



Psychology

Central College/Distance Education

PSYC 2319-Social Psychology

Sections 40237 and 40487 –Spring 2015 16-week semester
Online/ 48 hours per semester

Instructor: David Gersh, PhD

Instructor Contact Information

Eagle Online Quickmail

(This is the preferred method of contacting me and *requires* the use of your student.hccs.edu mailbox.)

Office phone and voice mail: 713.718.6243

Home phone: 713.772.6473 (9 am to 9 pm only!)

Email (use only if Eagle Online is not working): david.gersh@hccs.edu

Office location and hours

Your progress in this class is important to me. Please feel free to come by my office (Central College, A231, EDC Bldg., 3214 Austin St.) to discuss your concerns with the class or related problems. My office hours are 10 to 11:25 am and 1:00 to 2:25 pm Mondays and Wednesdays. I am usually in my office at 4:00 pm, too. If you are not free during these hours, we can arrange an alternate meeting. At various times during the semester I will be in our website's chatroom for an online office hour.

Course Description

A study of social cognition, social behavior, interpersonal relations, and group membership. Emphasis on theories, research, and applications. (3 credits lecture. 0 credits lab.)

Prerequisites

- PSYC 2301 passed with a C or higher
- Placed into college-level reading (or take GUST 0342 as a co-requisite) *and* be placed into college-level writing (or take ENGL 0310/0349 as a co-requisite)

Instructional Materials

Required textbook: Kassin, S., Fein, S., Markus, H. (2014). *Social Psychology* 9th ed. Cengage: Belmont, CA. (ISBN: 9781285902456)

If your local HCC bookstore does not have the book . . . do not panic . . . a copy can be transferred from the Central College to your nearest HCC bookstore in a day or two. If you cannot come to an HCC bookstore, go to their website hccs.bkstore.com. If you purchase from an Internet bookseller, or directly from the publisher, be sure to request Priority Mail, since media mail may take up to 2 weeks.

It is strongly recommended that you purchase, for \$6, the online flashcards/practice quiz study guide at <http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/search/9781133957751>

An eBook, combination eBook+study guide ([CourseMate](#)), textbook rental, or a PDF version are all available at [cengagebrain.com](#). If you just want an eBook, the bookstore can sell you the access code or you can use [coursesmart.com](#).

Schedule

This class is not self-paced. Students who fall behind do not do as well as students who keep on schedule. By falling behind, you also risk being dropped from the class or receiving an FX grade.

Week	begins Monday	Readings, Assignments, and Tests
0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View orientation and submit DE Data Form. If you have never used Eagle Online, go through the tutorial in Step 2 of the orientation. Failure to submit Data Form, Step 6, may lead to being dropped.
1	1/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase textbook. Familiarize yourself with Eagle Online. Upload your mini-autobiography into Introduce Yourself.
2	1/26	<p>Set 1 chapter notes, exams, and discussion #1 available January 26. Chapter 1—What is Social Psychology? Chapter 2—Doing Social Psychology Research</p> <p>Anyone not having logged on and uploaded Introduce Yourself, by Sunday, February 1, 11:55 pm, will be dropped from the class.</p>
3	2/2	
4	2/9	First set of tests and discussion #1 close Sunday, February 15, at 11:55 P.M.
5	2/16	<p>Set 2 chapter notes, exams, and discussion #2 available February 16. Chapter 3—The Social Self Chapter 4—Perceiving Persons Chapter 5—Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination</p>
6	2/23	Chapter 4 homework available on Monday, February 23
7	3/2	<p>Chapter 4 homework due on Wednesday, March 4, at 11:55 pm.</p> <p>Second set of tests and discussion #2 close Sunday, March 8, at 11:55 P.M.</p>
8	3/9	<p>Set 3 chapter notes, exams, and discussion #3 available March 9. Chapter 6—Attitudes Chapter 7—Conformity Chapter 8—Group Processes</p>
	3/16-3/22	Spring Break

