PSYC 3315 Syllabus for Spring 2026

Instructor Information

- **Name**: Rachel Baldridge, M.S.
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- **Faculty Profile**: Click Here
- **Office Hours**: By Appointment Only

Course Information

Section Information

PSYC 3315-003 and PSYC 3315-004

Course Description

Course Title: This course presents an introduction to the field of social psychology. We will examine theory and research as well as practical applications to social problems. In addition to learning how social psychologists do research, we will learn about how we think about the social world, how we come to understand other people and ourselves, self-justification and the need to maintain self-esteem, influencing thoughts and feelings, influencing behavior, influence in social groups, interpersonal attraction, why people help, why people hurt other people, and causes and cures of prejudice. Special attention will be paid to what social psychology canoffer to the solving of social problems in these areas and in the areas of health-related behavior and beliefs and the law. This course is appropriate for students interested in psychology, the health professions, law, political science, business, advertising, human services, education, communications, gender studies/women's studies, history,public administration, and sociology—essentially, this course will be interesting to all who are or live among human beings.

Prerequisites: PSYC 1315

Time and Place of Class Meetings

This course is online and asynchronous, with deadlines in Central Time.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe and explain the nature of social psychology as a scientific discipline.
- Describe and analyze major theoretical perspectives and overarching themes of social psychologyand their historical development.
- Understand, apply, and analyze social psychology as a specific content area within psychology.
- Identify and explain different research methods used by social psychologists.
- Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media and scholarly literature.
- Engage in creative thinking by evaluating new ideas with an open but critical mind.
- Demonstrate effective writing skills in various formats and for various purposes.
- Demonstrate basic computer skills, proper etiquette, and security safeguards.
- Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings to issues in everyday life.

- Identify appropriate applications of psychology in human service, education, business, and otherprofessions.
- Demonstrate how psychological principles can explain social issues and inform public policy.
- Explain and apply major theoretical and scholarly approaches, empirical findings, and historical trends in a social/behavioral science.
- Explain and apply basic research methods in a social/behavioral science.
- Apply modes of critical thinking used in a social/behavioral science.

Course Materials & Technology

Textbook Information

Myers, D. G., & Twenge, J. M. (2017). *Social Psychology*, 14th Edition e-book with accompanying ConnectPlus software.

Your eBook and other learning resources are all linked directly to your course to ensure that you have the correct course materials on the first day of class, and at a much lower cost. The charge for your eBook and other digital materials goes directly to your UTA account, making it eligible for Financial Aid. You may also purchase a loose-leaf copy of the textbook from McGraw-Hill if you would like to have a physical copy of the text. **The link to the eBook and Connect will be available in Canvas.** When registering for Connect for the first time, you must log in to Connect through Canvas to sync up your Connect and Canvas gradebooks. If students fail to sync their accounts, they will not have their Connect grades show up in Canvas, and they will have 10 points deducted from their overall grade. **You must use your UTA email address when you register for Connect. Registration for the class within Connect will not be available until the course start date.**

Connect Plus can be accessed on your iPhone or iPad and synced with your Canvas:

- Go here to download the iPhone app: https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/learnsmart/id365879172?mt=8
- All work completed on the iPhone/ iPad app WILL sync with Canvas; however, you MUST check invia computer once per chapter to get the mobile work to sync.

Connect's Proctoring System

In order to ensure academic integrity, Unit Exams will be proctored using Connect's proctoring system, Proctorio. Please see Proctorio system requirements. An updated version of Chrome is required, as well as a webcam and reliable Internet access. **Students should download the Proctorio Chrome extension at the beginning of the semester. You can verify that Proctorio is working properly by using the Proctorio Trial assignment in Connect.**

Should you need assistance regarding Proctorio, contact support@proctorio.com. During an exam, a live chat option will be available to students.

Technology & Equipment Requirements

Canvas: Canvas will be an important component of the course throughout the semester. **All course communication will come via Announcements in Canvas so please check daily**. In addition, grades and supplemental resources are posted on Canvas. Canvas support is available 24/7 by calling 1 (855) 597-3401.

