

# PSYC515

**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

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## Course Summary

**Course :** PSYC515 **Title :** Social Psychology

**Length of Course :** 8

**Prerequisites :** N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

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## Description

**Course Description:** This course is a graduate level study of cultural issues and social influences on human functioning. Classic foundations combine with new research, recent methodological and up-to-date theoretical innovations to form the basis of a study that integrates scholarship and applied social psychology for everyday living.

### Course Scope:

Social psychology is defined by the social influence that all people have on the beliefs, feelings, and behavior of others. This course is a graduate level study of cultural issues and social influences. Classic foundations combine with new research, recent methodological and up-to-date theoretical innovations to form the basis of a study that integrates scholarship and applied social psychology for everyday living.

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## Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will have:

CO1: Examined social influences that affect group and individual thoughts, feelings, and behaviors;

CO2: Appraised studies of conformity, obedience, and groupthink;

CO3: Examined strategies used to persuade and communicate;

CO4: Examined cognitive-social group processes influencing judgments and perceptions;

CO5: Analyzed causal models of human aggression;

CO6: Appraised strategies for reducing prejudice;

CO7: Examined mental processes associated with liking and loving; and

CO8: Analyzed methods of research in social psychology.

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# Outline

## Week 1: Social Psychology and Conformity

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### Key Concepts

- Definition of social psychology
- Research methods for studying social psychology
- Accountability, conformity, groupthink, bystander intervention, and obedience
- Deliverables

### Deliverables

#### Read:

- The Social Animal: Chapters 1 and 2
- Readings about the Social Animal: Article #4

#### Complete

Week 1 Discussion Forum 1

Weekly Short Essay-Week One

## Week 2: Mass Communication, Propaganda, and Persuasion

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### Key Concepts

- Effective persuasion techniques
- Persuasion
- Propaganda
- Mass communication

### Deliverables

#### Read:

- The Social Animal: Chapter 3
- Readings about the Social Animal: Article #10

#### Complete

Week 2 Discussion Forum 2

Weekly Short Essay-Week Two

## Week 3: Social Cognition

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### Key Concepts

- Social cognition
- Mental categories used to define and interpret events and people
- Biases and other distorting influences affecting perceptions and judgments

## Deliverables

### Read:

The Social Animal: Chapter 4

Readings about the Social Animal: Article #13

### Complete:

Week 3 Discussion Forum 3

Weekly Short Essay-Week Three

## **Week 4: Self-Justification**

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### Key Concepts

- Cognitive dissonance theory
- Motivations underlying self-justification

## Deliverables

### Read:

The Social Animal: Chapter 5

Readings about the Social Animal: Article # 18

### Complete:

Week 4 Discussion Forum 4

Mock IRB Application Exercise-Part 1

## **Week 5: Human Aggression**

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### Key Concepts

#### Aggression theories

Hostile aggression and instrumental aggression.

## Deliverables

### Read:

The Social Animal: Chapter 6

Readings about the Social Animal: Article #26

### Complete:

Week 5 Discussion 5

Weekly Short Essay-Week Five

## **Week 6: Prejudice**

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### Key Concepts

#### Stereotyping and prejudice

Strategies for reducing prejudice.

## Deliverables

### Read:

The Social Animal: Chapter 7

Readings about the Social Animal: Article #32

### Complete:

Week 6 Discussion Forum 6

Weekly Short Essay-Week Six

## **Week 7: Liking, Loving, and Interpersonal Sensitivity**

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### Key Concepts

Factors influencing why people like each other

Limitations of theories explaining liking and loving

Reward theory of attraction

## Deliverables

### Read:

The Social Animal: Chapter 8

Readings about the Social Animal: Article #37

### Complete:

Week 7 Discussion Forum 7

Weekly Short Essay-Week Seven

## **Week 8: Social Psychology as a Science**

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### Key Concepts

Experimental methods used in researching social psychology.

Methodological and ethical difficulties with lab experiments in social psychology.

## Deliverables

### Read:

The Social Animal: Chapter 9

### Complete:

Week 8 Discussion Forum 8

Mock IRB Application-Part 2

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## **Evaluation**

### **WRITING EXPECTATIONS**

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and adhering to the guidelines below:

- Typewritten in double-spaced format with a readable style and font and submitted inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor).
- Arial or Times New Roman styles, 12 pt. font.
- Page margins Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side = 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances.

All assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow APA guidelines. This course will require students to use the citation and reference style established by the American Psychological Association (APA), in which case students should follow the guidelines set forth in *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

**IMPORTANT:** Students engaging in graduate studies are held to rigorous standards. Absolutely NO copying of any kind is allowed in this course. When reporting on what one reads in any published source, including the course text, paraphrasing (summarizing what was read and learned in one's own words) and providing the source(s) is required. The [Purdue Online Writing Lab](http://owlenglish.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/) website <http://owlenglish.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> is an excellent, easy to understand resource for APA style formatting and source citation. Any instance of copying of any kind will result in a score of zero for the first incident and course failure for any additional ones. Additional guidance from your instructor is provided as needed.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Source citations are not required in the Forums (either Initial or Reply Posts).

### **Forum Discussions:**

This course includes weekly discussions called Forums. For instructions for these assignments, go to the "Forums" button on the navigation menu in your Sakai classroom. When you click on it a list of weekly forums will open. To enter an active forum you just need to click on the topic title below the weekly forum; you will find the instructions by following the blue link titled "Read full instructions " under the topic title. Read the directions carefully. One "Initial Response" of at least 400 words is required as a response to the instructor's posted instructions. Then you must respond to the postings of at least three classmates. You will have until Wednesday to post your "Initial Response". You will then post a minimum of 3 replies of at least 250 words to classmates of your choice by Sunday night of that week. Participation in forum assignments is graded and not optional. Any constructive feedback regarding point loss and how to avoid it in the future weeks will be entered in your personal gradebook where only you will see it.

### **Weekly Short Essays:**

There will be six (6) weekly open-book, essay assignments covering the reading material and scheduled as noted in the course outline (approximately ½ page per response, for a total of 3 pages per assignment). Each essay assignment will consist of 5 multiple choice/short answer or essay questions, each of a different type, including conceptual and applied knowledge and based on assigned reading materials. Each answer is expected to convey, in short essay form, substantive and concise statements to convince your instructor that you have read, absorbed and fully comprehend the corresponding material. One sentence answers are not detailed enough to earn full credit. Detailed instructions are located in the classroom assignments area.

### **Mock IRB Application Exercise:**

There will be one assignment due in two parts in two separate weeks (Pt. 1 due at the end of Week 4 and Pt. 2 due at the end of Week 8) requiring students to choose one of four published articles to read. Each article reports on a social psychological experiment that has already been conducted. After reading the chosen article, the student will complete a Mock Institutional Review Board (IRB) application as though the student were the Principal Investigator/Researcher seeking approval for the study to be conducted. In addition to completing the Mock application, the student will complete reflection questions asking him or her to reflect on the experience of completing the application. The Reflection portion of the assignment should be approximately three pages in length (excluding Title and References pages-if included). Detailed instructions are located in the classroom assignment area.

### **Grading:**

Name	Grade %
FORUMS	32.00 %
Forum 1	4.00 %
Forum 2	4.00 %
Forum 3	4.00 %
Forum 4	4.00 %
Forum 5	4.00 %
Forum 6	4.00 %
Forum 7	4.00 %
Forum 8	4.00 %
Mock IRB Assignments	38.00 %
Mock IRB Application-Part 1	19.00 %
Mock IRB Application-Part 2	19.00 %
Weekly Short Essay	30.00 %
Weekly Short Essay: Week Five	5.00 %
Weekly Short Essay: Week Six	5.00 %
Weekly Short Essay: Week Seven	5.00 %
Weekly Short Essay: Week One	5.00 %
Weekly Short Essay: Week Two	5.00 %
Weekly Short Essay: Week Three	5.00 %

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## Materials

**Book Title:** Social Animal, 11th ed

**Author:** Aronson, Elliot / Aronson, Joshua

**Publication Info:** Worth Publishers, Inc.

**ISBN:** 9781429233415

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**Book Title:** Readings About Social Animal, 11th ed

**Author:** Aronson, Elliot

**Publication Info:** Worth Publishers, Inc.

**ISBN:** 9781429233422

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## Course Guidelines

### Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow APA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted as part of coursework in the Psychology Department.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on forum assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding forum communication below).

### Tutoring

[Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

## **School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, we understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact your instructor before the due date so you can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes/tests, and assignments. Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes/tests, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.

## **Turn It In**

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

## **Submission Guidelines**

Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc.) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc.). See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure the all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor.

## **Disclaimer Statement**

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

## **Communicating on the Forum**

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, you are strongly discouraged from waiting until the due date to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree", even if wordy and thus, meets the length requirement, is not

substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.

- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each other as colleagues. Hateful, aggressive, or hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
- Students must post a response to the weekly forums prompt and post the required number of replies to other students – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations on number of replies and word count requirements.

## Quizzes and Exams

Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Each quiz/exam is accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you will not be able to access it again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate time to complete your assessments.

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## University Policies

### [Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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