

# **PSY 317: Social Psychology Spring 2014 Syllabus**

**Tuesday/Thursday 1:10-2:25  
Science Hall 107**

**Instructor:** Michael Pyle  
**Office:** Science Hall 277  
**Hours:** Tue/Thu 2:30-4  
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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Ways in which people are influenced by the behavior of others are analyzed. Includes aggression, altruism, conformity, attraction, sexual behavior, prejudice, and nonverbal behavior.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Students who participate in this course will

- Demonstrate an understanding of psychological theories and concepts
- Use psychological principles to explain and predict thoughts and behavior
- Apply the concepts from psychology to their own lives and experience
- Practice critical thinking skills

## **TEXTBOOK:**

Kenrick, D.T., Neuberg, S.L., & Cialdini, R.B. (2008). *Social psychology: Goals in interaction* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

This text is required for the course as lectures and tests will be developed from it. There are a number of options for accessing this text, all of which will be outlined by a Pearson Publishing representative on the first day of class.

## **ADDITIONAL READINGS:**

Throughout the semester, you may be assigned additional reading material, such as journal articles. Any additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

## **COURSE CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Canvas:** Canvas will be used regularly throughout this course. Students will be responsible for regularly checking Canvas for announcements regarding the class. Canvas can be accessed through [www.my.nmsu.edu](http://www.my.nmsu.edu) or through mobile applications from Instructure:

Website: [www.learn.nmsu.edu](http://www.learn.nmsu.edu)

Mobile: Android – <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instructure.candroid>

iOS – <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/canvas-for-ios/id480883488?mt=8>

**NMSU Email:** All official correspondence will be addressed to your .nmsu email address. Students will be responsible for any information sent to their email, so I would recommend checking it regularly. Additionally, all emails from you should be sent to my NMSU email ([mbp03c@nmsu.edu](mailto:mbp03c@nmsu.edu)).

## GRADING:

### Assignment

8 writing assignments (2 lowest grades dropped)

2 exams

1 final exam

### Grade %

30%

40% (20% each)

30%

### Grading Scale

A+	97-100	A	93-96	A-	90-92
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	63-66	D-	60-62
F	59-				

**Writing Assignments:** Writing assignments will be assigned throughout the course. Typically, these assignments will be assigned on a Thursday and due the following Thursday. The purpose of these writing assignments is to develop arguments and provide support in an academic fashion. Students will receive feedback, as well as a grade, for each assignment submitted. Taking note of, and applying, feedback to future assignments will increase your writing assignment grades over the course. Additionally, to encourage utilizing the university's writing center, 5 points will be added to each assignment if a writing center receipt is turned in on the day the assignment is due. You may visit the Writing Center's website, <http://english.nmsu.edu/resources/writingcenter/>, for information on how to schedule an appointment.

The requirements for these assignments are as follows:

- 1) The writing assignment must be electronically submitted through Canvas **BEFORE** class begins on the day it is due. **NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED OTHERWISE.** If you miss a writing assignment, it can take the place of one of your two dropped papers.
- 2) Papers will follow the format of the template posted into Canvas. That is:
  - a. No title page. Name, date and writing assignment number will go in the header.
  - b. 2.0 line spacing.
  - c. Times New Roman, 12 pt. font.
- 3) No less than one and no more than two pages.
- 4) Two outside, peer reviewed sources. Sources should be cited in text and following the paper according to APA guidelines.

**Exams:** Exams will consist of multiple choice questions from textbook chapters, assigned readings, and class lectures prior to the exam. These exams WILL NOT be comprehensive. That is, the material covered for the first exam will not be tested on the second exam. Be sure to come to class on time on test days. Once the first exam is completed and turned in, no more tests will be handed out. That is, if you do not arrive by the time the first student turns in his or her test, you will not be allowed to take the exam and will receive a zero.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will consist of multiple choice questions covering all material from the course. This includes, but may not be limited to, textbook chapters, assigned readings, and class lectures.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit will **ONLY** be offered on two occasions during the semester. On each of the regular test days, an assignment will open on Canvas for you to submit papers of up to 5 pages in length. On each test day, up to 1 point per page, up to 5 pages, may be submitted. Up to 10 points total can be gained for receiving maximum points for each submission.