Microsoft PowerPoint: PowerPoints will be provided within Canvas for each chapter, and you will need to download the PowerPoints in order to access the lecture audio. All students can download Microsoft Office for free using this link: Free Microsoft Office Download

Microsoft Teams: Office hours will be held via Microsoft Teams. There may also be opportunities to meet as a class via Teams as well. **Students must log in using their UTA email address.**

Visit the OIT Services page for a list of Applications and Software available through UTA.

Visit the UTA Libraries Technology page for a list of items that can be checked out or used at the library.

Assignments & Exams

SmartBooks

SmartBook is an interactive text designed to help you review the material learned in each chapter. The SmartBook system, which can be found in Connect, continually adjusts to yourlevel of content mastery. A link to each SmartBook assignment can be found in Canvas.

Each chapter on average will take approximately 30-45 minutes to complete, depending on your level of mastery. Each SmartBook assignment is worth 10 points, for a total of 130 possible points. Students may continue to utilize SmartBook as a study tool, even after they have earned credit. SmartBook assignments will be automatically graded within Connect. Students will receive credit based on whether they spent the required time (30-45 minutes, depending on level of mastery).

Chapter Assignments

To supplement the PowerPoints and SmartBook assignments, two Chapter Assignments will be assigned per chapter within Connect. These may include, but not be limited to, videos, articles and activities. Each Chapter Assignment will be worth 10 points, for up to 260 total possible points.

Students will have 45 minutes to complete these assignments and only one attempt. More than half of the Chapter Assignments contain open ended questions requiring a written response. Written responses should be in complete sentences, using correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization and grammar. In addition, these responses need to be 3 – 5 sentences in length in order to demonstrate a student's reasoning, analysis and reflection regarding the question. Responses that do not meet these criteria will receive

zero credit. Partial credit will not be given. In addition, students who plagiarize will receive a zero on the assignment as a whole, and they will be reported to the Office of Community Standards. This includes students who copy and paste from platforms similar to ChatGPT.

Chapter Assignments will be partially or completely auto-graded by Connect, based on correctness. Those that include written responses will be reviewed and graded by the instructor based on completeness and the quality of the response (see above). Connect will automatically grade multiple-choice questions within the assignment, and the rest of your points will remain pending until they are manually graded by the instructor. You can verify whether an assignment has been completely graded by looking at the grade within Connect.

Quizzes

There are 13 chapter quizzes that are worth 15 points each. The quizzes can be accessed in Connect via Canvas. These quizzes are meant to help with better comprehension and application. For this reason, you may use your textbook to answer questions, and you will have two attempts. Students are encouraged to take advantage of both attempts in order to earn the highest points possible. The highest score will automatically be recorded. **I will not give you one of your attempts back due to technical issues** (poor wifi connection, dead battery on your computer, etc.) so please make sure that nothing is goingto interfere with completing your quiz. The quizzes have a time limit of 25 minutes. **If you start a quiz and do not finish, Connect Plus will automatically submit your attempt so please be sure to not begin a quiz unless you have the time to finish it.** Quizzes are automatically graded, with the highest grade kept.

Exams

There are three Unit Exams, which will be on Connect. The exams will be 50 multiple-choice questions each, and they will cover assigned textbook readings. Each exam will be worth 100 points, and you will have 60 minutes to complete each. Each exam is proctored using Connect's Proctorio system (see"Required Textbook & Other Course Materials" for more information). Students should be well-prepared for each exam, given that they have only 60 minutes to complete it. Although the Unit Exams are proctored, students will have access to the eBook. The proctoring system is meant to ensure that students are not collaborating with others during the exam, are not relying on anything other than their notes and eBook, and are not taking pictures of exam questions. Exams are auto-graded based on correctness.

Grading Information

Assignments		Values
Syllabus Quiz		10 points
SmartBooks	13 @ 10 points each	130 points
Chapter Assignments	26 @ 10 points each	260 points
Quizzes	13 @ 15 points each	195 points
Exams	3 @ 100 points each	300 points
		Total: 895 points

Students are expected to track their performance throughout the semester, which Canvas facilitates, and seek guidance from available sources, including the instructor, if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. Refer to the Student Support Services section below.

