Psychology 280XW: Social Psychology
Fall 2014

Instructor: Ben Chun Pan Lam, M.S.
Office hours: T 12:30-3:30
(LMs 1 through 7)
E-mail: bencplam@iastate.edu
Phone: 515-294-2335 (office)
Office: Science I 484

Instructor: Melissa A. Johnson, M.S.
Office hours: W 9:00-12:00
(LMs 8 through 14)
E-mail: majohn@iastate.edu
Phone: 515-294-9831 (office)
Office: Lagomarcino W159

WELCOME NOTE

Welcome! We are very excited to share with you the fascinating field of Social Psychology. Social Psychology is likely to be the most relatable course you can take at Iowa State. Please take some time to carefully read the syllabus.

You will notice that different kinds of assignments have been built into this online course to make it more engaging. For instance, you will watch a film and identify relevant social psychological theories. Otherwise you will be reading from the text, listening to lectures, examining Powerpoint slides, working with classmates on discussion assignments, and taking quizzes. We expect your cooperation and understanding as we work towards meeting the stated learning objectives. We look forward to a fun semester!

COURSE OVERVIEW

ISU Catalogue Description: “Individual human behavior in social contexts. Emphasis on social judgments and decisions, attitudes, perceptions of others, social influence, aggression, stereotypes, and helping.”

Social Psychology: is an area of psychology that uses the scientific method to understand how people think, feel, and act in social contexts. In this course, you will learn how social psychological principles and theories can be used to study human behaviors and phenomena we observe everyday (e.g., the self, attitudes, helping, romantic relationships).

Course Format: This is a 3-credit 200-level course (no prerequisites) delivered online.

Learning Goals: By the end of this course, students will be able to…
1) Develop a detailed knowledge of social psychology by defining key concepts used in the study of human social behaviors and contexts, as well as identifying and explaining various social psychological phenomena, principles, and theories
2) Develop an understanding of scientific inquiry and demonstrate critical thinking by analyzing social psychological research used to study human social behaviors and contexts
3) Relate concepts taught in the class to real life examples and everyday experience
4) Understand the role of ethnics and diversity in human behavior by learning cultural differences in how humans think, feel, and act in social contexts


Course Materials: Course notes, audio lectures, practice questions, and other materials are available on BlackBoard Learn. Materials are organized into fourteen learning modules corresponding to the fourteen weeks of the semester. All audio lectures were prepared and presented by Dr. Jeff Miller, PhD., a recent graduate of ISU’s Social Psychology program.
Additional materials are included in most of the learning module folders such as further readings, activities, and video clips. You will not be tested on these additional materials but are likely to find them interesting. Please take advantage of them at your discretion.

**How to Contact the Instructors:** If you have any questions or concerns about the course, email is the preferred way to contact us. We will regularly check our emails and respond as quickly as possible from 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Although we will try to respond to emails afterhours and on weekends, please do not expect prompt replies during these times.

If you live on or near the ISU campus you can also meet with us during our office hours noted on the syllabus. Please do your best to notify us prior to coming to scheduled office hours. If you are unable to attend scheduled office hours, you may request an appointment time with us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

1) **Group Discussion Board Participation (70 points):** Each student will be required to contribute to the class via small group discussion boards. Using the discussion boards helps foster communication skills and critical thinking. We also find that students enjoy this medium of open interaction with the materials, other students, and instructors.

Each week, students will be randomly placed into a small online group of 5 students. Each group will be given a problem or critical thinking question that each member must initially respond to individually over 2-3 paragraphs (4 points) by Thursday night at midnight. Students will then have until Sunday night at midnight to make at least one insightful comment (1 point) relating a common experience or topic, or furthering the discussion in some way. Students are encouraged to respectfully engage in discussion regarding at least one group member’s initial response to that week’s topic or question. There is no cap on the amount of discussion posts you may make; so, enjoy the interaction! Particularly insightful posts might be rewarded with an extra credit point at the course instructors’ discretion. This exercise helps you link various social psychological principles and concepts learned in class to everyday events and your social experience.

