

Social Psychology
Fall 2025
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:40-10:40am
Theater and Dance Building | Room 206
3 Credits

Instructor:

Grace Vieth

Email: gvieth@macalester.edu

Office Hours (OLRI - 328): Wednesdays 11am-1pm or by appointment

Textbook:

Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., Sommers, S. R., & Page-Gould, E. (2022). *Social psychology* (Eleventh Edition). Pearson.

Objectives of the course are for you to learn:

1. How social psychologists view the world.
2. How human behavior is responsive to changes in the social situation.
3. The importance of scientific methods, especially as applied to social-psychological questions.
4. How to identify the utility of social-psychological approaches and knowledge to your own life experiences.

This course will help prepare you for:

1. Understanding of social psychology topics presented in future psychology courses.
2. Participation in faculty research projects.
3. Social psychology courses in graduate school.
4. Intelligent understanding of social science research in the general media.

Late Work Policy:

All assignments that are not uploaded to moodle *by 11:59pm the day they are due* are considered late. Late work will incur a 10% penalty per day for 5 days, after which it cannot be turned in. If you have extenuating circumstances that may compromise your ability to turn in work, *talk to the instructor before the assignment is due*.

Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty:

- All students enrolled in this course are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. All written work must be your own.
- The use of Chat GBT is prohibited

Assignments:

More details on the assignments, take-home midterm & final exams, as well as the group project will be provided closer to the due dates and posted on Moodle.

Assignments (120 points total)

1. Replication Crisis / Open Science (40)

More details to come

2. Conformity & Obedience (40)

More details to come

3. Prosocial behavior (40)

More details to come

Final Group Project & Presentation

This final project is intended to apply what you have learned throughout the class to an intervention for a real-world problem. Specifically, you will be asked to create a social psychology-based intervention, prevention, or education program. You will be asked to design a program based on the knowledge, theories, and research you learned throughout the term. Your program should target a specific phenomenon (e.g., racial injustice in schools, smoking behaviors, intimate partner violence, bystander interventions, etc.) and outline a specific method for addressing the chosen phenomenon by drawing upon content from the lectures and readings to support your argument. You may choose any phenomenon of your liking, but you must be able to justify how social psychological research and theories can be applied to intervene in that phenomenon. A list of suggested readings relating to intervention/prevention programs will be provided; however, you are welcome to draw upon any readings or relevant content that are scientifically valid to support your arguments. Your grade will be based on the quality of your intervention (80 points) and your groups in class presentation (20 points).

Midterm and Final Exams (100 points each, for a total of 200 points):

- Test content: Non-cumulative
 - The midterm will cover material (lectures AND readings) from Weeks 1-6.
 - The final will cover material (lectures AND readings) from Weeks 7-14.
- Test format: Take home essay exam
 - You will have ~1 week to work on both the midterm and final exam. You will be provided with a list of 8 essay questions (of which you will have to pick 4 to answer). Each response should be between 500 & 750 words.
 - For each exam, there will be a class period dedicated to working on the exam with help from both the instructor and your peers!

Excuses and makeup exams: Communicate ASAP

- If there is a legitimate reason why you cannot take your exam over the week that it is assigned, please contact the instructor **as soon as possible before the day of the exam opening** to work out a solution.
- There are very few acceptable reasons for not completing the exam during the scheduled time, and arrangements with the instructor need to be made **ahead of time** in the rare instance that an issue arises.

Attendance

Attendance is required to be successful in this class! Plus, we would miss you and your insights if you never showed. Thus, please plan to attend each class. However, life happens so you get **5 free skips for the semester**. These are days you can miss class for any reason and there is no need to email. After you use your 5 free skips, unexcused absences will hurt your final attendance grade. Attendance will be collected at the beginning of each class

Grading

Graded Course Components

Assignment	Possible Points
Writing Assignments (3)	120
Group Project	100
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
Attendance	100
Total	520

Final Grade Breakdown

Percent	Grade
93.00 – 100%	A
90.00 – 92.99%	A-
87.00 – 89.99%	B+
83.00 – 86.99%	B
80.00 – 82.99%	B-
77.00 – 79.99%	C+
73.00 – 76.99%	C
70.00 – 72.99%	C-
67.00 – 69.99%	D+
60.00 – 66.99%	D
< 60.00%	F

Course Schedule

	Topic	Reading(s)	Graded Work
<i>Sept 1-5</i>	No class 9/1 Syllabus day 9/3 Introduction to Social Psychology	Syllabus Chapter 1: Introduction to Social Psychology	
<i>Sept 8th – 12th</i>	Introduction to methods in social psychology, theory & the replication crisis	Chapter 2: Methodology	
<i>Sept 15th-19th</i>	Social cognition	Chapter 3: Social Cognition	<i>NO CLASS ON THE 19th</i> <i>Assignment 1 (Open Science) due Sunday the 21st at 11:59pm.</i>
<i>Sept 22nd-26th</i>	Guest Lecture 9/22 Online lecture on social perception & discussion. Regular class on 9/26	Chapter 4: Social Perception	<i>REMOTE CLASS ON THE 24th</i>
<i>September, 29th, Oct 2-8</i>	The self	Chapter 5: The self	
<i>Oct 6th, 8th, & 10th</i>	Cognitive Dissonance, Self Esteem	Chapter 6: Cognitive Dissonance	<i>Midterm Exam Opens – Monday the 6th at 8am</i>
<i>Oct 13th, 15th, & 17th</i>	October 13 th Attitudes Fall break	Chapter 7: Attitudes	<i>NO CLASS ON THE 17TH</i> <i>ENJOY YOUR BREAK</i> Midterm Exam due Monday the 13th at 11:59pm via moodle

<i>Oct 20th, 22th & 24th</i>	Attitudes cont. Conformity & Obedience	Chapter 8: Conformity & Obedience	
<i>Oct 27th, 29th, & 31st</i>	Group Processes	Chapter 9: Group Processes	<i>Assignment 2 (Conformity & Obedience) due on Sunday November 2nd at 11:59pm</i> <i>Group Project Assignments / Final Project Introduction</i>
<i>Nov 3rd, 5th, & 7th</i>	Relationship Science	Chapter 10: Attraction & Relationships	
<i>Nov 10, 12th & 14th</i>	Prosocial Behavior	Chapter 11: Prosocial Behavior	<i>Assignment 3 (Prosocial behavior) due on Sunday the 19rd at 11:59pm</i>
<i>Nov 17th, 19th, 21st</i>	Aggression	Chapter 12: Aggression	
<i>Nov 24th</i>	Prejudice Thanksgiving break Thanksgiving break	Chapter 13: Prejudice	
<i>Dec 1st, 3rd, & 5th</i>	Prejudice cont. Group Project Presentations (1/2)		<i>Group presentations</i>
<i>Dec 8th & 10th</i>	Group Project Presentations (2/2) Final Exam workday & presentation overflow(required)		<i>December 8th: Final Exam Questions Released</i> <i>Group Presentations</i> <i>FINAL GROUP PROJECT DUE DECEMBER 10th: 11:59pm</i>

<i>December 15th</i>	Final exam due by 11:59pm on Moodle
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Note: All readings will be posted on moodle.