

Sociology 104: Introduction to Social Psychology



Fall 2020

Online – No meeting schedule

Theresa Beaumier

Email: beaumier@uwm.edu

Virtual office hours on Collaborate Ultra: Tuesdays 2:30 – 4:30 PM and by appointment

Course Description

Social psychology explores how beliefs, emotions, and behaviors are simultaneously shaped by individual and social forces. This course will explore three major questions in the field of social psychology:

- *How am I shaped by my social context?* We will learn about the approaches that sociologists use to study social psychology by reflecting on our own lives and how they are related to the social forces around us. We will learn about how social factors influence even seemingly personal components of ourselves and consider how our lives might be different if we were situated within a different social context.
- *Why do we do what we do?* While the ways we behave might seem like entirely personal choices, we are strongly influenced by other people. We will study how socialization shapes us, consider why we are deviant, and examine the social aspects of racial discrimination.
- *How are identity and emotions social?* The society we live in significantly shapes the ways we understand ourselves and experience our emotions. We will look at how our social world shapes our identity and examine how social and psychological forces work together to form our emotions and mental health.

This course meets UWM General Education Requirements for social science because it involves the:

1. Study of how society affects the ways in which individuals think, feel, and behave.
2. Study of social psychological theories that provide an interpretive lens to understand how society influences individuals' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.
3. Study of structural positions and status characteristics such as race/ethnicity, gender, and social class as factors that influence the lived experiences of individuals.
4. Study of how macro and micro social processes impact the formation and individual experience of phenomena including: socialization, identity, emotion, deviance, mental health, and discrimination and prejudice.

One key UWM GER learning goal for the course:

To become knowledgeable of the concepts and theories within the field of social psychology in order to understand the ways in which social forces shape the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of individuals.

Student work that will address this learning goal:

We will address this learning goal in multiple ways, including examinations to test understanding of key concepts and theories, writing assignments that require the application of sociological concepts to everyday experiences, and discussions through which students will demonstrate critical thinking about course topics.

Assessment Criteria:

Students will be assessed in several ways. For multiple choice questions, students will be assessed on the basis of whether they can choose an exam response category which accurately represents a theory or concept in the question. Short answer and essay questions will be graded based on the accuracy and clarity with which students respond to the question. Writing assignments will be graded on students' ability to complete the requirements detailed in the rubrics attached to assignment sheets.

Course Material

Crawford, Linda A. and Katherine B. Novak. 2018. *Individual and Society: Sociological Social Psychology*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge.

Additional readings and other materials will be available on Canvas.

Class Structure

This class will be conducted online, and we will not have a meeting schedule. Students are expected to prepare readings and other assigned materials on the schedule *by Tuesday each week*, so that they can complete quizzes and actively participate in class discussions. Lecture notes will be posted every Friday, and assignments will be due on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:59pm (see schedule below).

Remember that organization is key for online learning! Be sure to keep track of all deadlines for your classes in a calendar or planner and dedicate adequate time to all of your classes each week. It is easy to fall behind in online classes, so it is especially important to plan ahead.

Grades

Requirement	Percent
8 quizzes (of 12)	16%
8 discussion posts (of 11)	24%
1 application essay	
• Essay questionnaire	2%
• Complete essay	3%
• Revised essay	7%
2 peer reviews	6%
3 exams	42%

Grading Scale

	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69				
A		93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66	F	59 or less
A-		90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Quizzes

There will be 12 quizzes throughout the semester, but only 8 will be counted towards the final grade. This means that if more than 8 quizzes are completed, only the 8 highest scores will be counted. Quizzes will be due every Tuesday at 11:59pm. They will be open book/notes and *must be completed independently, without assistance from others*. Quizzes may include questions about any materials assigned for the week, including readings, videos/podcasts, the textbook, and lecture notes.

