

Sociology/Psychology 530, Lec. 004

Introductory Social Psychology

Fall 2015

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Course web page: <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~delamate/soc530fall.html>

Social psychology is the study of the influences on and consequences of social interaction. It is concerned with the relationships between the individual and other persons or groups of people. This course presents a survey of theory and research in social psychology. We will first study the process of socialization, and the development of the person's self-image or identity. Next, we consider the individual as a social actor, and influences on behavior such as attitudes, social influence and persuasion, and social motives such as aggression and altruism. The third major section involves a detailed analysis of social interaction. The fourth section looks at processes which occur in groups, including conformity, productivity and leadership. The course concludes with a consideration of links between the individual and the society and phenomena such as status attainment, social influences on health, and deviant behavior.

The course involves a variety of activities, including lecture, discussion and other activities during lecture, videos, and discussion sections. Each of these is intended to contribute to your learning of social psychological concepts and research methods, and developing the ability to apply what you have learned to your understanding of yourself and the social world. I include several types of activities because people learn in different ways. Your mindful attention to each of these components will maximize what you gain from participating in this course.

Objectives of this course:

1. To help you to identify and learn about the various social influences on your attitudes, behavior, and personality, and the effects of their influence on you. These influences include family, friends, mass media, groups you belong to, and culture.
2. To enhance your ability to analyze the patterns in your everyday interactions using social psychological theories and research. This knowledge may increase your agency in your relationships.
3. To teach you the basic principles of critical thinking, using material in the textbook and examples taken from daily life. We will direct critical attention to the mass media in US society.

4. To familiarize students with methods used in research on social interaction, and with problems inherent in some of these methods, so that they can read research reports critically and intelligently.

Department learning objectives.

Beyond the specific substantive and methodological content I will cover in this course, I have designed this course to achieve the following instructional objectives designated as priorities by the Department of Sociology:

- *Critically Evaluate Published Research:* Sociology graduates will be able to read and evaluate published research as it appears in academic journals and popular or policy publications.
- *Communicate Skillfully:* Sociology majors write papers and make oral presentations that build arguments and assess evidence in a clear and effective manner.
- *Critical Thinking about Society and Social Processes:* Sociology graduates can look beyond the surface of issues to discover the "why" and "how" of social order and structure and consider the underlying social mechanisms that may be creating a situation. They can identify evidence that may adjudicate between alternate explanations for phenomena as well as develop proposed policies or action plans in light of theory and data.
- *See Things from a Global Perspective:* Sociologists learn about different cultures, groups, and societies across both time and place. They are aware of the diversity of backgrounds and experiences among residents of the United States. They understand the ways events and processes in one country are linked to those in other countries.
- *Work effectively in groups:* Students will improve their skills in understanding group dynamics and working well with people from different backgrounds with different strengths and weaknesses.

Required books:

1. DeLamater, J.D., Myers, D.J., and Collett, J.L. *Social Psychology*. 8th ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. 2015. (DMC)

Paperback; Available in printed copy with a list price of \$90.00, or ebook from Westview for \$59.99.
2. Cahill, S.E., Sandstrom, K., and Froyum, C. *Inside Social Life: Readings in Sociological Psychology and Microsociology*, 7th ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2014. (CSF)

Paperback: Available in printed copy for \$69.95

The reading assignments are taken entirely from these two books.

Examinations:

In addition to the assigned readings, there will be two examinations, a midterm and a final exam. Both examinations will be essay, written in class. There will be both short answer (identify and define) and

longer essay questions. The first exam will be worth up to 30 points, and the final will be worth up to 50 points.

NOTICE: Exams will be given on October 23rd, and December 17th. Students who have or make personal travel plans on those dates must drop the course.

This course also has a "laboratory" component, consisting of four exercises. Each exercise requires you to collect data or assess information relevant to various topics in social psychology. Each exercise will require 2 to 5 hours to complete. Four of these exercises are to be completed during the course, about one every 3 weeks. Each exercise will be worth up to 10 points.

Discussion Sections:

This semester, everyone taking the course is required to register for and attend a discussion section. **Section meetings will begin on Tuesday, September 8th.** We will do a variety of things in section, but the emphasis will be on discussion. This is your opportunity to get actively involved with the course material. Each week we will give you an opportunity to ask questions about the readings or the material presented in lecture. We will discuss topics and events related to the course.

You will have opportunities to earn points in discussion section.

Grading:

Course grades will be based on the total number of points earned during the course.

