Syllabus

SOCY 4031 Social Psychology

Spring 2019, 3 credits, January 14th to May 5th

MWF 11:00am–11:50am, HUMN 1B90

# Instructor Information

Name: Seth Wright

My student hours are by appointment.

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# Course Information

Course prerequisites: SOCY 1001 and SOCY 3001 or 3011; Junior or Senior status (57+ credits).

Course description: Studies individuals in social context. Reviews philosophical and sociological treatments of the relation between the individual and society. More specific topics include the socialization process, theories of human development and personality formation, language acquisition, conformity, aggression, sex differences in personality and gender identity, and the relation between attitudes and overt behavior.

# Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

1. Identify the most prominent theoretical perspectives in social psychology, and develop theories from within these perspectives to explain current sociological issues.
2. Describe the basic research methods used in social psychology, with an emphasis on experimental methods.
3. Apply sociological theories to explain individual social behavior (such as self-presentation and attitudes).
4. Explain social psychological theories of social interaction.
5. Describe the current understanding of small group dynamics, and apply these findings to relevant personal experiences.

# Required Course Materials

Delamater, John, Daniel Meyers, and Jessica Collett. 2015. Social Psychology. 8th ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. ISBN-13: 978-0-8133-4950-3.

iClicker+. ISBN-13: 978-1-4986-0305-8.

The textbook can be purchased in paperback or electronic versions. You **will** need to purchase the textbook (*in the latest edition*) and iClicker+ for this course. I’m serious about the edition thing: the seventh edition is *very* different from the eighth edition.

# Assessment Class Contributions (215 points total)

To contribute to the class, you must be present; therefore, you will receive 5 points for each class you attend. In order to receive attendance points, you must be present at the beginning of class with your iClicker and stay until the end of class. If you attend all 43 class sessions this semester, you will earn all 215 class contribution points. **Note: There is no way to receive attendance points for a class you do not attend. This includes athletic absences, illness, and religious obligations.** Thankfully, there is another way to earn class contribution points: find a current event or recent research that is relevant to course material and write a 300-500 word reflection on the connections between the two. Guidelines for writing reflections can be found on the Canvas course page in the “Syllabus and Course Resources” module. Reflections must be submitted within two weeks of the absence it is replacing.

Quizzes (35 points each)  
There will be eleven quizzes over the semester, which you will take on Canvas by the end of Saturday on the weeks assigned. Quizzes consist of multiple choice and short essay questions, intended to assess your comprehension of the assigned reading material. Quizzes can be *accessed* as many times as you would like and have no time limit, but can only be *submitted* once. Quizzes are individual assignments; collaboration is not permitted, and will be considered a violation of the CU Honor code. You may take quizzes up to one week late, but will receive a 3-point deduction to your quiz score for *each day* it is late. **This penalty will be applied regardless of the reason for the late submission.**

## Written Assignments (100 points each)

You will write three short papers, which should be submitted to Canvas by the end of Saturday on the weeks assigned. These papers will require you to apply theories of social psychology to specific cases and problems. Papers are individual assignments; collaboration and plagiarism are not permitted, and will be considered a violation of the CU Honor code. You may submit papers up to one week late, but will receive an 8-point deduction to your paper score for *each day* it is late. **This penalty will be applied regardless of the reason for the late submission.**

## Final Examination (100 points)

Like the quizzes, the final examination will be completed on Canvas. The exam consists of four essay questions, which will ask you to reflect on what you have learned over the course of the semester. The final exam must be completed by Sunday, May 5 at 4:00pm. **The final must be completed on time or early; you may not take it late.**

# Course Calendar

In addition to attending class, you are responsible for completing the following work:

## Week 1, 1/14–1/19: Introduction to Social Psychology

By class on Wednesday: Read textbook pp.1-16, post Introduction on the Canvas Discussion Board  
By class on Friday: Read textbook pp.16-29  
By the end Saturday: Take Quiz 1 on Canvas

## Week 2, 1/20–1/26: Research Methods in Social Psychology

*Monday: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no classes*  
By class on Wednesday: Read textbook pp.31-47  
By class on Friday: Read textbook pp.47-63  
By the end of Saturday: Take Quiz 2 on Canvas

## Week 3, 1/27–2/2: Socialization Through the Life Course

By class on Monday: Read textbook pp.65-81  
By class on Wednesday: Read textbook pp.81-98  
By class on Friday: Read textbook pp.98-115  
By the end of Saturday: Take Quiz 3 on Canvas