Discussion Posts

There will be 11 opportunities to write discussion posts (DPs) during the semester, but only 8 will be counted towards the final grade. This means that if more than 8 DPs are completed, only the 8 highest scores will be counted. DPs will be based on assigned readings, podcasts, videos, and lecture notes. Each DP will be at least 400 words and consists of a student's initial post in response to a prompt listed on Canvas (at least 200 words) AND two replies to other students' posts (at least 100 words EACH). DPs must illustrate understanding of the assigned material, as well as in-depth consideration of the questions in the prompt. Details will be provided in a separate assignment sheet.

The initial post will be due at 11:59pm each Tuesday. The two replies to other students' posts will be due at 11:59pm each Thursday. All components of the DP (initial post + two replies) must be completed within the same week.

Class discussions are a key component of this course. In order for constructive and thought-provoking discussions to occur, it is essential that all students contribute respectfully and listen to others' ideas. Students have a variety of backgrounds and beliefs, and it is important that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

Activity and Application essay

Students will be given a list of essay topics that will allow them to explore social psychological concepts. Each student must choose one essay topic and read/watch/listen to the information assigned with the topic; perform the activity in the instructions for the topic; and write and revise an essay. Due dates for the activity questionnaire, complete essay, and revised essay are listed in the class schedule below. Details will be provided in a separate assignment sheet.

Peer Reviews

Students will complete two peer reviews, for which they will evaluate other students' essays. The instructor will provide students with the essays they are to evaluate. Note that in order to evaluate others' essays, a student must turn in a complete essay. Those who do not turn in an essay will receive a zero for the essay and the peer reviews. Details will be provided in a separate assignment sheet.

Late Assignments

It is essential that students turn in all assignments on time. Late exams will NOT be accepted (see below). All other assignments, including quizzes, essays, discussion posts, and peer reviews, will be accepted up to *three* days late. The grade will be lowered by 10% (one letter grade) for each day (24 hours) they are late, beginning at the time the assignment is due. *No assignments will be accepted after three days.*

Since assignments will be submitted electronically to the Canvas website, scheduling conflicts should not prevent students from turning them in on time. If you know that you will not have internet access on the day an assignment is due, please plan to submit it in advance.

Exams

There will be three online exams given throughout this course (October 15th, November 12th, and December 17th). All exams will be open book/notes. *Exams must be completed independently, without assistance from others.* Exams will be timed. Because students will have a limited amount of time to consult their notes, it is very important to thoroughly study in advance. Exams will be available for the entire day on each exam day (12:00am – 11:59pm), and students may take them at any time during the 24-hour period. Exams will cover all assigned materials, including readings, videos/podcasts, lecture notes, quizzes, and class discussions.

Late exams will not be accepted. Exams will only be rescheduled in cases where 1) you notify me by email at least one week prior to the exam AND provide documentation of a valid reason that you cannot complete the exam on the assigned day or 2) there is an unforeseeable circumstance (e.g. serious illness) AND you provide documentation that clearly explains your inability to complete the exam. It is in your best interest to notify me as soon as a conflict arises. Family vacations will not be considered a valid reason for missing an exam.

Academic Misconduct

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class! I expect students to work independently on quizzes and exams and to submit their own work for all written assignments. Students must also cite the sources of all information used in their written work.

All UWM students must follow the academic honor code. Possible consequences for not following the honor code include receiving no credit for an assignment, failing the entire course, and having a letter attached to the student's permanent academic record.

Credit Hours

The university has asked instructors to outline how much time students will spend working on various aspects of their classes. As the UW System assumes that "study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours" (UWS ACPS 4), a 3-credit course such as this one will require a minimum of 144 (3 x 48) hours of your time.

Keep in mind that online classes require the same amount of work as in-person classes! This class will require approximately:

- 5 hours per week preparing for the week, which includes reading lecture notes, the textbook, and other assigned materials; note-taking; and completing minor exercises and assignments
- 2 hours per week preparing for and taking quizzes and exams
- 2 hours per week writing discussion posts, essays, and peer reviews

These are averages. Some weeks may involve more or less time depending on whether an exam or essay is scheduled.

