov. 16	The self / Egocentrism / Social Comparison	(23) Loewenstein 49-56; (24) Vogel et al 206-222	
	Nov. 18	<b>Exam 3</b>		<b>Exam # 3 – Open Nov. 18, 8am to midnight</b>
13	Nov. 23	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</i>		
	Nov. 25	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</i>		
14	Nov. 30	Stereotypes	(25) Kunda 313-325	
	Dec. 2	Stereotypes / Implicit Measures	(26) Kunda 325-335, 340-346	
15	Dec. 7	Implicit Measures / Attitudes	(27) Kunda 346-365; (28) Rydell et al. 954-958	
	Dec. 9	Attitudes	(29) Strahan et al. 556-568; (30) Kunda 369-380	<b>Portfolio Paper # 4 - Due 12-9 by midnight</b>
16	<i>Week of Dec. 13</i>	<b>Finals week – Exam 4</b>		<b>Exam #4 – Open Dec. 16, 8am to midnight</b>

## Course Policies

### Email

I will respond to student email daily. During many days during the week, I will be in my physical office space in University Hall and thus may also be reached by phone or in person (see contact information above). Please email me to see if you have a particular time that you would like to speak with me or come to my office.

### Course Website and Computer Skills Requirements

The course website is on Blackboard (<http://www.dl.utoledo.edu>) and contains assignment information, some course content, exams, grades, etc. 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 or remote course before I highly recommend visiting [http://www.dl.utoledo.edu/help\\_desk/help.htm](http://www.dl.utoledo.edu/help_desk/help.htm) to learn how to work with the on-line course system.

**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](mailto: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 must 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 time at UT: <http://www.utoledo.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate/>. If you have any questions after reading through the policies, please let me know.

## **Collegiate/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 Disability Act Compliance](#).

Students can find this policy along with other university policies listed by audience on the [University Policy webpage](http://www.utoledo.edu/policies/audience.html/#students) (<http://www.utoledo.edu/policies/audience.html/#students>).

### **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 the Office of Accessibility and Disability Resources, 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 accommodations with the Office of Accessibility and Disability Resources and are experiencing disability access barriers or are interested in a referral to health care resources for a potential disability, please connect with the office by calling 419.530.4981 or sending an email to [StudentDisability@utoledo.edu](mailto:StudentDisability@utoledo.edu).

### **Institutional Classroom Attendance Policy**

Please be aware that the university has implemented an attendance policy, which requires faculty to verify student participation in every class a student is registered at the start of each new semester/course. For this course, if you have not attended/participated in class (completed any course activities or assignments) within the first 14 days, I am required by federal law to report you as not attended. Unfortunately, not attending/participating in class impacts your eligibility to receive financial aid, so it is VERY important that you attend class and complete course work in these first two weeks. Please contact me as soon as possible to discuss options and/or possible accommodations if you have any difficulty completing assignments within the first two weeks.

### **University of Toledo Policy Pertaining to Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Among the aims of education are the acquisition of knowledge and the development of skills necessary for success in any profession.

Activities inconsistent with these aims are not permitted. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes academic dishonesty. If students are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating they should seek the instructor's advice. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarizing or representing the words, ideas or information of another person as one's own and not offering proper credit or documentation to the other person;
- Giving or receiving, prior to an examination, any unauthorized information concerning the content of that examination;
- Referring to or displaying any unauthorized materials inside or outside of the examination room during the course of an examination;

- Communicating during an examination in any manner with any unauthorized person concerning the examination or any part of it;
- Giving or receiving substantive aid during the course of an examination;
- Starting an examination before the stipulated time or continuing to work on an examination after the announced conclusion of the examination period;
- Taking, converting, concealing, defacing, damaging or destroying any property related to the preparation or completion of assignments, research, or exams;
- Submitting the same written work to fulfill the requirements for more than one course.

### **Other Policies**

Your safety and well-being as a University of Toledo student is important to the faculty, staff, and administration; as such please take time outside of class to review the code of conduct and non-discrimination policies that apply to you as a student:

<https://www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/policies.html>. You can use this URL to view a more comprehensive list of student policies:

<https://www.utoledo.edu/policies/audience.html/#students>.

