Welcome! We are very excited to share the fascinating field of social psychology with you. 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.

Different kinds of assignments have been built into the course to make it more engaging. For instance, you will watch a film and analyze it using relevant social psychological theories. You will also be reading from the text, listening to lectures, examining Power Point slides, taking quizzes and discussing different topics on Blackboard. We look forward to a fun semester!

COURSE OVERVIEW

ISU Catalog 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, aggression, and romantic relationships).

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

Learning Goals: Through this course, students will …
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 ethnicity 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. Materials are organized into 15 learning modules. Thirteen of the modules cover chapters in the textbook, one is reserved for your first brief Film Analysis and one week briefly covers a special topic (does not use the textbook) and is otherwise reserved for you to work on your second brief Film Analysis paper. Please see the course calendar for details.

Additional materials included in the weekly folders consist of readings, activities and video clips. You will not be tested on these additional materials, but are likely to find them very interesting. Please take advantage of them at your discretion.
How to Contact the Instructors: Email is the preferred way to contact the instructors. Instructors will regularly check their email 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 as well, please do not expect prompt replies during these times.

If you wish to meet with the current instructor in person, please request an appointment and we will find a mutually agreeable time to meet. If you are a distance learner and need to discuss something, a phone or Skype appointment can also be arranged.

STUDENT EVALUATION

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

Each week, students will be randomly placed into a small online group of up to 5 students. Groups will be given problems and/or critical thinking questions for each of the units assigned that week. Each member must initially respond individually with 2-3 paragraphs on each of the assigned problems/questions in separate posts (4 points each) by Thursday night at 11:59pm. Students will then have until Sunday night at 11:59pm to make at least one insightful comment for each topic (1 point each) relating a common, topic-relevant experience 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 topics or questions. There is no cap on the amount of discussion posts you may make - 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 two film analyses will be due by 5pm on Friday, June 19 and Friday, July 10, respectively. In these analyses, you will analyze the human actions and events portrayed in the film you choose from a social psychological perspective. This exercise will train you in the ability to describe relevant research findings as well as in formal writing generally. Please see the Blackboard menu bar “Film Analysis” link as well as the Module 8 and 14 folders for sample papers and more detailed instructions. 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 complete 14 open book quizzes (one quiz per course unit). Each quiz has 10 questions and is worth 10 points (1 point per question). Quizzes are timed and will only be available during the week in which they are assigned. You will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz. While you are welcome to use your notes and textbook while taking the quizzes, you are expected to complete each quiz independent of other students.

Questions are drawn primarily from the textbook and will cover basic definitions, research findings, theory, and applications of social psychology to everyday life. For any topic covered in the course, you should be able to (1) define what the topic is, (2) describe research studies conducted in the area, (3) discuss how key social psychological theories relate to the topic, and (4) describe a real-world phenomenon that illustrates the topic. Quiz overviews (“study guides”) are provided on Blackboard.
Learn, as are a handful of practice questions. Please check your score on Blackboard after taking each quiz. If you cannot find your score in the grade book or encounter any other technical issues, please contact the current instructor immediately upon discovering the problem. Blackboard closely logs student quiz activity, and the course grade book 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 pts. required – extra credit possible): To provide students with some exposure to actual psychological research, the department requires that each student earn 10 research credits. In Psych 280XW, each of the 10 required research credits is worth 4 course points for a total of 40 required course points. Research credits may be earned in one of two ways: research participation or writing a summary of one of the provided research articles that you have read. In addition to the required research credits, you can earn up to 10 bonus research credits, worth 3 pts each (i.e., 30 possible 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: An alternative method for students to earn extra credit is by submitting examples of media (from TV, movies, newspapers, music, etc.) that directly apply to course material for the current week. Students can receive 28 total points of extra credit from the media examples (2 for each of the 14 content modules). Media examples relevant to that week’s material are due by Sunday at 11:59pm. Each example submitted will count for 1 extra point if acceptable.

Final Grading: The base number of points you can earn for required assignments is 330. You are able to earn up to 30 extra credit points total from extra research participation, media examples, or a combination of the two. Please note: This means that even if you do 10 bonus research credits and 28 media examples, you will only get 30 points of extra credit. You just have some options. 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A–</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>C–</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B–</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>D–</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>254</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. Failing to meet 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 journal posts and responses should be original and should not repeat anything (either word for word or paraphrased) from others or your own previous
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 someone else’s work 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. Please note that ISU has subscribed to the Turnitin service that compares submitted papers to both published sources and to other papers submitted to Turnitin, allowing us to identify many forms of plagiarism quickly and easily, including reuse of work that you produced for another class.