Canvas

Our course has a Canvas website (uwm.edu/canvas). You will use the same username and password that you use for your UWM email account. If you have any questions about content on the course website, please contact me. If you have questions about, or problems using, the Canvas website, please contact Canvas 24/7 student support at: <https://uwm.edu/canvas/students/?target=get-help>.

Contact Details

I look forward to working with you this semester. Please check your UWM email at least once every weekday (Monday-Friday) for any correspondence about the class. Be sure your Canvas account is set up to forward class announcements to your Outlook account.

If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to visit me virtually during office hours, which will be hosted on Canvas via Collaborate Ultra. You may also set up an appointment to meet with me via Microsoft Teams. Additionally, you are always welcome to email me with questions. Please allow 1-2 business days for me to reply to your email. Emails sent during the weekend may not be answered until Monday. Do not wait until the night before an exam or assignment is due to email me with questions or concerns.

Course Schedule

This course schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified in advance of any changes.

Part I: How am I shaped by my social context?

Week	Chapter / Topic	Day	Assignments
1	Class Introduction	Thursday 9/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduce yourself on Canvas.Take the syllabus quiz.Complete the communication agreements survey.
2	Chapter 1: What is Social Psychology?	Tuesday 9/8	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ch. 1 Pp. 3-29 Quiz 1 DP 1 Post
		Thursday 9/10	DP 1 Replies
3	Chapter 2: Research Methods	Tuesday 9/15	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ch. 2 Pp. 30-46; 53-57Best, "Telling the Truth about Damned Lies and Statistics"Devitt, "What Numbers Can – and Can't – Tell Us about the Pandemic" Quiz 2 DP 2 Post
		Thursday 9/17	DP 2 Replies
4	Chapter 3: Symbolic Interactionism	Tuesday 9/22	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ch. 3 Pp. 71-86; 91-107Turner and Edgley, "Death as a Theater"O'Brien, "Building and Breaching Reality" Pp. 449-452Werber, "For Perhaps the First Time, Millions are Asking: Is My Job Essential?" Quiz 3 DP 3 Post
		Thursday 9/24	DP 3 Replies Activity questionnaire
5	Chapter 4: Social Structure and Personality	Tuesday 9/29	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ch. 4 Pp. 108-144

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miller, "How Same-Sex Couples Divide Chores, and What it Reveals about Modern Parenting" Quiz 4 DP 4 Post
		Thursday 10/1	DP 4 Replies Application essay
6	Chapter 5: Group Processes and Structures	Tuesday 10/6	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch. 5 Pp. 144-158; 167-179 Cheeks, "How Black Women Describe Navigating Race and Gender in the Workplace" Quiz 5 DP 5 Post
		Thursday 10/8	DP 5 Replies
7		Tuesday 10/13	<i>No assignments</i>
		Thursday 10/15	Exam 1

Part II: Why do we do what we do?

Week	Chapter / Topic	Day	Assignments
8	Chapter 6: Socialization Throughout the Life Course	Tuesday 10/20	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6 Pp. 183-210; 219-222 Fox, "Meet the Neuroscientist Shattering the Myth of the Gendered Brain" Vedantam, "Nature, Nurture, and Our Evolving Debates about Gender" (podcast excerpt) Quiz 6 DP 6 Post
		Thursday 10/22	DP 6 Replies Peer reviews (both)
9	Chapter 9: Deviance and Social Control	Tuesday 10/27	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 9 Pp. 291-315; 323-328 Baxter, "We are All Criminals" (video) Oluo, "How Can I Talk About Affirmative Action?" Pp. 99-105 Rios, "Stealing a Bag of Potato Chips and Other Crimes of Resistance" Quiz 7 DP 7 Post
		Thursday 10/29	DP 7 Replies Revised essay + Peer review response
10	Chapter 12: Prejudice and Discrimination	Tuesday 11/3	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 12 Pp. 408-431; 445-456 Martin, "In Trayvon Martin Case, Who's Considered White?" (radio) Vanek Smith and Rosalsky "Racism and Economics" (podcast)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eberhardt, "How Racial Bias Works – and How to Disrupt It" (video) Vedantam, "The Mind of the Village" (podcast excerpt) Quiz 8 DP 8 Post
		Thursday 11/5	DP 8 Replies
11		Tuesday 11/10	<i>No assignments</i>
		Thursday 11/12	Exam 2

Part III: How are identity and emotions social?