9	3/23	Chapter 7 homework available Monday, March 23.
10	3/30	Chapter 7 homework due Wednesday, April 1, at 11:55 P.M. Third set of tests and discussion #3 close Sunday, April 5, at 11:55 P.M.
11	4/6	Set 4 chapter notes, exams, discussion #4 available April 6. Chapter 9—Attraction and Close Relationships Chapter 10—Helping Others Chapter 11—Aggression Chapter 9 homework available on Monday, April 6. <i>Anyone who has not taken at least four exams by April 6, 11:59 pm, will be dropped from the class.</i> <i>Tuesday, April 7 at 4:30 pm is the last day to drop a 16-week class.</i>
12	4/13	Chapter 9 homework due on Wednesday, April 15 at 11:55 pm.
13	4/20	
14	4/27	Final exam study guide available April 27 on class homepage. Fourth set of tests and discussion #4 close Sunday, May 3, at 11:55 P.M.
15	5/4	Study for final exam Optional extra credit due Thursday, May 7, at 11:55 P.M. Final Exam Pick the one that is most convenient for you. No reservations needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, May 8, Central College San Jacinto Bldg., 1301 Holman 4:00pm - 9:00pm <i>Last admit: 7:00pm</i> • Saturday, May 9, Spring Branch Campus – 1010 Sam Houston Pkwy 10:00am - 3:00pm <i>Last admit: 1:00pm</i> • Sunday, May 10, Eastside Campus - 6815 Rustic 10:00am - 3:00pm <i>Last admit: 1:00pm</i> Scoring below a 50 on the final exam will result in an <i>F</i> for the semester regardless of any previous grades.
16	5/11	Missed exams can be made up from 5/10 through 5/15. Makeups are not for poor grades, homework, Introduce Yourself, or Discussions. <i>Official transcripts available on May 22.</i>

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and make ups
- Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students as required

To be successful in this class, it is the student's responsibility to:

- Logon and complete assignments, discussions, and/or exams at least once a week
- Read the Monday Announcements every week
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete, on or prior to their due-date, required assignments, discussions, and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork and files, including this syllabus and all assignments

Instructional Methods

A summary of my lecture notes are posted for each chapter. In addition, I have posted specific study objectives for each chapter. I will answer questions about any topic in any chapter. I will provide feedback after each group of tests closes. Every Monday an announcement will be posted on the class website and sent to your HCC student email.

Student Assignments

Homework Assignments

There will be three written assignments. You will receive each 10 days before it is due. If a written assignment is turned in late, you will lose 10 points for each day late. All homework must be submitted to the *AskOnLine* English tutors for corrections and suggestions, prior to your writing your final draft. If I don't receive both the *AskOnLine* file and your final draft, uploaded to the class website's *Homework Assignments* section, you will receive a zero for that assignment.

Introduce Yourself (Mini-autobiography)

Post a brief autobiography at the beginning of the semester. Tell us a little about yourself. Only one posting is required, but it must consist of at least 50 words. Uploading a picture to your profile, while optional, would help us get to know each other better.

Discussions

Four times this semester, on the same day groups of exams open, a discussion topic will be posted by me on the class website. A discussion topic will remain open for three weeks. Postings must directly relate to the topic and consist of at least 50 words. You will submit at least one comment or reply for each discussion question. Entering one comment in a topic will earn an 80%. A second entry will earn 20% extra (80% + 20% = 100%). Your second posting must reply to a fellow classmate as well as meet the 50-word minimum.

Comments and replies that are not on the specific topic, or are full of grammar and spelling errors, will be deleted and will have to be resubmitted prior to the deadline.

Discussion Netiquette: The discussions can be lively without being disrespectful. You should be willing to answer questions as to the basis of your opinion. However, no obscenity or name-calling will be tolerated. No one should be afraid to voice her/his opinion, whether it be psychological, religious, political or whatever. Class members posting personal attacks or insults directed at a person's ethnic, religious, racial, sexual group membership will receive one warning and the deletion of the offending item. The second violation will result in a zero for that specific discussion topic. A third violation will result in a zero on the entire discussion portion of the semester grade, referral to the HCC academic dean, and possible withdrawal from the class. These same guidelines apply to the Eagle Online Quickmail and chat rooms.

Student-to-student: The Student-to-Student folder is for communication among class members. Plan parties, organize a study group, sell books, recommend (or not) certain classes and teachers, etc. No credit earned for postings in this folder.

Assessments

Testing

There will be eleven chapter exams this semester. Links to the exams will be in each chapter block, the center column of your homepage. These open book, online, tests will be all multiple choice, with 25 questions from each chapter. The objectives and key concepts for each chapter will help you determine which material is most important. You are responsible for the items on that list whether or not they are covered in my chapter notes.

Exams will open in four sets. As long as a set is open, you may take a test at any time, in any order, during those weeks, although pacing yourself is better than cramming them all into the last week. You will have one hour and fifteen minutes to take each test. You can read the instructions without starting the clock. The clock starts ticking as soon as you look at the first question. If you have not submitted your exam by the time limit, your exam will automatically close and be graded. Because they are open-book, do not expect easy questions.