Exam 1: 30 points

Exam 2: 50 points

Exercises: 40 points,

Discussion section: 48

Total points: 168

Accommodations:

Please send the instructor and your TA an email **by the end of the second week of the course** if you are eligible for special arrangements or accommodations for testing, assignments, or other aspects of the course. This may be the case if English is your second language or you experience a physical or psychological condition that makes it difficult for you to complete assignments and/or exams without some modification of those tasks. Accommodations are provided for students who qualify for disability services through the [McBurney Center](http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/). Their website has detailed instructions about how to qualify: <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>. Provide a copy of your accommodations request (VISA) to the instructor by the end of the second week of class. We try to reserve rooms and proctors by the third week in class, so we must know of all accommodations by then.

If you wish to request a scheduling accommodation for religious observances, **send an email by the end of the second week of the course** to the Instructor and your TA stating the specific date(s) for which you

request accommodation; campus policy requires that religious observances be accommodated if you make a timely request early in the term. See the university's [web page](#) for details: <https://kb.wisc.edu/page.php?id=21698>

Academic honesty:

As in all courses at the University of Wisconsin, you are expected to follow the University's rules and regulations pertaining to academic honesty and integrity. The standards are outlined by the [Office of the Dean of Students](#) at <http://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/academic-integrity/>

According to UWS 14, academic misconduct is defined as:

- seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance;
- assists other students in any of these acts.

For a complete description of behaviors that violate the University's standards as well the disciplinary penalties and procedures, please see the Dean of Students [website](#). If you have questions about the rules for any of the assignments or exams, please ask your instructor or your TA.

Course Evaluations:

The Department of Sociology conducts student evaluations of this course near the end of the semester. These evaluations include questions about the instructor and the teaching assistant(s) of the course. We will conduct informal evaluations of the discussion sections during the course. Students who have more immediate comments, complaints, or concerns about the teaching assistant may report them to the instructor, John DeLamater. Students may also discuss their concerns with Professor Pam Oliver, Chair, 8128 Social Science, 262-1498.

SOCIOLOGY/PSYCHOLOGY 530
INTRODUCTORY SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
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DATE TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT

SOME BASICS

Sept. 2 Introduction

Sept. 4 **Theories** in Social Psychology

DMC: Chap. 1

Sept. 9-11 **Research Methods** in Social Psychology

DMC: Chap. 2 Research Methods in Social Psychology

SOCIALIZATION

Sept. 14-18 **Childhood Socialization**

DMC: Chap. 3, pp. 66-98; Critical Thinking, pp. 114-115.

CSF: Selections 11, 17, 33

Sept. 21-23 **Self and Identity**

DMC: Chap. 4, pp. 117-147.

CSF: Selections 15, 16, 18, 19

Sept. 25-28 **Influence of the Life Course** "Who am I?"

DMC: Chap. 3, pp. 98-114. Due Sept. 25th

THE INDIVIDUAL AS A SOCIAL ACTOR

Sept. 29- **Symbolic Communication, Emotion**

Oct. 2 DMC: Chaps. 5, 8

CSF: Selections 3, 4

Oct. 5-7 **Attitudes**

DMC: Chap. 7

Oct. 9-12 **Social Influence**

Observation at Fast Food Rest

DMC: Chap. 9

Due Oct. 9

CSF: Selection 10

Oct.13-16 **Social Perception and Cognition**

DMC: Chap. 6

CSF: Selections 6, 7, 12

Oct. 17-21 **Social Motives**

DMC: Chaps. 10, 11

October 23 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION** (In Class)

Room to be announced.

SOCIAL INTERACTION

Oct. 26-30 **Interaction as Exchange**

Handout

Nov. 2-6 **Impression Management**

DMC: Chap. 4, pp. 144-175

CSF: Selections 21, 22, 25, 26

Nov. 9-11 **Interpersonal Relationships**

DMC: Chap. 12

Love

CSF: Selection 8

Due Nov. 13

SMALL GROUPS

Nov. 13-18 **Group Processes**

DMC: Chap. 14

Nov. 19-23 **Leadership and Productivity**

Nov. 26- 29 **Recess**

Nov. 25, 30 **Cohesion and Conflict**

DMC: Chap. 13

INDIVIDUAL IN SOCIETY

Dec. 2-7 **Social Structure and Personality** The Power of Advertising

DMC: Chap. 15

Due April 24

CSF: Selections 23, 29, 32, 37

Dec. 8-14 **Deviant Behavior**

DMC: Chap. 16

CSF: Selections 38, 40

December 17th **FINAL EXAMINATION** 5:05 to 7:05 PM

Room to be announced