### **Academic and Support Services**

Please follow this link (<http://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/departments.html>) to view a comprehensive list of [Student Academic and Support Services](#) available to you. UT also provides a variety of academic and support services on campus to help you succeed and reach your fullest potential. Whether you need to ask a question, get help with an assignment, seek advice from a counselor, find a job or join a club, UToledo offers some help:

Tutoring: <http://www.utoledo.edu/success/lec/>

Library: <http://www.utoledo.edu/library/>

Success Coaching: <https://www.utoledo.edu/successcoach/>

Student Affairs: <http://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/>

Career Services: <http://www.utoledo.edu/success/career/>

### **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. It covers services related health, mental health, emergencies, and discrimination, among other things. In addition, UT provides assistance via a Food Pantry: <http://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/food-pantry/>.



## **Special Course Expectations During COVID-19**

Maintaining a safe campus during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic remains a top priority. UToledo continues to follow the guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Ohio Department of Health to keep our campus safe.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The University of Toledo has a missed class policy. It is important that students and instructors discuss attendance requirements for the course. Before coming to campus each day, students should take their temperature and complete a self-assessment for symptoms of COVID-19, such as cough, chills, fatigue or shortness of breath. Anyone with a temperature at or above 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or who is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should not come to campus and contact their primary care physician or the University Health Center at 419.530.5549. For more information on the symptoms of COVID-19, please go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

COVID-19 testing for sick students is available on both Main Campus and Health Science Campus. Call 419.383.4545 for an appointment. Absences due to COVID-19 quarantine or isolation requirements **are** considered excused absences. Students should notify their instructors and follow the protocols summarized in this document on [Navigating COVID-Related Course Concerns](#).

In the event that you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been diagnosed as a probable case, please review the [CDC guidance](#) on self-isolation and symptom monitoring, and report the disclosure to the Division of Student Affairs by emailing [StudentAffairs@utoledo.edu](mailto:StudentAffairs@utoledo.edu) or by connecting with their on-call representative at 419.343.9946. Disclosure is voluntary and will only be shared on a need to know basis with staff such as in the Office of Student Advocacy and Support, The Office of Residence Life, and/or the Office of Accessibility and Disability Resources to coordinate supportive measures and meet contact tracing requirements.

### **FACE COVERINGS**

Face coverings are required while on campus, except while eating, alone in an enclosed space, or outdoors practicing social distancing. Students will not be permitted in class without a face covering. If you have a medical reason preventing you from wearing a face covering due to a health condition deemed high-risk by the CDC, submit an [online application](#) to request an accommodation through the Office of Accessibility and Disability Resources. Students will need to provide documentation that verifies their health condition or disability and supports the need for accommodations. Students already affiliated with the Office of Accessibility and Disability Resources who would

like to request additional accommodations due to the impact of COVID-19, should contact their accessibility specialist to discuss their specific needs. You may connect with the office by calling 419.530.4981 or sending an email to [StudentDisability@utoledo.edu](mailto:StudentDisability@utoledo.edu).

### **VACCINATION**

Doctors and other health care professionals agree that the best way to protect ourselves and each other is to get vaccinated. Case data clearly show that vaccines remain highly effective at preventing serious illness from COVID, including the highly contagious delta variant. If you have not yet received your COVID vaccine, the University encourages you do so as soon as possible. No appointment is needed to get the shot at the UTMC Outpatient Pharmacy, University Health Clinic or Main Campus Pharmacy. Once you receive the COVID vaccination, please register on the COVID Vaccine Registry site at: <https://utvaccinereg.utoledo.edu/>.

### **SPECIAL NOTES**

It's important to note, that based on the unpredictability of the COVID-19 virus, things can change at any time. So please be patient and understanding as we move through the semester. I also ask that you keep me informed of concerns you may have about class, completing course work/assignments timely and/or health concerns related to COVID.