Study for these exams as if they were closed book tests. Students who do not study prior to an open book test usually spend so much time looking up answers that finishing within the time limit is not possible!

Tests are NOT group exercises. Since there will not be a proctor, you are on your honor to take the test yourself. Please see the *Scholastic Honesty* section in the Student Handbook.

FINAL EXAM: The only on-campus test will be a comprehensive closed-book, no notes, final exam, consisting of 100 multiple choice questions. This test will be given on the next-to-last weekend of the semester. (You choose the most convenient day/location.) A supplementary study guide for the final exam can be downloaded from the class website about two weeks before the final exam.

A minimum raw score of 50% correct must be earned on the final exam in order to have the possibility of passing this class. If you earn a 49% or lower on the final exam, you will automatically get an F regardless of all previous grades that you have earned in the class. If you earn a raw score of 50% or higher on the final exam, it does not guarantee a passing course grade. Your final exam score will be averaged in with the rest of the semester's grades to determine your final grade, using the formula which appears on page 6 of this syllabus.

NOTICE FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF HCC SERVICE AREA: PROCTORING

Students who live or work outside the HCC service area and cannot take the final exam at the HCC testing location MUST arrange for a proctor. Click here to download the required [Proctor Approval Form](#).

Make-ups

Try to take all chapter tests when scheduled. If you miss a test, you will be able to make it up during the last week of the semester, no excuse needed. Makeups do not apply to poor grades, Mini-autobiography, homework, or discussion topics.

WARNING: Anyone not having taken at least 4 exams by the “last day to withdraw” date will be dropped from the course. Only extraordinary, verified, excuses will be accepted. If you miss too many tests, you risk receiving an FX grade and having to pay back a portion of your financial aid.

Optional extra credit

Due on or before Thursday, May 5, at 11:55 pm. You can earn up to five points extra credit added to your final course total. A list of 20 web sites will be posted in the *Homework Assignments* section. Go to these sites and write a description and review of each. Follow the instructions carefully to maximize your extra credit. One point deducted for each day late. Cheating on the extra credit will lower your course grade by one full letter.

Extra credit does not take the place of required work. Therefore, the mini-autobiography, all chapter exams, all homework assignments, and one discussion per topic must be completed to earn extra credit. There are no options for individual extra credit, so please do not ask. If additional extra credit options become available, they will be offered to the entire class.

Grading

11 chapter exams @ 5% each	55%
Mini-autobiography posted into <i>Introduce Yourself</i>	3%
Three homework assignments @ 5% each	15%
Discussion participation 4 discussion topics at 2.5% each (Full credit = at least two comments per topic.)	10%
Final Exam Anyone scoring below a 50 will receive an F in the course, regardless of overall average.	17%
TOTAL	100%

Early Alert Program

At HCC we are dedicated to student success. One way of achieving this goal is to identify students in need of academic counseling or advising as early as possible. All students in danger of failing or being withdrawn for excessive absences will be referred to an academic advisor or counselor for help.

The following criteria will be used in this class:

1. Not having taken any chapter exams when the first set closes.
2. Averaging a 59 or lower on the first set of chapter exams.
3. Other criteria may be added based on the situation.

Incompletes

An Incomplete or *I* may be given to a student who has completed at least 75% of the semester's work, but is unable to finish before the official end of the semester. Incompletes are not automatically given. For instance, if it is mathematically impossible for you to pass the class, an *I* will not be granted. To be given an *I* you must request that grade, in writing, from me. Each case will be evaluated on its merits. If you do receive an Incomplete, you have six months to make up the work, or the HCC computer will automatically turn your *I* into an *F*. It is your responsibility to contact me to complete the required work.

HCC Grading Scale

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
Below 60	F
Failure due to class inactivity	FX
Incomplete	I
Withdrawn	W

Course Goals

The goals of *all* psychology courses at Houston Community College are as follows:

Upon completion of this course, students will be prepared to

1. Succeed in advanced psychology courses that include related content and are required for an undergraduate major in psychology
2. Succeed in advanced psychology and psychology-related courses that include related content and are required in non-psychology majors such as nursing and education
3. Understand and evaluate psychological concepts that are covered in this course and are featured in news reports, self-help materials, and as a part of the process of seeking and engaging in psychotherapy

Course Objectives

• Critical Thinking

Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information, and creative thinking by completing a written assignment such as a book report, research paper, or essay.

• Communication Skills

Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication by completing a written assignment such as a book report, research paper, or essay.