Final Grade Calculations

Earned Points	Letter Grade
802 – 895	A
712 – 801	B
623 – 711	C
533 – 622	D
Below 533	F

Should there be any discrepancy between the letter grade that is automatically calculated by Canvasand the syllabus grading scale, the syllabus grading scale will be used to determine your final letter grade.

Do not e-mail the instructor to ask for more points so that you can get the grade that you want. If you want a specific grade, then you need to put in the effort necessary to obtain said grade. I do not round up to the next letter grade so pay close attention to the cut-off for each letter grade.

Late Work Policy

This course is an asynchronous, online course, meaning students have all resources, assignments and exams available from the course start date. Students are given the flexibility to complete the coursework when they are able to, with the expectation that they submit all coursework by the indicated unit deadlines. Because of this, late work will NOT be accepted, with the exception of formal documentation related to ongoing illness.

Extra Credit Policy

All students will receive the same opportunities to earn extra credit, and deadlines indicated will be final.

Grade Grievance Policy

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog: Grades and Grading Policies. The grade grievance form can be found here.

Course & University Policies

Attendance Policy

Students should review the University Class Attendance Policies on the Class Attendance Policies page. The following attendance policy will be applied in this course.

As the instructorof this online section, I have structured this course in a manner that facilitates your participation. Your progress with online reading assignments and quizzes will

be monitored and tracked, similar to physical attendance in a traditional class setting.

While UTA does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade ofF, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation ina class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Departmentof Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Instructor's Email Policy

Students can expect a reply within 48 hours for emails sent Monday through Thursday, 8am to 5pm. Emails send between Friday and Sunday can expect a reply by Monday no later than 5pm. If the answer to a student's question can be readily found in the Syllabus and/or Canvas, the student should expect a brief reply of "See Syllabus/Canvas".

Institutional Policies

UTA students should review the University Catalog and the Syllabus Institutional Policies page for institutional policies and contact the specific office with any questions. The institutional information includes the following policies, among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Academic Integrity
- Electronic Communication

UTA Honor Code

UTA students are expected to adhere to and observe standards of conduct compatible with the University's functions as an educational institution and live by the University of Texas at Arlington's Honor Code. It is the policy of The University of Texas at Arlington to uphold and support standards of personal honesty and integrity for all students consistent with the goals of a community of scholars and students seeking knowledge and responsibility.

Student Support Services

Student Services Page

The Student Services page provides links to many resources available to UTA students, including:

- Academic Success
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Health Services
- Students with Disabilities
- Veteran Services

Students are also encouraged to check out Career Center resources to enhance their career-readiness, find student employment, search for internships, and more. We encourage Major Exploration and the use of Experiential Major Maps to keep students on track for graduation. Refer to the Graduation Help Desk for more details.

Accessibility of Course Materials

Some course materials, such as PDFs of musical scores, technical drawings, graphs, blueprints, design plans, or artworks (common in fields like drawing, painting, or construction drafting), may not fully comply with all Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) requirements.

The University of Texas at Arlington is dedicated to ensuring all students have equal access to information. If you experience any accessibility barriers with course materials, please know that accommodations are available. You can get assistance through the Student Access and Resource (SAR) Center or by contacting your instructor directly. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need help.

Online Academic Success Guide

Visit the Online Academic Success Guide to explore a list of helpful tips and resources to help you succeed in your online journey.