***Abuse of the discussion boards (e.g., spamming, posting inappropriate content, disrespecting other students, etc.) will lead to loss of posting privileges and loss of points for this activity. We are all adults, and we expect that the discussion boards will reflect maturity and thoughtful consideration. Continued inappropriate behavior on the discussion board might also lead to formal reporting to Student Affairs per the ISU student handbook.

2) **Film Analysis Papers (80 points):** You will complete 2 film analysis papers, each worth 40 points. The film analysis papers will be due by 5pm on Friday, 10/17/14, and 5pm on Friday, 12/5/14. You will analyze the human actions and events portrayed in the film you choose from a social psychological perspective. Moreover, this exercise will train you in the ability to describe relevant research findings as well as formal writing. Please see the Blackboard menu bar “Film Analysis Papers” link under “Assignments” for more detailed instructions, a sample paper, as well as the submission links. Please do not wait until the last minute to begin this (or any) assignment – good quality work is easily distinguishable from something put together last minute.

***Late submissions for these papers will not be accepted barring extreme circumstances. Early submissions are welcome and encouraged.

3) **Quizzes (140 points):** Students will be given 14 open book quizzes (one quiz per learning modules). Each quiz has 10 questions and is worth 10 points (1 point per question) covering each of the 14 learning modules’ materials. Each quiz will be due at the end of that learning module’s week (i.e., Sunday at midnight). Quizzes are timed. Students will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz. You are welcome to use your notes and textbook while taking the quizzes, and you are expected to
complete each quiz independent of other students.

Questions are drawn primarily from the required textbook, and will cover basic definitions, research findings, theory, and applications of social psychology to everyday life. For any given topic covered in the course, you should be able to (1) define what the topic is, (2) describe research studies conducted to understand the topic, (3) discuss related social psychology theories and principles, (4) define key concepts, and (5) link real-world phenomena that illustrate the topic. Quiz overviews (“study guides”) are provided on BlackBoard, as well as a handful of practice questions.

***Please check your score on BlackBoard after taking each quiz. If you cannot find your score in the gradebook or encounter any other technical issues, please contact the current instructor immediately upon discovering the problem. BlackBoard closely logs students’ quiz activity, and the course gradebook is regularly archived. Attempts to dishonestly acquire points near the end of the semester for a “missed” quiz much earlier in the semester will not be tolerated.

4) Research Credits (40 points required; up to 40 points extra): To provide students with some exposure to actual psychological research, the department requires that each student earn ten required research credits. In Psych 280XW, each of the ten required research credits is worth 4 course points for a total of 40 required course points. Each research credit may be earned in one of two ways: research participation (Option 1) or writing a summary (Option 2) on a research article posted on BlackBoard. In addition to the required research credits, you can earn up to 10 “bonus” or extra research credits (i.e., 40 bonus course points).

***Students enrolled in Psych 280XW will be contacted at the beginning of each semester to enroll on SONA, the ISU Psych department’s research participation tracking system. Your research participation credits can be tracked through SONA. Course instructors will not have access to your research participation credit report until the end of the semester. Further information about the two ways to earn research credits is provided on Blackboard.

5) Extra Credit Media Examples (up to 28 points extra): Students can earn extra credit for each learning module by submitting examples of media (from TV, movies, newspapers, music, etc.) that directly apply to course materials. Media examples relevant to that learning module’s topic are due by Sunday at midnight. Each example submitted will count for 1 extra point if acceptable.

Students can receive up to 28 total points of extra credit from the media examples (2 per each of the 14 learning modules). As with all other course assignments, submit these examples using the links provided on BlackBoard.

