



PSYC 221: Social Psychology
Summer II

Meeting Times: Monday-Friday 10:00am-12:00pm
Location: Zoom Synchronous
July 14th -August 1st, 2025



Instructor: Joseph Barnet, Ph.D.

Pronouns: he/him/his

Email: jbarnet@umd.edu

Office: Biology-Psychology Building, Room 3143

Office Hours: Please contact to schedule. I will be available to meet after most class sessions by appointment/request.

Course Description:

Welcome to Social Psychology! My name is Joseph Barnet, and I consider it a privilege to be your professor during this summer term. This course is going to explore people's thoughts, feelings, and behavior, and how all these things are influenced and shaped by social factors and contexts. We will investigate and explore how we interact with ourselves, others, and the world around them. We will ponder the following questions: Who are we in groups? How does an individual function due to social factors and influences? How much of an individual's functioning is based upon that social influence? We will also ponder whether general differences exist, whether power always corrupts, and if violent media makes us violent.

This course is also about how social psychologists think, what they do, and what the results of their research mean. I hope to help you become better critical thinkers, writers, and consumers of science, so that when you see a social media post, advertisement, or an article purporting some promise, phenomenon, or fact, you're motivated to pause and question, perhaps find scholarly

research, and learn that there's more to the story. You will have the opportunity this semester to interact in discussion with classmates regarding several topics in social psychology.

Course Learning Objectives:

The learning objectives for this course are based on the [Psychology Department's learning outcomes](#): 1) Knowledge in psychology, 2) Scientific inquiry and critical thinking, 3) Ethics and Social Responsibility, 4) Structural Inequalities, 5) Communication, and 6) Professional development. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Learn about the theoretical principles and processes concerning the study of the *social self* (or the ways in which we are shaped by the world around us and the ways in which we shape the world).
- Strengthen your ability to consume and utilize psychological research to help evaluate conflicting ideas, examine interesting phenomena, and reflect on the social world with a mind to biases that lead to racism, sexism, and other social problems.
- Strengthen your ability to write scientifically about social psychological phenomena.
- Discuss and debate psychological phenomena.

Required Text/Readings/Resources:

Course Page: The course webpage can be found at elms.umd.edu. You must use your directory ID and password to access this page.

Textbook: The textbook for this course, **Together: The Science of Social Psychology**, is available online here: <http://noba.to/txqy938d>. *The textbook is free* and is an open-source collection of essays written by psychologists that are only available online. You can read the chapters online or download a pdf copy of the entire book. A pdf copy of the book will also be uploaded to the first course module. You will be responsible for knowing and understanding the material covered in each chapter of the textbook. In lecture, I will be providing supplemental information based in other areas of social psychology which are not covered in the textbook.

Course Organization: This course has five scheduled meetings each week from July 8th-26th from 9:00am-12:00pm. These meetings will consist of lectures, course discussions, and/or in-class activities. On ELMS Canvas, the course has been organized into three modules to reflect the materials and assignments that need to be completed each week.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance for this course is mandatory. Students are expected to attend all course sessions to ensure their mastery of key course topics and concepts. If you miss a class, please obtain the class notes and handouts from a classmate. Participation matters, too. Please complete your readings before we cover the material in class and post your discussion questions on time. Pay attention and come to class “fresh” and engaged to learn and contribute to discussion where appropriate.

Late Paper and Assignment Policy: If you are absent and miss work, you are responsible for completing that work. Your grade will be reduced 15% for each day that an assignment is late.

Please note that I do not accept late quizzes or exams without a documented university excuse. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact me.

Course Requirements and Grading;

1. **Quizzes** - There will be 2 quizzes administered in class at the end of the first two weeks. The quizzes will cover all material presented that week. Each quiz is worth 15% towards your final grade.

Quizzes are meant to take 40-45 minutes to complete. They will include multiple choice and true/false questions and will cover any material discussed in the textbook, although they will emphasize material covered in lecture that week. Quizzes are not cumulative; however, some concepts/facts fit into more than one unit and may appear on a quiz more than once.

2. **Exam** -There will be 1 exam on the last day of class that is 20% towards your final grade. The exam is cumulative but will emphasize the content that was presented during the final week.
3. **Discussion Threads** - Each discussion topic issue will relate to a modern research area, theory, or controversy in social psychology. There are 6 total discussion threads. I expect you to use this as a way of maintaining engagement with the course material. You will be expected to contribute **at least one** substantive, quality comment and respond to at least one of your classmates' posts on the discussion threads each week. Initial comments should be a minimum of 5 sentences and a maximum of 10 sentences long. Responses should be a minimum of 2 sentences and a maximum of 5 sentences long. This means you will need to submit a **total of 6 substantive, quality comments and respond to at least 6 of your classmates' posts** throughout the course to receive full credit for this assignment.

Please note, you cannot cram all 6 comments on or near the final day of the course. To get full credit, each of your comments must be posted by Sunday at 11:59pm. Responses should be posted no later than the following Tuesday by 11:59 PM. The **comments for the first two discussion threads** are scheduled for the first week of the course. These topics will also be discussed in class.