• Quantitative and Empirical Literacy

Students will demonstrate the ability to draw conclusions based on the systematic analysis of topics using observation, experimental and/or numerical by completing textbook reading assignments, completing assignments, and answering questions on quizzes and exams that pertain to Course Student Learning Outcome 2 below.

• Social Responsibility

Students will demonstrate cultural self-awareness, intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities by completing textbook reading assignments, completing assignments, and answering questions on quizzes and exams that pertain to Course Student Learning Outcome 4 below.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (for *all* PSYC 2319 classes)

1. Define and identify key concepts in multiple (10) areas of social psychology including concepts, facts, and theoretical perspectives.
2. Define and identify scientific method, descriptive methods, representative sample, experimental method, and deception.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of and explain concepts related to social behavior and the social behavior of others.
4. Apply social psychological concepts to the solution of current issues and problems including ethics, prejudice, aggression, intimate relationships, and /or evaluation of media presentations.

Student Learning Objectives

(The minimum for *all* PSYC 2319 classes. Use the objectives on the class website to study for exams.)

1. Define and identify key concepts in multiple (10) areas of social psychology including concepts, facts, and theoretical perspectives.

1.1 CORE DOMAIN 1: THE SCIENCE OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

1.1.1. Define social psychology, personality psychology, sociology, and anthropology

1.2. CORE DOMAIN 2: THE SELF IN A SOCIAL WORLD

Define

1.2.1. Self-concept

1.2.2. Accuracy of self-knowledge

1.2.3. Self-efficacy

1.2.4. Self-serving bias and self-enhancement

1.2.5. Impression management

1.2.6. Attribution theory

1.3. CORE DOMAIN 3: GENDER, GENES, AND CULTURE

Define

1.3.1. Evolutionary psychology

1.3.2. Cultural norms and roles

1.3.3. Duplex mind

1.4. CORE DOMAIN 4: ATTITUDES AND PERSUASION

Define

1.4.1. Components of an attitude

1.4.2. Cognitive dissonance

1.4.3. Different techniques used by salespeople

1.5. CORE DOMAIN 5: CONFORMITY AND OBEDIENCE

Define

1.5.1. Conformity, obedience, and acceptance

1.5.2. Normative social influence

1.5.3. Informational social influence

1.6 CORE DOMAIN 6: PREJUDICE

Define

1.6.1. Prejudice and discrimination

1.6.2. Stereotypes and scapegoating

1.6.3. Just world phenomenon

1.6.4. Self-fulfilling prophecy

1.6.5. Stereotype threat

1.7. CORE DOMAIN 7: AGGRESSION

Define

1.7.1. Hostile aggression

1.7.2. Instrumental aggression

1.7.3. Displaced aggression

1.7.4. Frustration

1.8. CORE DOMAIN 8: GROUP INFLUENCES

Define

1.8.1. Group

1.8.2. Deindividuation

1.8.3. Group polarization

1.8.4. Groupthink

- 1.8.5. Leadership
- 1.8.6. Social loafing
- 1.8.7. Social facilitation
- 1.9 CORE DOMAIN 9: ATTRACTION AND INTIMACY

Define

- 1.9.1. Close relationships
- 1.9.2. Intimate relationships
- 1.9.3. Types of love
- 1.9.4. Self-monitoring
- 1.9.5. The “what is beautiful is good” effect
- 1.9.6. Loneliness
- 1.9.7. Sexual orientation
- 1.10. CORE DOMAIN 10: PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Define

- 1.10.1. Prosocial behavior
- 1.10.2. Altruism

2. Define and identify scientific method, descriptive methods, representative sample, experimental method, and deception.

2.1. CORE DOMAIN 1: THE SCIENCE OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Define and identify

- 2.1.1. Scientific method
- 2.1.2. Descriptive methods
- 2.1.3. Representative sample
- 2.1.4. Experimental method
- 2.1.5. Deception

3. Demonstrate knowledge of and explain concepts related to social behavior and the social behavior of others.

3.1. CORE DOMAIN 1: THE SCIENCE OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Explain

- 3.1.1. the relation between personal values and social psychological research.
- 3.1.2. the nature and implications of the hindsight bias and confirmation bias.

3.2. CORE DOMAIN 2: THE SELF IN A SOCIAL WORLD

Explain

- 3.2.1. how beliefs about ourselves influences thoughts and actions.
- 3.2.2. how selves differ from one culture to another.