Week	Chapter/Topic	Day	Assignments
12	Chapter 7: Self and Identity	Tuesday 11/17	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3 Pp. 86-91 Chapter 7 Pp. 223-256 Spiegel, "Teachers' Expectations Can Influence How Students Perform" (radio) Quiz 9 DP 9 Post
		Thursday 11/19	DP 9 Replies
13	Chapter 8: Emotions and Social Life	Tuesday 11/24	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 8 Pp. 257-284; 288-290 Quiz 10 <i>(no DP this week)</i>
		Thursday 11/26	<i>Thanksgiving – no assignments</i>
14	Chapter 8 Emotions and Social Life / Chapter 10: Mental Health and Illness	Tuesday 12/1	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norgaard, "Normalizing the Unthinkable" Chapter 10 Pp. 329-346 Tiger, "Race, Class, and the Framing of Drug Epidemics" Quiz 11 DP 10 Post
		Thursday 12/3	DP 10 Replies
15	Chapter 10: Mental Health and Illness	Tuesday 12/8	Readings/assigned materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch. 10 Pp. 346-364 Cornish, "Psychiatrists to Take New Approach in Bereavement" (radio) King Lindley, "Everyone is on Antidepressants Right Now. Is that OK?" Escalante, "Researchers Doubt that Certain Mental Disorders are Disorders at All" Spiegel and Miller "The Problem with the Solution" (podcast) Quiz 12 DP 11 Post
		Thursday 12/10	DP 11 Replies
	Final Exam	Thursday 12/17	Exam 3 (Cumulative)

UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that page is: <https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf>

Students with Disabilities. In the pursuit of equal access and in compliance with state and federal laws, the University is required to provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities. To learn more, please visit: <http://uwm.edu/arc/>

Religious Observances. Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm>

Students called to active Military Duty. Students called to active military duty. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty should be noted.

Students: <http://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/>

Employees: <https://www.wisconsin.edu/ohrwd/download/policies/ops/bn9.pdf>

Incompletes. A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-13.%20Incomplete%20Grades.pdf>

Discriminatory Conduct. Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%205-1.%20Discriminatory%20Conduct%20Policy.pdf>

Title IX/Sexual Violence. Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education program or activities, and UWM policy prohibits such conduct (see Discriminatory Conduct, above). This includes sexual violence, which may include sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, and/or stalking in all educational programs and education-related areas. UWM strongly encourages its students to report any instance of sex discrimination to UWM's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@uwm.edu). Whether or not a student wishes to report an incident of sexual violence, the Title IX Coordinator can connect students to resources at UWM and/or in the community including, but not limited to, victim advocacy, medical and counseling services, and/or law enforcement. For more information, please visit: <https://uwm.edu/sexual-assault/>

Academic misconduct. Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. <http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/>

Complaint procedures. Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%205-1.%20Discriminatory%20Conduct%20Policy.pdf>

Grade appeal procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-10.%20Grade%20Appeals%20by%20Students.pdf>

LGBT+ resources. Faculty and staff can find resources to support inclusivity of students who identify as LGBT+ in the learning environment. <https://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/>

Smoke and Tobacco-Free campus. UWM prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco on all campus property. <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%2010-8.%20Smoke%20and%20Tobacco-Free%20Campus%20Policy.pdf>

Final Examinations. Information about the final exam requirement, the final exam date requirement, and make-up examinations. <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-9.%20Final%20Examinations.pdf>

Book Royalties. In accord with department policy, the royalties from the sale of UWM sociology faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities of UWM sociology students.