FINAL GRADING: The base number of points you can earn for required assignments is 330. You are able to earn up to 40 extra course points from both sources (extra research credits, media examples). Extra credits over the 40 point limit would not be counted. Final grades will be taken out of 330 points according to the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>C−</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B−</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>D−</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>(less than 198)</td>
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***If the class average is a B- or lower, the course instructors will apply a flat curve (all students get the same benefit).
STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

**Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to turn in honest, independent, and original work for all assignments. Not meeting these standards will result in loss of credit for the relevant assignment and possibly additional consequences imposed by the university. The expectations for work in this course include the following:

*Group discussion board posts/responses:* All posts and responses should be original and should not repeat anything (either word for word or paraphrased) from others or your own previous posts.

*Quizzes:* Quizzes should be completed by oneself, without collaboration with other students.

*Film analysis papers:* Each of the two film analysis papers should be original – they should be your own work completed for this specific assignment (do not re-use your own work from other courses either). Using the work of someone else, whether verbatim or paraphrased, without proper attribution is plagiarism. Plagiarism will lead to a zero on the assignment, and the student will be referred to ISU Student Affairs for further disciplinary action.

We take academic dishonesty very seriously and will actively monitor for any such behavior. If you have any questions about whether something is considered acceptable, please ask one of the instructors. Ignorance of the rules and expectations is not an adequate excuse for academic dishonesty. So, please be honest. Please consult the ISU Policy Library for all university policies relevant to academic conduct: [http://policy.iastate.edu/](http://policy.iastate.edu/)

**Make-up Policy:** We DO NOT allow make-up of any missed quizzes and assignments given you have plenty of advanced notice regarding ALL assignments. If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact your instructors in advance. Notification where possible prior to missing a deadline, just as in the real world, will likely be looked-upon more favorably, though extensions are exceedingly rare for this course.

System outages on BlackBoard are rare. We expect you to submit assignments and quizzes as you complete them. *It is easier to accept an excuse for one unsubmitted assignment due to a system outage than it is for multiple assignments.*

**Self-Guided Learning:** We believe that students only get out of the class what they put into it. Thus, if you do not complete all of the work each week you will likely miss a lot of examples and ways in which you can relate to the material and your quiz grades will suffer.

**Helpful Tips:** In order to get the most out of this class, students should:

*Complete each week’s work steadily – not all at once.* Research has consistently demonstrated that spaced practice – not massed practice – is the best method for learning and retaining information.

*Read before attempting to watch the lecture videos.* Students who are having difficulties with the materials may become enlightened via lecture, or will have the opportunity to ask questions to clarify the problem.

*Consider printing the Powerpoint slides before listening to each lecture video.* Each topic will have a PowerPoint file containing all of the slides for that topic. If you print this out before you listen to the lecture video, you can take notes on the slides.

*Take notes “actively.”* Try to process the information by relating it to previous materials or by making it personally relevant.
Study guides. The textbook and lectures contain a large amount of information about social psychology. In order to help you focus on the most important information – the definitions, facts and concepts – we have created study guides for each quiz.

Accommodations: If the usual modes of instruction or assessment are not conducive to your learning style or your learning needs, accommodations can be made for you. Please get in touch with the instructors during the first week of class. You will also need to provide some documentation to the Student Disability Resources (SDR) office, located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076, 515-294-7220.

The ISU Academic Success Center is available for students who need help studying. More information is available on their website: http://www.dso.iastate.edu/asc

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (on the following page)

Due dates for the course (quizzes, group discussion board, and film analysis papers, etc.) are not flexible. You may, however, work ahead as you are able and prepare assignments and other work ahead of time.

Regularly working on the course throughout a given week according to the schedule will ensure that you are not spending entire days trying to complete your work for this course. We strongly suggest that you do your best to take the material in regular, “small” doses; especially if you know you tend to procrastinate.

