

Eastern Kentucky University
Department of Psychology
Syllabus for Psychology 837, Social Psychology & Cultural Diversity
(CRN = 50030)
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Gore
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Office Hours: M-Th 8-10

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Catalogue Course Description: Graduate level survey of topics in social psychology including social influence, persuasion, social cognition, self-justification, aggression and prejudice. Emphasis will be placed on multi-cultural diversity and understanding other groups.

Prerequisites: Departmental approval.

Readings

There is no textbook for this course. Readings will consist of research articles and literature reviews that you are responsible for locating in PsycINFO or other databases. You should be also to have access to PDF files of these readings. You will also be encouraged to do further reading in your area of specialization for the purpose of the literature review you will write.

Student Learning Objectives

EKU's Quality Enhancement Program Statement is, "EKU will develop informed, critical and creative thinkers who can communicate effectively."

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Apply theories and findings in social psychology to your specialty area
How assessed: Article summaries, paper (second section)
 2. Critique and discuss research in social psychology
How assessed: Article summaries, discussions
 3. Understand the roots of culture and be able to anticipate cross-cultural differences within your specialty area
How assessed: Article summaries, discussions, paper (third section)
 4. Synthesize knowledge of social and cultural psychology into a literature review
How assessed: Paper
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Evaluation Methods

The total number of possible points in this course is 560. Your grades will be based on 10 article reviews (10 points each; 100 points total), generating questions for two online discussions (5 points for each question; 40 points total), online discussion participation (20 points each day; 320 points total), and a literature review (100 points). Keep track of how much you earn as we progress through the course. Your grade will be based on the percentage scale below (there will be no curves). There will also be extra credit opportunities.

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-70 = C

69-60 = D

59-0 = F

Article Summaries (18%) + Discussions (64%) + Final Paper (18%) = 100%

Student Progress

I will keep an updated record of your grade after each assignment and you may ask me about your grade at any point in the semester. I will not be able to inform anyone but you of your grade on any assignment or in the course. I will update each person of their current course grade prior to the deadline for the final paper.

Attendance Policy

Your attendance in this course is extremely important to understand and apply the material. All summaries and discussions must be completed on the day we discuss them or they will not be graded. Late assignments will not be graded, but assignments will be accepted late if there is accompanying documentation.

Add/Drop and Withdrawal Deadlines

The last day to Add or Drop this course is **Thursday, July 7.**

The last day to withdraw from this course is **Sunday, July 31.**

Please inform me if you plan to either drop or withdraw from the course.

Disability Statement

A student with a "disability" may be an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as learning, seeing, or hearing. Additionally, pregnancy or a related medical condition that causes a similar substantial limitation may also be considered a disability under the ADA. If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the Office in the Whitlock Building Room 361, by e-mail at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933 V/TDD. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

Academic Integrity Statement

Students are advised that EKU's Academic Integrity policy will strictly be enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at www.academicintegrity.eku.edu. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Students found guilty of an academic honesty violation will receive a 0 on the assignment in question. Violations could also result in a 0 in the course and/or a referral to the Academic Council.

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, emailing each other answers to assignments and co-responsibility (i.e., "anyone who knowingly assists in any form of academic dishonesty shall be considered as guilty as the student who accepts such assistance").

Official E-mail

An official EKU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member, and each staff member. All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this EKU e-mail address.

Standards for Written Assignments

Students in all psychology courses are expected to use correct grammar, spelling and composition in written assignments. These elements of writing will be taken into consideration in grading all out-of-class writing assignments. If you would like free help with your writing, you may visit the Noel Studio, in the Library: The Noel Studio for Academic Creativity is a free resource for the EKU community, including graduate and undergraduate students. At the Noel Studio, a trained consultant will work you or your small group on any piece of written or oral communication, at any stage in the process from brainstorming to finished product. Consultants can also help you develop effective strategies. For more information, visit the Noel Studio website at <http://www.studio.eku.edu/> or call 859-622-6229.

THE FINAL PAPER WILL RECEIVE A 1-POINT DEDUCTION FOR EACH WRITING ERROR

Availability

The best way to contact me would be through email (jonathan.gore@eku.edu). Because this is an online class, I will try to be available for questions as much as possible, but I will set aside time to answer emails between 8-10 am on M-Th. If you would rather meet in person, you can come to my office hours (M-Th 9-10 in Cammack 116) or we can figure out a better time if that does not work for you.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Article Summaries

You will be asked to complete summaries for 10 of the articles (for a total of 100 points). For each summary, you will answer questions about one of the readings from a topic section (see Course Schedule for topics). The more information you gather for these summaries, the easier it will be to write your paper.