Course Schedule

Unit 1: Chapters 1 – 4

Syllabus Quiz
Chapter 1 – Introducing Social Psychology

- Chapter 1 SmartBook
- Chapter 1 Assignment
- Chapter 1 Assignment
- Chapter 1 Quiz

Chapter 2 – The Self in a Social World

- Chapter 2 SmartBook
- Chapter 2 Assignment
- Chapter 2 Assignment
- Chapter 2 Quiz

Chapter 3 – Social Beliefs & Judgments

- Chapter 3 SmartBook
- Chapter 3 Assignment
- Chapter 3 Assignment
- Chapter 3 Quiz

Chapter 4 – Behavior & Attitudes

- Chapter 4 SmartBook
- Chapter 4 Assignment
- Chapter 4 Assignment
- Chapter 4 Quiz

Unit 1 Exam – Chapters 1 – 4

Unit 1 Optional Deadline for Five Points Extra Credit: Thursday, February 5th at 5pm

In order to earn extra credit, the Syllabus Quiz, all Chapter 1 – 4 SmartBook Assignments, Chapter Assignments, Quizzes, and the Unit 1 Exam must be completed. You are NOT required to submit the Unit 1 Extra Credit in order to earn points for meeting the optional deadline.

Unit 1 Final Deadline: Thursday, February 12th at 5pm

The Syllabus Quiz, all Chapter 1 – 4 SmartBook Assignments, Chapter Assignments, Quizzes, and the Unit 1 Exam must be completed. The Unit 1 Discussion for Extra Credit is also due, which is optional. Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.

Unit 2: Chapters 5 – 8

Chapter 5 – Genes, Culture, and Gender

- Chapter 5 SmartBook
- Chapter 5 Assignment
- Chapter 5 Assignment
- Chapter 5 Quiz

Chapter 6 – Conformity and Obedience

- Chapter 6 SmartBook
- Chapter 6 Assignment
- Chapter 6 Assignment
- Chapter 6 Quiz

Chapter 7 – Persuasion

- Chapter 7 SmartBook
- Chapter 7Assignment
- Chapter 7 Assignment
- Chapter 7 Quiz

Chapter 8 – Group Influence

- Chapter 8 SmartBook
- Chapter 8 Assignment
- Chapter 8 Assignment
- Chapter 8 Quiz

Unit 2 Exam – Chapters 5 – 8

Unit 2 Optional Deadline for Five Points Extra Credit: Thursday, March 19th at 5pm

In order to earn extra credit, all Chapter 5 – 8 SmartBook Assignments, Chapter Assignments, Quizzes, and the Unit 2 Exam must be completed.

Unit 2 Final Deadline is Thursday, March 26th at 5pm

All Chapter 5 – 8 SmartBook Assignments, Chapter Assignments, Quizzes, and the Unit 2 Exam must be completed. The Unit 2 Discussion for extra credit is also due, which is optional. Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.

UNIT 3: Chapters 9 – 13

Chapter 9 – Prejudice

- Chapter 9 SmartBook
- Chapter 9 Assignment

- Chapter 9 Assignment
- Chapter 9 Quiz

Chapter 10 – Aggression

- Chapter 10 SmartBook
- Chapter 10 Assignment
- Chapter 10 Assignment
- Chapter 10 Quiz

Chapter 11 – Attraction & Intimacy

- Chapter 11 SmartBook
- Chapter 11 Assignment
- Chapter 11 Assignment
- Chapter 11 Quiz

Chapter 12 – Helping

- Chapter 12 SmartBook
- Chapter 12 Assignment
- Chapter 12 Assignment
- Chapter 12 Quiz

Chapter 13 – Conflict & Peacemaking

- Chapter 13 SmartBook
- Chapter 13 Assignment
- Chapter 13 Assignment
- Chapter 13 Quiz

Unit 3 Exam – Chapters 9 – 13

Unit 3 Optional Deadline for Five Points Extra Credit: Thursday, April 23rd at 5pm

In order to earn extra credit, all Chapter 9 – 13 SmartBook Assignments, Chapter Assignments, Quizzes, and the Unit 3 Exam must be completed.

Unit 3 Final Deadline: Thursday, April 30th at 5pm

All Chapter 9 – 13 SmartBook Assignments, Chapter Assignments, Quizzes, and the Unit 3 Exam must be completed. The Unit 3 Discussion for Extra Credit is also due, which is optional. Late work will not be accepted, no exceptions.

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Rachel Baldridge, M.S.