

PSY 4323 22128 – Advanced Social Psychology

Spring 2022



Monday/Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m., Academic Building 219

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Course Information

In your introductory social psychology course, you probably learned that social psychologists study thought, emotion, and behavior in the real or imagined presence of other human beings. This description is accurate: Social psychology is the systematic study of human interaction. Its practitioners apply theory and research methods to *describe* what we think, feel, and do; *explain* why; and *predict* consequential outcomes (e.g., romantic attraction, moral reasoning).

The current course extends students' understanding of this discipline to foster the competencies required of successful social psychologists. Such competencies include effective written and oral communication, proficiency at gathering information, and healthy skepticism that inspires new questions and ideas. In fostering these competencies, this course provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to pursue continued education or a career in social psychology. Students with other aspirations learn to transfer these competencies to their area of interest.

Students in this course gain greater depth and breadth of social psychological understanding; analyze and critically evaluate theories, methods, and topics from the perspective of a social psychologist; and practice professional speaking and writing to convey novel ideas.

Course Description from RamPort

An in-depth study of selected topics in social psychology, emphasizing classic and contemporary readings. (Prerequisites: PSY 2319 or SOC 2326.)

Course Delivery

This course provides an active and interactive learning experience: Students should come to class prepared to engage with weekly topics and assigned course material. Class meetings consist of a combination of mini-lectures, small group discussions, and thinking or writing exercises. 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. Students must also utilize their @angelo.edu email address and its associated [Google Drive](#) account.

Required Text

Biswas-Diener, R., & Diener, E. F. (Eds.) (2016). *Together: The science of social psychology*. Noba. ([Link](#))

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 information, as follows:

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

Subject: Trouble submitting assignment on Blackboard – PSY 4323

Hello Tyler,

I am having trouble submitting my final research proposal assignment due tomorrow, Monday, May 2. 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 4323 M/W 1 p.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
Analyze and evaluate historic and contemporary topics in social psychology.	Exams, class discussion lead	Outcomes 3-4
Apply healthy skepticism when consuming social scientific information.	Exams, class discussion lead	Outcome 4
Communicate orally and in writing about historic, contemporary, and novel ideas.	Exams, notes, class discussion lead, research proposal and presentation	Outcomes 1-2
Develop a research proposal inclusive of literature review, method, and anticipated findings.	Research proposal and presentation	Outcomes 1-2, 4
Practice contributing to the trajectory of social psychological thinking and research.	Class discussion lead, research proposal and presentation	Outcome 4
Provide and receive constructive criticism of research questions, hypotheses, and methods.	Research proposal and presentation	Outcome 2

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
Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.	Exams, class discussion lead, research proposal and presentation	Outcomes 1, 3-4
Developing skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing.	Notes, class discussion lead, research proposal and presentation	Outcomes 2, 4
Learning how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in depth.	Research proposal and presentation	Outcomes 1, 4
Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.	Exams, class discussion lead, research proposal and presentation	Outcomes 2, 4

Evaluation and Grades

Assessment	Points toward Total Grade
Two exams	10 pts each, 20 pts total
Ten notes	2 pts each, 20 pts total
Class discussion lead	5
Research proposal: Idea	5
Research proposal: Literature review	10
Research proposal: Method	10
Research proposal: Findings and implications	10
Research proposal: Peer review feedback	5
Research proposal: Final	5
Research proposal: Presentation	10
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 grading rubrics on Blackboard before beginning your assignments.

Exams

Each student will complete two open-note take-home exams. Each exam will consist of short-answer questions directly relevant to information discussed in class. Students must respond to each question in writing to demonstrate their understanding of topics related to social psychology and its applications. Together, the two exams comprise 20% of the final grade (i.e., each exam is worth 10%).

Notes

Each student will take notes on weekly readings using the [Cornell Note Taking System](#). Compared to a traditional method of notetaking, the Cornell method can improve students' studying skills and academic achievement (visit [Wikipedia](#) for more information). The image below illustrates the required components of Cornell notes. Students will submit their notes to the instructor on Wednesdays in class. Students may (legibly) *handwrite or type* their notes, but notes must be submitted to the instructor in hard copy (i.e., students who type their notes must print them before class time). The instructor will return notes promptly so that students may refer to them before and during exams. Students will submit 12 sets of notes throughout the semester. The instructor will "drop" students' two lowest scores. Together, the 10 graded notes are worth 20% of the final grade (i.e., each set of notes is worth 2%).

Cornell Notes

Class: _____
Date: _____

Cue Column	Note-taking Column
- Key words	- Key ideas
- Key questions	- Important dates, people, places
	- Diagrams and pictures
	- Formulas
	- Repeated (stressed) information

Summary

- Summary of your notes in your own words

Class Discussion Lead

Each student will sign up for one class to serve as discussion leader. In this role, the student must become familiar with the topic and provide the class with supplemental content (e.g., videos, research or news articles) and questions or ideas for class discussion. Students' Cornell notes should aid with this assignment. The discussion leader is responsible for emailing the instructor (tyler.livingston@angelo.edu) and the graduate assistant (cadams31@angelo.edu) all content to be discussed in class at or before 10:00 a.m. on the morning of the class meeting. This assignment is worth 5% of the final grade.

Research Proposal and Presentation

Each student will prepare and present a research proposal inclusive of literature review, research question(s) or hypothesis(es), method, and implications. There will be six separate deadlines for the components of this assignment. First, students will formulate and describe a research idea that merges social psychology with their personal interests or observations of human behavior. Second, students will compose a 1-page literature review that describes the current state of the science relevant to the topic. Third, students will compose a 1-page method section that explains how the student would address the research question(s) or test the hypothesis(es). Fourth, students will compose a 1-page implications section that articulates the import of students' anticipated findings to the field of social psychology (i.e., "intellectual merit") and to the real world (i.e., "broader impact"). Fifth, students will provide and receive peer feedback analogous to the professional peer review process. Sixth, students will present their research proposal to the class, and facilitate intellectual discussion, using a medium of their choice (e.g., slides, handouts). In total, the Research Proposal and Presentation assignments are worth 55% of the final 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 4323 – 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 Class Discussion Lead and any assignment due after Wednesday, April 20. 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 Wednesday, April 27. 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](#).

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>