PSY 2319 22000 – Social Psychology

Spring 2022

Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Academic Building 219

Instructor: Tyler N. Livingston, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
Email: tyler.livingston@angelo.edu
Phone: 325-486-6812
Office: Academic Building 104H
Office Hours: M/W 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., Tu/Th 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., and by appointment
Graduate Assistant: Carter Adams (cadams31@angelo.edu)

Course Information

Social psychology is the study of how people think, feel, and behave in the real or imagined presence of other human beings. Social psychologists use scientific methods to understand and apply principles of human interaction.

This course conveys three major domains of social psychological inquiry: social thinking (e.g., what do people know about themselves and others?), social influence (e.g., what affects thought and behavior?), and social relations (e.g., why do people feel negatively or positively about particular others?). Within each domain, students explore theories and research that characterize the field of social psychology.

Learning in this course occurs by establishing familiarity with concepts, critically evaluating those concepts, and integrating them with students' personal interests to create something novel. The course emphasizes the importance of these practices to the advancement of social psychology and to students' professional development.

Course Description from RamPort

A survey of environmental forces as they affect individual and group behavior. Topics to be studied include subcultural influences, group dynamics, attitude change, interpersonal attraction, prosocial behavior and health. (Credit may not be earned for this course and Sociology 2326.)

Course Delivery

This is a lecture and discussion course that incorporates digital slideshows, physical handouts, and interactive demonstrations. I will post all handouts, but not slideshows, to Blackboard. Each student is responsible for understanding the content presented in class as well as the textbook content.

Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites, using ASU Library resources, navigating ASU's Blackboard learning management system, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and PowerPoint are expectations of the Department of Psychology.

Required Text
Myers, D., & Twenge, J. (2021). *Exploring social psychology* (9th Ed.). McGraw-Hill. ([Link])

Alternative Text:
Stangor, C. (2015). *Principles of social psychology*. University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing. ([Link])
Exams and course materials are based on Myers and Twenge (2021). Students may supplement with the free, open access textbook by Stangor (2015).

Communication
Students who contact the instructor via email should expect a response within 24 hours on weekdays. Weekend emails might not receive a response until the next weekday. Students must email the instructor using their ASU email addresses to avoid messages being filtered as spam or junk. It is the student's responsibility to check email regularly for direct messages from the instructor and for class announcements.

Students should address emails to the instructor, convey their message concisely, and sign their emails with their full name and course number, as follows:

From: student.name@angelo.edu
To: tyler.livingston@angelo.edu

Subject: Trouble submitting assignment on Blackboard – PSY 2319

Hello Tyler,

I am having trouble submitting my empirical analysis assignment due tomorrow, Thursday, March 10. Because Blackboard will not accept my assignment in the submission portal, I've attached it to this email. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you,

Student Name
PSY 2319, Tu/Th 10 a.m.

Program Outcomes
Upon completion of the program of study for the Department of Psychology, the graduate will be prepared to:
1. access and use relevant psychological knowledge to solve comprehensive problems in different domains of the discipline.
2. communicate effectively in a variety of formats.
3. use information from the different branches of psychology to analyze and improve human functioning in a variety of social contexts. (B.A. Program)
4. use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes. (B.S. Program)

Student Learning Outcomes

By completing all course requirements, students will be able to…

Student Learning Outcome	Assignment/s or Activity/ies Validating Outcome Achievement	Mapping to Program Outcomes
differentiate social psychology from other related disciplines.	Exams, in my life assignments, empirical analyses, research proposal	Outcomes 3-4
understand, articulate, and apply technical terms used by social psychologists.	Exams, in my life assignments, implicit bias assignment, empirical analyses, research proposal	Outcomes 1-2
describe the theoretical foundations of landmark social psychological studies.	Exams, empirical analyses, research proposal	Outcome 3
explain the research methodologies utilized by social psychologists.	Empirical analyses, research proposal	Outcomes 1, 4
apply principles of social psychology to personal interests to generate novel ideas.	In my life assignments, empirical analyses, research proposal	Outcomes 1, 3-4

IDEA Objectives

Students will formally evaluate this course by describing their progress toward:

IDEA Objective	Assignment/s or Activity/ies Validating Outcome Achievement	Mapping to Program Outcomes
Gaining a basic understanding of the subject.	Exams, empirical analyses	Outcome 3
Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.	Exams, implicit bias assignment, empirical analyses, research proposal	Outcomes 1, 3-4
Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.	Implicit bias assignment, empirical analyses, research proposal	Outcomes 2, 4
Developing skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing.	In my life assignments, implicit bias assignment, empirical analyses, research proposal	Outcomes 2, 4

Evaluation and Grades

Assessment	Points toward Total Grade
Three exams	15 pts each, 45 pts total
Syllabus quiz	5
Three empirical analyses	5 pts each, 15 pts total
Three "social psychology in my life" assignments	5 pts each, 15 pts total
Implicit bias assignment	5
Research question and method	5
Research findings and implications	5
Final research proposal	5
Total points	**100**

Grading System
Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:
        A = 90.00 – 100 points
        B = 80.00 – 89.99 points
        C = 70.00 – 79.99 points
        D = 60.00 – 69.99 points
        F = 0 – 59.99 points (Grades are not rounded up)

Teaching Strategies
Students are expected to be "active learners." It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (**beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course**) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material with their peers.

Assignment and Activity Descriptions

Please review each rubric on our Blackboard course page before beginning your assignments.