Course instructors may modify the course schedule at their discretion to reflect changes in research participation deadlines or major unforeseen events at the University. Any changes in the course schedule will be announced on BlackBoard or via email.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Module (LM)</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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</table>
| 1                    | Introduction (Chapter 1)                    | 8/25 – 8/31 | • Thursday midnight: LM 1 group discussion post  
|                      |                                             |             | • Sunday midnight: (1) LM 1 quiz and (2) LM 1 group discussion response   |
| 2                    | Doing Social Psychology Research (Chapter 2)| 9/1 – 9/7   | • Thursday midnight: LM 2 group discussion post  
|                      |                                             |             | • Sunday midnight: (1) LM 2 quiz and (2) LM 2 group discussion response   |
| 3                    | The Social Self (Chapter 3)                 | 9/8 – 9/14  | • Thursday midnight: LM 3 group discussion post  
|                      |                                             |             | • Sunday midnight: (1) LM 3 quiz and (2) LM 3 group discussion response   |
| 4                    | Perceiving Persons (Chapter 4)              | 9/15 – 9/21 | • Thursday midnight: LM 4 group discussion post  
|                      |                                             |             | • Sunday midnight: (1) LM 4 quiz and (2) LM 4 group discussion response   |
| 5                    | Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination (Chapter 5) | 9/22 – 9/28 | • Thursday midnight: LM 5 group discussion post  
|                      |                                             |             | • Sunday midnight: (1) LM 5 quiz and (2) LM 5 group discussion response   |
| 6                    | Attitudes (Chapter 6)                       | 9/29 – 10/5 | • Thursday midnight: LM 6 group discussion post  
|                      |                                             |             | • Sunday midnight: (1) LM 6 quiz and (2) LM 6 group discussion response   |
| 7                    | Conformity (Chapter 7)                      | 10/6 – 10/12| • Thursday midnight: LM 7 group discussion post  
|                      |                                             |             | • Sunday midnight: (1) LM 7 quiz and (2) LM 7 group discussion response   |
| 8                    | Group Processes (Chapter 8) Film Analysis 1 (Chapters 1-7) | 10/13 – 10/19 | • Thursday midnight: LM 8 group discussion post  
|                      |                                             |             | • **Friday 5pm: Film Analysis 1**  
|                      |                                             |             | • Sunday midnight: (1) LM 8 quiz and (2) LM 8 group discussion response   |
| 9                    | Attraction and Close Relationships (Chapter 9) | 10/20 – 10/26 | • Thursday midnight: LM 9 group discussion post  
|                      |                                             |             | • Sunday midnight: (1) LM 9 quiz and (2) LM 9 group discussion response   |
| 10                   | Helping Others (Chapter 10)                 | 10/27 – 11/2| • Thursday midnight: LM 10 group discussion post  
<p>|                      |                                             |             | • Sunday midnight: (1) LM 10 quiz and (2) LM 10 group discussion response |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 11   | Aggression (Chapter 11) | 11/3 – 11/9 | • Thursday midnight: LM 11 group discussion post  
• Sunday midnight: (1) LM 11 quiz and (2) LM 11 group discussion response |
| 12   | Law (Chapter 12) | 11/10 – 11/16 | • Thursday midnight: LM 12 group discussion post  
• Sunday midnight: (1) LM 12 quiz and (2) LM 12 group discussion response |
| 13   | Health (Chapter 14) | 11/17 – 11/23 | • Thursday midnight: LM 13 group discussion post  
• Sunday midnight: (1) LM 13 quiz and (2) LM 13 group discussion response |

Thanksgiving Break 11/24 – 11/28

| 14   | Consumer Behavior (on Bb only – not from the course textbook)  
**Film Analysis 2** (Chapters 1-12, 14) | 12/1 – 12/7 | • Thursday midnight: LM 14 group discussion post  
• **Friday 5pm: Film Analysis 2**  
• Sunday midnight: (1) LM 14 quiz and (2) LM 14 group discussion response |
| 15   | No topic | 12/8 – 12/12 | • Friday: Last day to earn research credits |