For instance, a 1 page paper addressing prejudice in the Star Trek Original Series episode “Let That Be Your Last Battlefield” may earn up to 1 point. A 2 page paper on social status as it relates to American Psycho may earn up to 2 points. Any combination of papers may be turned in, up to 5 pages. That is, Five 1 page papers, one 5 page paper, or any combination in-between may be submitted.

The formatting for the extra credit papers will be the same as the writing assignments with the following information included:

- 1) Name of show/movie and episode
- 2) Where media was accessed (Netflix, Amazon Prime, DVD, other...)

## **COURSE ENHANCEMENTS:**

### **Socrative:** psy317nmsu

Socrative is instant polling software that will be used occasionally to gauge the class’s understanding of concepts. Students may be asked to respond to multiple choice, short answer, or true/false questions, all of which are submitted **anonymously**. Once initiated by the instructor, students will enter room number **psy317nmsu** and answer questions as presented. Obtaining this software and participating in these surveys is not required, however, it will help me understand which concepts are, or are not, being communicated clearly. There are a number ways to access Socrative software:

Website: [www.m.socrative.com](http://www.m.socrative.com)

Mobile: Android - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.socrative.student&hl=en>

iOS - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/student-clicker-socrative/id477618130>

### **Twitter:** #psy317nmsu

Twitter will be used throughout this course as an auxiliary form of communication for class purposes. The main purpose of incorporating Twitter in to the class is to quickly share found media as it relates to the course. For instance, I, or a student, may come across an online story pertaining to the subject matter being covered in class and wish to share it. Additionally, a student may use Twitter to seek quick clarifications of a concept by asking the class. As with Socrative, the use of Twitter is not required, nor is a Twitter handle necessary to view the **#psy317nmsu** feed. There are a number of ways with which to access Twitter:

Website: [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

Mobile: Android - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.twitter.android>

iOS - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/twitter/id333903271>

Tentative Class Schedule			
Week	of	Material	Assignment
1	13-Jan	Syllabus	
2	20-Jan	Chapter 1	
3	27-Jan	Chapter 2	Writing Assignment #1
4	3-Feb	Chapter 3	Writing Assignment #2
5	10-Feb	Chapter 4	Writing Assignment #3
6	17-Feb	Chapters 5 & 6	
7	24-Feb	Chapter 7	Writing Assignment #4
8	3-Mar	Test 1	Extra Credit 1 due
9	10-Mar	Chapter 8	
10	17-Mar	Chapter 8	Writing Assignment #5
11	24-Mar	Spring Break	
12	31-Mar	Chapter 9	Writing Assignment #6
13	7-Apr	Chapters 10 & 11	
14	14-Apr	Chapters 11 & 12	Writing Assignment #7
15	21-Apr	Chapter 13	Writing Assignment #8
16	28-Apr	Test 2	Extra Credit 2 due
17	5-May	Exam Week	Final, May 6, 1-3 pm

## GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES

**Disability:** Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

Trudy Luken, Director  
Student Accessibility Services (SAS)  
Corbett Center 244  
**Phone:** (575) 646-6840  
**E-mail:** [sas@nmsu.edu](mailto:sas@nmsu.edu)  
**Website:** [www.nmsu.edu/~ssd/](http://www.nmsu.edu/~ssd/)

**Discrimination:** NMSU policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation and protected veterans status. Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment and retaliation. For more information on discrimination issues, Title IX or NMSU's complaint process contact:

Gerard Nevarez, Executive Director or Agustin Diaz, Associate Director  
Office of Institutional Equity (OIE)  
O'Loughlin House  
**Phone:** (575) 646-3635  
**E-mail:** [equity@nmsu.edu](mailto:equity@nmsu.edu)  
**Website:** <http://www.nmsu.edu/~eeo/>

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one's own. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct and are subject to disciplinary action such as failure on the assignment, failure of the course, or dismissal from the university. The NMSU Library has more information and help on how to avoid plagiarism at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/plagiarism/>