THE SUMMARIES ARE DUE BY 12 NOON ON THE DATE THAT THE TOPIC IS DISCUSSED

Participating in Online Discussions

You will be asked to participate in 16 online topical discussions (and 2 online discussions about the films for extra credit), for which you will be assigned to a small discussion group. You will then be asked to answer the questions posed by the discussion leader. For each question, you will be assessed by the quality of your answers, and you will receive up to 5 points total for your responses for each question (factual errors will receive a 2-point deduction). The points are based on the following scale:

- 0 = No responses provided (or missed the deadline)
- 1 = Generally brief responses with little or no elaboration
- 2 = Generally responds with elaboration based mostly on personal experience
- 3 = Generally responds with elaboration based mostly on specialty area (clinical or school psychology)
- 4 = Generally responds with elaboration based mostly on conceptual information from the articles or lectures
- 5 = Generally responds with elaboration based mostly on empirical and specific information from articles or lectures

YOU MUST POST YOUR ANSWERS TO THE DISCUSSION BY 11 PM THE DAY THAT TOPIC IS DISCUSSED

Leading Online Discussions

You will be assigned to two topics and you will be asked to create 4 discussion questions for each topic (1 question per article, and one question based on the lecture). You should try to create questions that would generate different answers, such as, "How would you go about solving the problem of people being influenced by their psychologist and their family?" You should also consider that the answer needs to be able to incorporate the information from the articles. The discussion questions are worth 5 points each. On the days you are assigned to watch a film, I will create the questions.

YOU MUST POST YOUR QUESTIONS BY 12 NOON THE DAY THAT TOPIC IS DISCUSSED

Paper

Throughout this course we will focus on writing a literature review paper. The paper will follow APA guidelines, and will be based on a technique or procedure from your specialty area. You will be asked to structure your paper according to the following outline:

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|---|---|-------------------------------|
| I. Introduction: statement of purpose | } | Draft due
Monday, July 11 |
| II. Technique / procedure in your area of interest
a. Previous research findings
b. What we still don't understand | | |
| III. Social psychology applications
a. Understanding the procedure using social psychology
b. Improving the procedure using social psychology | } | Draft due
Monday, July 25 |
| IV. Cross-cultural challenges
a. What cross-cultural differences would you expect to find?
b. Resolving problems related to these differences | | |
| V. Conclusions: why is it important to consider these points? | } | Draft due
Monday, August 1 |

Although there is no limit as to how long a literature review can be, you should be prepared to write a 15-20 page paper (including references and title page). You should also be prepared to write drafts of each section of the paper and revise it several times (see Course Schedule for due dates on section drafts and the final paper; although the drafts will not be graded, including them with your final paper is worth 15 points total). If you turn in the original draft of your paper, you run the risk of getting a poor grade.

THE FINAL PAPER WILL BE WORTH 100 POINTS, AND IS DUE BY AUGUST 11 BY NOON

Course Outline

Date	Topic	Readings
July 5	Introduction	NONE
July 6	Culture	Triandis et al. (1988) Plaut, Markus & Lachman (2002) Cohen (2009)
July 7	Personality & Environment	McCrae & Costa (1991) Nofle & Robins (2007) Triandis & Suh (2002)
July 11	Self-Concept & Self-Change	Tice (1992) Bergner & Holmes (2000) Markus & Kitayama (1991)
July 12	Social Identities	Crocker & Major (1989) Cross & Madson (1997) Costa, Terraciano, & McCrae (2001)
July 13	Social Cognition	Jussim (1986) Bargh & Chartrand (1999) Hong, Morris, Chiu, & Benet-Martinez (2000)
July 14	Social Influence & Group Behaviors	Cialdini & Goldstein (2004) Cannavale, Scarr, & Pepitone (1970) Bond & Smith (1996)
July 18	Attitudes & Persuasion	Edwards (1990) Cacioppo, Petty, Kao, & Rodriguez (1986) Brumbaugh (2002)
July 19	Autonomy Motives	Deci & Ryan (2000) Gore & Cross (2006) Iyengar & Lepper (1999)
July 20	Stability Motives	Festinger & Carlsmith (1959) Steele, Spencer, & Lynch (1993) Kitayama, Snibbe, & Markus (2004)
July 21	Film: "Killing Us Softly 4"	NONE
July 25	Acceptance Motives	Bem & McConnell (1970) Schlenker & Weigold (1992) Hornsey & Jetten (2005)
July 26	Close Relationships	Murray, Holmes, & Griffin (1996) Huston (2009) Dion & Dion (1993)
July 27	Antisocial Behaviors	Anderson & Bushman (2002) Stucke & Sporer (2002) Bond (2004)
July 28	Prosocial Behaviors	Cialdini, et al (1987) Garcia, Weaver, Moskowitz, & Darley (2002) Miller, Bersoff, & Harwood (1990)
August 1	Attribution & Emotions	Ekman (1993) DeGree & Snyder (1985) Choi, Nisbett, & Norenzayan (1999)
August 2	Psychological Well-Being	Rosenblatt et al. (1989) Leary et al. (1995) Heine, Lehman, Markus, & Kitayama (1999)
August 3	Health & Stress	Weinstein, Rothman, & Sutton (1998) Greenberg et al. (1996) Landrine & Klonoff (2004)
August 4	Film: "A Class Divided"	NONE

BOLD DATE = Section of paper is due. The deadline for the final paper is **Thursday, August 11 by noon.**