

Summer 2015

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Geers

Course: Social Psychology, 2700  
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Class Days/Times: THIS IS A **HYBRID** Distance Learning Class.  
All of the course will take place on-line EXCEPT for the examinations. As described below, Exams will be taken on the University of Toledo main campus.

## **Course Description**

### **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.

**Prerequisite:** Psychology 1010

### **Required Reading Material**

Aronson, Wilson, & Akert. *Social Psychology*. (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). Addison Wesley Longman Inc.: New York (ISBN number: 0205796621). If you cannot afford to buy the textbook, a copy is on reserve in the University of Toledo Carson library. Earlier editions of this textbook are not appropriate.

\*Copies of the book are best purchased with access to "My Psychlab". My Psychlab access is not required for the course because I did not wish to raise the book price for all. That said, I highly recommend getting My Psychlab with your textbook as it provides many extremely helpful tools such as extra practice exam items and chapter outlines. I will send an email about My Psychlab early in the term.

### **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.utolledo.edu/help-it-skillhelp.htm> to learn how to work with the on-line course system.

### **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**– This is where you are right now!
  - **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 timeline 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.
  - 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.

### **Correspondence Policies & Procedures**

**Responding to Your E-mail:** I set aside specific time each weekday to respond to student email from this class. I will try to respond as soon as I can.

**General E-mail:** When sending email to me or to the rest of the class, please identify yourself fully in the text of the email. Use the subject header to indicate if the email is a general comment, question for the entire class, or a question specifically for me. If you are responding to other message or my questions, please reply directly to that message.

**Important Note:** 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 tips!)" link on the left menu.

### **Course Expectations**

Here are some of my 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.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:** Please be aware that any instances of cheating will result in an automatic "F" for the course. You will also be referred to the college Dean with the possible sanction of expulsion from the University. Please don't cheat.

**Professional Courtesy:** It is my expectation that you will act, perform, and conduct yourself as a true professional. This includes the content and style of your online communication and the nature of

communication with me. Profanity, vulgar, or offensive words or phrases are unacceptable. Offensive behavior will be immediately reported to the college Dean and University Officials.

### **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 [DL@utoledo.edu](mailto:DL@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.

### **Grading**

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

<b>Grading:</b>	<b>Points</b>
Exams	240
Discussion	40
Total Points:	280

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Points</b>
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 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.** The exams will draw from the text, lectures, and the media presentations. 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. 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 between 12:00 PM and 6:30 PM on Mondays and between 9 AM and 6:30 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (the lab is closed on Fridays). 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 70 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 4 days to come to the computer lab to take each exam (see the course calendar for specific exam dates). Having four 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 two additional days to take the exam. I **STRONGLY** advise you to plan on taking the exam on the first or second day and to keep the 4th day solely as a back-up. I especially urge you to not wait until the last minute on the 4th day to take the exam as this leaves you no time to deal with problems that may arise.

*Respondus Lock Down Browser:* FYI, exams in this course are taken through a program called "Respondus Lock Down Browser". The program reduces 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.

*Bonus 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 a “bonus exam” near the end of the course. The bonus exam can be used to *replace* one prior exam. Thus, the bonus 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 bonus 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 bonus 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 bonus exam. If you score lower than on a different exam, the bonus 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 bonus exam is unnecessary. That is, I do not recommend skipping exams and relying in the bonus exam. But, if unexpected event occurs, the bonus exam is there to help (e.g., if you have an unexpected emergency). You should consider the bonus exam your safety-net. Because of the bonus exam, I rarely give make-up exams. Thus, students should take the bonus exam if they miss an exam. Finally, like the main four exams, the Bonus Exam will be taken in the Department of Psychology computer labs following the schedule given above--but this exam is open for only two days.

*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 Bonus Exam. Under extraordinary circumstances, make-up exams may be given. You need to contact me in advance to request a make-up and documentation of the reason for the make-up must be provided before the exam can be taken. Make-up exams must be taken within two weeks of the original exam. There are no make-ups for the Bonus Exam.

**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 one point per day late. Late posts may not be graded promptly. After 9 days, late discussion posts will not be accepted.

## **SESSION 1 – CHAPTERS 1-4**

**Discussion Topic 1-** Will be posted on Aug 28 and due by Sept 11.

**Exam 1-** This exam covers chapters 1-4 and may be taken on Sept 14, 15, 16, or 17.

**Grades** for Discussion Topic 1 and Exam 1 will be posted on or before Oct 2.

**SESSION 2 – CHAPTERS 5-7**

**Discussion Topic 2 -** Will be posted on Sept 18 and due by Oct 9.

**Exam 2 –** This exam covers chapters 5-7 and may be taken on Oct 12, 13, 14, or 15.

**Grades** for Discussion Topic 2 and Exam 2 will be posted on or before Oct 30.

**SESSION 3 – CHAPTERS 8-10**

**Discussion Topic 3 -** Will be posted Oct 16 and due Nov 13.

**Exam 3 –** The exam covers chapters 8-10 and may be taken on Nov 16, 17, 18, or 19.

**Grades** for Discussion Topic 3 and Exam 3 will be posted on or before Dec 4.

**SESSION 4 – CHAPTERS 11-13**

**Discussion Topic 4** - Will be posted Nov 20 and due Dec 4.

**Exam 4** – The exam covers chapters 11-13 and may be taken on Dec 7, 8, 9, or 10.

**BONUS EXAM – CHAPTERS 14-16**

**Grades** for discussion topic 4, exam 4, and final grades will be posted on or before Dec 22.

**Bonus Exam** – The bonus exam will cover the “Social Psychology in Action” Modules 1 – 3 at the back of the book (prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the textbook these were called chapters 14-16). The Bonus Exam may be taken on Dec 14 or 15.

\*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.

**We will also adhere to the following Collegiate Policies set out by the University of Toledo**

*Students with Disabilities.* Reasonable accommodations will be made for anyone with a disability that may require some modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements. Students must contact the Office of Accommodations (Rocket Hall 1820) for an evaluation and a form specifying what course accommodations are judged reasonable for that student. Please contact the instructor after class or during office hours so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

The contact information for the Office of Accommodations is as follows:

Campus Address: Rocket Hall 1820, Mail Stop #342

Phone Number: 419.530.4981

Web: <http://www.utoledo.edu/utlc/accessibility/>



*University of Toledo Policy Pertaining to Academic Integrity* Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Among the aims of education are the acquisition of knowledge and development of the skills necessary for success in any profession. Activities inconsistent with these aims will not be 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 documentation;
- 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;
- Commencing 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 examination;
- Submitting the same written work to fulfill the requirements for more than one course.