3.3. CORE DOMAIN 3: GENDER, GENES, AND CULTURE

Explain

- 3.3.1. how culture has affected gender roles over time.
- 3.3.2. the process of natural selection.
- 3.3.3. how humans are impacted by both nature and culture
- 3.3.4. the difference between individualist and collectivist cultures

3.4. CORE DOMAIN 4: ATTITUDES AND PERSUASION

Explain

- 3.4.1. when attitudes predict behavior.
- 3.4.2. when behavior predicts attitudes.
- 3.4.3. the two routes to persuasion
- 3.4.4. the effects of fear on attitude change
- 3.4.5. the difference between an attitude and a belief.

3.4.6. the effect of cognitive dissonance on attitude change.

3.5 CORE DOMAIN 5: CONFORMITY AND OBEDIENCE

Explain

3.5.1. why people conform.

3.5.2. why people obey legitimate authority.

3.5.3. how gender, personality, and cultural differences affect conformity and obedience.

3.6 CORE DOMAIN 6: PREJUDICE

Explain

3.6.1. the effects of unequal status.

3.6.2. how emotional needs affect prejudice

3.6.3. the effects of institutional support

3.6.4. methods for reducing prejudice

3.7. CORE DOMAIN 7: AGGRESSION

Explain

3.7.1. social learning theory

3.7.2. biological and genetic factors

3.7.3. how the frustration-aggression hypothesis has changed over the years

3.7.4. methods for reducing aggression

3.8 CORE DOMAIN 8: GROUP INFLUENCES

Explain

3.8.1. the formation of groups

3.8.2. what makes a group feel united

3.8.3. the risky shift and group polarization

3.8.4. how groupthink can lead to bad decisions

3.8.5. the characteristics of an effective leader

3.9 CORE DOMAIN 9: ATTRACTION AND INTIMACY

Explain

3.9.1. how attachment styles influence relationships

3.9.2. how different types of love influence relationships

3.9.3. predictors of stable intimate relations, including marriage.

3.10 CORE DOMAIN 10: PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Explain

3.10.1. how helping can be increased

3.10.2. by-stander inactivity

3.10.3. the connection between empathy and altruism.

4. Apply social psychological concepts to the solution of current issues and problems including ethics, prejudice, aggression, intimate relationships, and /or evaluation of media presentations.

4.1. CORE DOMAIN 1: THE SCIENCE OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Students will apply

4.1.1. ethical standards for psychological research

4.2. CORE DOMAIN 2: THE SELF IN A SOCIAL WORLD

Students will apply

4.2.1. beliefs about ourselves in order to change our behavior and thoughts.

4.3. CORE DOMAIN 3: GENDER, GENES, AND CULTURE

Students will apply

4.3.1. cultural and gender similarities and differences to improve intergroup relations.

4.4 CORE DOMAIN 4: ATTITUDES AND PERSUASION

Students will apply

4.4.1. techniques of effective communication.

- 4.4.2. methods of resisting persuasion
- 4.5. CORE DOMAIN 5: CONFORMITY AND OBEDIENCE
Students will apply
 - 4.5.1. methods of resisting destructive social pressure.
- 4.6. CORE DOMAIN 6: PREJUDICE
Students will apply
 - 4.6.1. factors that reduce prejudice.
- 4.7. CORE DOMAIN 7: AGGRESSION
Students will apply
 - 4.7.1. factors that reduce aggression.
- 4.8. CORE DOMAIN 8: GROUP INFLUENCES
Students will apply
 - 4.8.1. positive aspects of group membership and influence.
- 4.9. CORE DOMAIN 9: ATTRACTION AND INTIMACY
Students will apply
 - 4.9.1. research on successful relationships
- 4.10 CORE DOMAIN 10: PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR
Students will apply
 - 4.10.1. factors that increase probability of helping behavior.

HCC Policy Statements

Student Services Policies

<http://de.hccs.edu/student-services/>

Distance Education Policies

The Distance Education Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the DE student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as DE contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services (ADA, financial aid, degree planning, etc.), course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars.

Refer to the DE Student Handbook by visiting this link: [DE Student Handbook](#)

Social Networking

DE students are encouraged to become a fan of [DE on Facebook](#) (<http://www.facebook.com/HCCDistanceEd>) and to follow [DE on Twitter](#) (<http://twitter.com/HCCDistanceEd>). These social networking sites help DE foster student engagement and provide a sense of community for the online learner. You will also stay informed about important information and announcements.

This syllabus can be altered any time during the semester. All changes will be announced before they take effect and will be entered into the calendar on the class website. Major changes will result in a new schedule being distributed.