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. Consult the ISU Policy Library for all university policies relevant to academic conduct: http://policy.iastate.edu/

Make-up Policy: We DO NOT allow make-up of any missed quizzes and assignments given that you have plenty of advanced notice regarding all assignments and a sizable window in which to complete them. If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact your instructors in advance. Notification prior to missing a deadline will likely be viewed 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: How can you get the most out of Psych 280? Here are some tips:

1) 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 material may become enlightened via lecture, or will have the opportunity to ask questions to clarify the problem.

2) Consider printing the Power Point slides before listening to each lecture video. Each topic will have a Power Point 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.

3) Take notes actively. Process the information by relating it to previous materials or by making it personally relevant.

4) Use study guides. The textbook and lectures contain a large amount of information about social psychology. To help you focus on the most important information (the definitions, facts, and concepts), we have created study guides for each quiz.

Disability Accommodation
Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact either of your instructors to set up a meeting within the first two weeks of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your need. Before meeting with an instructor, you will need to obtain a SAAR form with recommendations for accommodations from the Disability Resources Office, located in Room 1076 on the main floor of the Student Services Building. Their telephone
number is 515-294-7220 or email disabilityresources@iastate.edu. Retroactive requests for accommodations will not be honored.

Harassment and Discrimination
Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, Student Assistance at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance at 515-294-7612.

Religious Accommodation
If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and your instructor or supervisor will review the request. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance.

Contact Information
If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (on the following page)

All course due dates are tracked on Blackboard. Notifications and reminders will be automatically sent to students by Blackboard. Due dates for the course (quizzes, group discussion board, and film analysis papers) are not flexible. The links needed to submit work and take quizzes will not be available after the deadline and materials begun before but finished after the deadline are clearly marked late by Blackboard. While going ahead of the schedule on readings, lecture videos and analysis papers is possible, quizzes and discussion submissions must be completed during the week that they are assigned.

Working on the course regularly throughout the week will ensure that you are not spending entire days trying to complete your work for this course. We strongly suggest that you take the material in regular small doses, especially if you know you tend to procrastinate.

Any changes in the course schedule will be announced on Blackboard and via e-mail. Course instructors may modify the course schedule at their discretion to reflect changes in research participation deadlines or major unforeseen events at the University.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Unit 1 | Introduction (Chapter 1)                    | 5/18 – 5/24 | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 1 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 1 quiz and (2) unit 1 group discussion response |
| 2    | Unit 2 | Doing Social Psychology Research (Chapter 2)| 5/25 – 5/31 | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 2 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 2 quiz and (2) unit 2 group discussion response |
|      | Unit 3 | The Social Self (Chapter 3)                 |             | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 3 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 3 quiz and (2) unit 3 group discussion response |
| 3    | Unit 4 | Perceiving Persons (Chapter 4)              | 6/1 – 6/7   | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 4 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 4 quiz and (2) unit 4 group discussion response |
| 4    | Unit 5 | Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination (Chapter 5) |             | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 5 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 5 quiz and (2) unit 5 group discussion response |
|      | Unit 6 | Attitudes (Chapter 6)                       | 6/8 – 6/14  | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 6 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 6 quiz and (2) unit 6 group discussion response |
|      | Unit 7 | Conformity (Chapter 7)                      |             | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 7 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 7 quiz and (2) unit 7 group discussion response |
| 5    | ---    | Film Analysis 1 (Chapters 1-7)              | 6/15 – 6/21 | • Friday 5pm: Film Analysis 1                                             |
|      | Unit 8 | Group Processes (Chapter 8)                 |             | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 8 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 8 quiz and (2) unit 8 group discussion response |
| 6    | Unit 9 | Attraction and Close Relationships (Chapter 9) | 6/22 – 6/28 | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 9 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 9 quiz and (2) unit 9 group discussion response |
| 7    | Unit 10| Helping Others (Chapter 10)                 |             | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 10 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 10 quiz and (2) unit 10 group discussion response |
|      | Unit 11| Aggression (Chapter 11)                     | 6/29 – 7/5  | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 11 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 11 quiz and (2) unit 11 group discussion response |
|      | Unit 12| Law (Chapter 12)                           |             | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 12 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 12 quiz and (2) unit 12 group discussion response |
| 8    | Unit 13| Health (Chapter 14)                        | 7/6 – 7/10  | • Thursday 11:59pm: unit 13 group discussion post  
|      |        |                                             |             | • Sunday 11:59pm: (1) unit 13 quiz and (2) unit 13 group discussion response |
|      | Unit 14| Film Analysis 2 (Chapters 1-12, 14)        |             | • Friday 5pm: Film Analysis 2                                             
|      |        | Consumer Behavior (Bb only – not from the course textbook) |             | • Friday 11:59pm: (1) unit 14 quiz and (2) unit 14 group discussion response |

***Although due dates are often the same for two units, we recommend that you complete one unit first and then the other***