4. **Class Attendance and Lecture Participation (7.5%)**- 7.5% of your final grade will be based on your attendance and contribution to class discussions. Students will receive 5 points each week if they attend 4 out of the 5 scheduled class meetings.
5. **Interactive Activities (20%)**-This course is designed to involve a variety of learning activities. Some activities may require you to work in teams or groups. These assignments will be evaluated to assess (a) your demonstrated learning of the material and (b) the extent to which you form clear arguments supported by factual statements. The activities will vary in content and structure. Some activities will involve you engaging with social psychological research. Other days you will be working with groups to do a group debate/project. These assignments cumulatively are worth 20% towards your final grade. Please note that you will

need to be present in class in order to earn points for these assignments as you will be contributing to your group's effort. There will be a 15% deduction (deduction is for each interactive assignment) for each day that you are missing from class without a documented university excuse.

- Writing Assignments (15%)**- Throughout the course, you will be assigned to write 2 short essays (~500 words, or 2 double-spaced pages). For each assignment, you will respond to a writing prompt. You will be required to incorporate additional research articles into your essay. You will be provided with a selection of articles and asked to read, summarize, and integrate a certain number of articles into your argument. Writing assignments are intended to help you think more deeply about the broader implications, critiques, and/or limitations of course material. Through reading research articles and synthesizing findings to make an argument, writing assignments are also intended to help you develop your critical thinking and scientific writing skills. The two writing assignments are worth 15% of your grade.

You are welcomed (and encouraged) to work with classmates on these assignments, though your submission must represent only your own writing. Details for each assignment, as well as objectives and grading rubrics will be provided separately on ELMS. All assignments will be due by 11:59 pm EST on Canvas (on the given day they are due). All assignments will be submitted electronically.

Grade Breakdown:

- 2 Quizzes (15% each) = 30%
- 1 Exam = 20%
- Discussion Threads = 7.5%
- Class Attendance and Participation = 7.5%
- Interactive Activities = 20%
- 2 Writing Assignments = 15%
- Total = 100%

Final Grade Conversions			
	Percentage	Grade	GPA
	97%+	A+	4.0
	94%-96.9%	A	4.0
	90%-93.9%	A-	3.7
	87%-89.9%	B+	3.3
	84%-86.9%	B	3.0
	80%-83.9%	B-	2.7
	77%-79.9%	C+	2.3
	74%-76.9%	C	2.0
	70%-73.9%	C-	1.7
	67%-69.9%	D+	1.3
	64%-66.9%	D	1.0
	60%-63.9%	D-	0.7
	0%-59.9%	F	0.0

Other Classroom and Campus Policies

Cell Phone Policy: Text messaging and answering your cellular phone during class is unacceptable. Please remember to place the ringer on silent or vibrate. If you must make an emergency phone call during class, please mute your computer audio and turn off your computer camera.

Campus Policies: It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland's policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:

- Academic Integrity
- Student and instructor conduct
- Accessibility and accommodations
- Attendance and excused absences
- Grades and appeals
- Copyright and intellectual property

Please visit www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.

Inclusive Learning Environment: Students will be invited to share their thoughts in class and a diversity of opinions is welcome. Respectful communication is expected, even when expressing differing perspectives. Supporting one's statements with research findings is encouraged. In accordance with free speech statutes, speech that contains threats of violence is prohibited.

As a human, behavior-centered discipline, we value a strong understanding of diversity. Diversity refers to differences in race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, abilities, class, nationality, and other factors. The Department of Psychology at the University of Maryland is committed to creating a respectful and affirming climate in which all students, staff, and faculty are inspired to achieve their full potential.

We believe that actively fostering an affirming environment strengthens our department as a whole. A department that values and celebrates diversity among its students, staff and faculty is best able to develop the strengths and talents of all members of the department community.

Reporting Racism and Other Forms of Hate and Bias: If you experience racism or other form of bias or hate in this class or any psychology course, we encourage you to do at least one of the following: Please report the experience to the instructor or teaching assistant and/or use report to the Department of Psychology's Diversity and Inclusion Committee [using this link](#) (reports can be made anonymously). Please also report all incidents of hate and bias to the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Reporting Sexual Misconduct

ALL instructors and teaching assistants are required to report any **PAST OR PRESENT** instances of sexual misconduct to the Title IX office. All incidents faced by members of the campus community or visitors must be reported, regardless of where the incident occurred (i.e., on or off campus), when the incident occurred (i.e., recently or many years past), how the instructor or teaching assistant learned of the incident (i.e., directly from the individual who experienced it or from their friend/colleague), and regardless of whether the incident was previously reported.

Names/Pronouns and Self-Identification: The University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and we are committed to fostering equitable classroom environments. I invite you, if you wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity. Visit the [LGBTQ+ Equity Center](#) to learn more.