Exams

Each student will complete three noncumulative exams. Each exam consists of 50 multiple choice questions. Students must supply their own Scantron forms and pencils for each exam. Together, the three exams comprise 45% of the final course grade (i.e., each exam is worth 15%). The instructor will post exam study guides to Blackboard to facilitate students' understanding of course content. Students can earn bonus points on their exams by submitting original, detailed, and completed study guides via Blackboard before 10:00 a.m. on the exam date.

Research Proposal

Each student will prepare a research proposal. Students will formulate and describe how they would address their own social psychological research questions. There will be three separate deadlines for this proposal: one for formulating a research question and selecting a research method, one for describing anticipated findings and their implications for social psychology and for everyday life, and one for a final written product. Together, these three assignments are worth 15% of the final course grade (i.e., each assignment is wroth 5%).

Social Psychology In My Life Assignments

Students will complete three "social psychology in my life" assignments throughout the semester. Together, these assignments will comprise 15% of the final course grade (i.e., each assignment is worth 5%). Students will respond to prompts promoting application of social psychological concepts to personal interests and experiences. These assignments develop students' written communication and critical thinking skills. First, students will indicate and describe a social psychological concept from class that interests them. Second, students will describe how that concept applies to or explains a personal experience or observation about social behavior. Third, students will articulate two research questions related to the concept.

Empirical Analyses

The instructor will present and discuss three empirical social psychological research articles in class throughout the semester. The student's task is to write an 8-to-12-sentence *analysis* (not just a summary) of the empirical article. This analysis provides students the opportunity to ask or answer a follow-up research question (e.g., "How else could researchers manipulate feelings of power? A subtle priming manipulation would allow for less resource intensive data collection and a larger sample size…"), make an original point (e.g., "I believe this study was flawed because…and I would improve it by…"), or apply the results of the study to their own life (e.g., "I found this study interesting or personally relevant because…"). Together, these three assignments will comprise 15% of the final course grade (i.e., each assignment is worth 5%).

Implicit Bias Assignment

Each student will apply class concepts and practice critical thinking by reflecting on their results from two implicit association tests (IATs). Each student will select any two IATs to complete from the Project Implicit website. After completing their two IATs, students will submit a written assignment that (1) states which IATs they completed, (2) describes whether and why they were/were not surprised by their

results, (3) explains whether they believe the results to reflect their social attitudes accurately, or whether they remain skeptical about their results, and (4) provides one thoughtful reason why the IAT might be an *accurate* measure of social attitudes, and one thoughtful reason why the IAT might be an *inaccurate* measure of social attitudes. This assignment is worth 5% of the final course grade.

Syllabus Quiz

Each student will submit a take-home syllabus quiz to enhance and demonstrate their awareness of their expectations in this course. The syllabus quiz is worth 5% of the final course grade.

Extra Credit

Students may earn up to 5 extra credit points by earning SONA research participation credits. Students can access the ASU's SONA System by logging in with their @angelo.edu email address. Each completed SONA credit applied to this course (PSY 2319 – Livingston) is worth 1% added to students' final course grade (maximum 5). Thus, a student who earns 88% (B) in the class and completes 2 Sona credits will receive a final course grade of 90% (A).

Assignment Submission

All electronic assignments MUST be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard site. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue occurs regarding an assignment submission, email me at tyler.livingston@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. **Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue.** This report indicates to your professor that you completed the assignment on time but had trouble using the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

Late Work and Missed Assignments Policies

Each student is entitled to one "extra time pass" on an assignment of their choosing, apart from any assignment due after Thursday, April 28. The extra time pass allows students to submit an assignment after its deadline without penalty. To utilize their extra time pass, students must (1) inform the instructor of their decision via email *prior to the assignment deadline*, and (2) provide the instructor with a new deadline for the assignment. The new deadline must be before Thursday, April 28. Students may not apply extra time passes retroactively on assignments whose original due dates have already passed.

The instructor will deduct 10% per day from the final score of all late assignments not subject to an extra time pass. All missing assignments will receive a score of 0% (F).

General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook[1]
- Angelo State University Catalog[2]

Attendance-Participation

Attendance involves punctuality and presence in class, whereas participation involves active engagement in lectures and discussions: Each is necessary to succeed in class. Regarding attendance specifically, students are allowed two "free" absences that do not require advance notice or an official excuse. The instructor may deduct one percentage point per absence from the final grade of any student who misses more than two classes without an official excuse.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU. The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university's Statement of Academic Integrity.[3]

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website.[4] The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is Dallas Swafford (dallas.swafford@angelo.edu).

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures[5] for more information.

Academic Integrity

Cheating, plagiarism, or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses constitutes academic misconduct according to ASU's Academic Integrity policy[6] in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism specifically is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. In your assignments, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Your instructor will not tolerate plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct. Penalties for such behavior can include posting a final grade of F for the assignment or for the course or requiring the student to retake the assignment. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.[7]

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day[8] for more information.

Syllabus Changes

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student's responsibility to look for such communications about the course daily.

Title IX at Angelo State University

ASU prohibits discrimination based on sex. Students are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance. Note that as a faculty member at ASU, your instructor is mandated to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Students who wish to speak with someone in confidence may contact Counseling Services, the 24-hour ASU Crisis Helpline, or the University Health Clinic.

Grading Rubrics

To view grading rubrics for your assignments, please go to the **"My Grades"** link in your Blackboard course and select **"View Rubric"** under each graded item.

End of Syllabus

---

[1] https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/

[2] https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/

[3] https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php

[4] https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/

[5] https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures

[6] https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php

[7] https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php

[8] https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of