Additionally, how you identify in terms of your gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and dis/ability, among all aspects of your identity, is your choice whether to disclose (e.g., should it come up in classroom conversation about our experiences and perspectives) and should be self-identified, not presumed or imposed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly, and I ask you to do the same for all of your fellow Terps.

Statement of Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in this course, is encouraged to use the resources listed below for support.

- [Fostering Terp Success](#)
- [UMD Campus Pantry](#)
- [UMD Student Crisis Fund](#)
- [Counseling Center](#)

Accommodations and Campus Resources

Accessibility and Disability Services: If you are a student with a disability, please arrange to speak with me privately at the beginning of the semester to discuss accommodations that will help you be successful in this course ([sharing your accommodations with instructors](#)). You must provide documentation of the disability and the recommendation for accommodations must come from [Accessibility & Disability Service \(ADS\)](#). You can contact ADS via phone (301-314-7682) or email (adsfrontdesk@umd.edu) for further guidance and support.

University Health Center

<https://health.umd.edu/>

The Writing Center

<https://english.umd.edu/writing-programs/writing-center>

Academic Achievement Programs

(for low-income, first-generation students)

- **Student Support Services**
<https://www.aap.umd.edu/about-ied-sss.html>
- **Educational Opportunity Center (EOC)**
<https://www.aap.umd.edu/eoc-overview.html>
- **McNair Scholars Program**
<https://www.aap.umd.edu/mcnair-about.html>

Office of Community Engagement

<https://oce.umd.edu/>

Transfer Student Resources

<https://www.transferfaqs.umd.edu/>

Multicultural Involvement Community Advocacy (MICA)

https://thestamp.umd.edu/multicultural_involvement_community_advocacy

Tutorial Services

<https://www.tutoring.umd.edu/>

University Libraries

<https://www.lib.umd.edu/>

Information/Technology Support

<https://umd.service-now.com/itsupport/>

Office of Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct

<https://www.ocrsm.umd.edu/>

International Student & Scholar Services

<http://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/international-students-scholar-services>

Sample

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	What is Due?
Week 1 July 14 th - July 20 th	<i>Introduction to Social Psychology:</i> <i>Research Methods in Social Psychology:</i> <i>The Social Self</i> <i>Social Cognition</i>	Discussion Threads #1 and #2 Interactive Activity #1 Assignment Writing Assignment #1 Quiz #1 (in class on July 12 th) Read from Textbook (I strongly recommend completing the reading pertaining to the topic of the day before class): <i>Ch. 1 An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology</i> <i>Ch. 2 Research Methods in Social Psychology</i> <i>Ch. 6: Self and Identity</i> All assignments due Friday, July 18 th at 11:59pm
Week 2 July 21 st – July 27 nd	<i>Attitudes and Behavior</i> <i>Persuasion</i> Social Influence Group Processes	Discussion Threads #3 and #4 Interactive Activity #2 Quiz #2 (in class on July 19 th)

	Stereotypes, Prejudice and Discrimination	<p>Read from Textbook (I strongly recommend completing the reading pertaining to the topic of the day before class):</p> <p><i>Ch. 7: Social Cognition and Attitudes</i></p> <p><i>Ch. 16: Conformity and Obedience</i></p> <p><i>Ch. 17: Persuasion So Easily Fooled</i></p> <p><i>Ch. 10: The Psychology of Groups</i></p> <p><i>Ch. 18: Prejudice, Discrimination and Stereotyping</i></p> <p>All assignments due Friday, July 25th at 11:59pm</p>
<p>Week 3</p> <p>July 28^{thnd} – August 1st</p>	<p>Ch. 10 Altruism</p> <p>Ch. 11 Aggression and Violence</p> <p>Ch. 12 Relationships</p> <p>Mini Chapter: Social Psychology and Happiness</p> <p>Mini Chapter: The Social Psychology of Stress and Health</p> <p>Mini Chapter: Cults</p>	<p>Discussion Threads #5 and #6</p> <p>Interactive Activity #3</p> <p>Writing Assignment #2</p> <p>Exam (in class on July 26th)</p> <p>Read from Textbook (I strongly recommend completing the reading pertaining to the topic of the day before class):</p> <p><i>Ch. 20: Helping and Prosocial Behavior</i></p> <p><i>Ch. 19: Aggression and Violence</i></p> <p><i>Ch. 22: Attraction and Beauty</i></p>

		<i>Ch. 26: Relationships and Well-being</i> <i>Ch. 24: Love, Friendship and Social Support</i> All assignments due Friday, August 1 st at 11:59pm
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NOTE: The schedule above is meant to serve as a guide – **you are responsible** for managing the course material on your own time.

This syllabus is not a binding document. I reserve the right to modify the syllabus at any time and for any reason. If anything is modified, I will notify the class, but it is your responsibility to keep up with class announcements and updates. In addition, if you are confused about anything on the syllabus (including assignment guidelines and due dates) then you are responsible to ask me for clarification.