## Week 4, 2/3–2/9: Self and Self-Presentation

By class on Monday: Read textbook pp.117-138  
By class on Wednesday: Read textbook pp.138-160  
By class on Friday: Read textbook pp.160-175  
By the end of Saturday: Take Quiz 4 on Canvas

## Week 5, 2/10–2/16: Self and Self-Presentation, Continued

By class on Monday: Read Goffman (*The Nature of Deference and Demeanor*)  
By class on Wednesday: Read West and Zimmerman (*Doing Gender*)  
By the end of Saturday: Submit Paper 1 on Canvas

## Week 6, 2/17–2/23: Social Perception and Cognition

By class on Monday: Read textbook pp.205-222  
By class on Wednesday: Read textbook pp.223-227  
By class on Friday: Read textbook pp.227-241  
By the end of Saturday: Take Quiz 5 on Canvas

## Week 7, 2/24–3/2: Attitudes

By class on Monday: Read textbook pp.243-251  
By class on Wednesday: Read textbook pp.251-258  
By class on Friday: Read textbook pp.258-269  
By the end of Saturday: Take Quiz 6 on Canvas

## Week 8, 3/3–3/9: Symbolic Communication and Language

By class on Monday: Read textbook pp.271-282  
By class on Wednesday: Read textbook pp.282-299  
By class on Friday: Read textbook pp.299-309  
By the end of Saturday: Take Quiz 7 on Canvas

## Week 9, 3/10–3/16: Social Influence and Persuasion

By class on Monday: Read textbook pp.311-325  
By class on Wednesday: Read textbook pp.325-337  
By class on Friday: Read textbook pp.337-341  
By the end of Saturday: Take Quiz 8 on Canvas

## Week 10, 3/17–3/23: Social Influence and Persuasion, Continued

By class on Monday: Read Cialdini (*Weapons of Influence*)  
By class on Wednesday: Read Cialdini (*Authority: Directed Deference*)  
By class on Friday: Read Cialdini (*Instant Influence*)  
By the end of Saturday: Submit Paper 2 on Canvas

## Week 11, 3/24–3/30: Spring Break (no classes)

## Week 12, 3/31–4/6: Altruism and Prosocial Behavior

By class on Monday: Read textbook pp.343-353  
By class on Wednesday: Read textbook pp.353-359  
By class on Friday: Read textbook pp.359-367  
By the end of Saturday: Take Quiz 9 on Canvas

## Week 13, 4/7–4/13: Understanding Groups

By class on Monday: Read textbook pp.439-452  
By class on Wednesday: Read textbook pp.452-458  
By class on Friday: Read textbook pp.458-467  
By the end of Saturday: Take Quiz 10 on Canvas

## Week 14, 4/14–4/20: Understanding Groups, Continued

By class on Monday: Read Fine and Holyfield (*Secrecy, Trust, and Dangerous Leisure*)  
By class on Wednesday: Read Sherif (*Superordinate Goals in the Reduction of Intergroup Conflict*)  
By the end of Saturday: Submit Paper 3 on Canvas

## Week 15, 4/21–4/27: Social Structure and Personality

By class on Monday: Read textbook pp.501-516  
By class on Wednesday: Read textbook pp.516-533  
By class on Friday: Read textbook pp.533-539  
By the end of Saturday: Take Quiz 11 on Canvas

## Week 16, 4/28–5/5: Social Structure and Personality, Continued

By class on Monday: Read Brown (*Is Social Media Bad for You?*)  
By class on Wednesday: Read Royal Society for Public Health (*#Status of Mind*)  
By the end of Sunday: Complete Final Examination (due by 4:00pm)

# Grading

Class Contributions: 215 points (points vary by activity)  
Quizzes (11): 385 points (35 points each)  
Papers (3): 300 points (100 points each)  
Final Exam: 100 points  
Total Points: 1000 points

Your final course grade will be determined as follows:  
930–1000 A 730–769 C  
900–929 A- 700–729 C-  
870–899 B+ 670–699 D+  
830–869 B 630–669 D  
800–829 B- 600–629 D-  
770–799 C+ 0–599 F

# Using Canvas and Other Technologies

An understanding of Canvas is critical in this course: almost all assignments are submitted on the course page. You can also monitor your grade and access important course documents (such as the syllabus) on Canvas. If you have any difficulties accessing the course page or navigating within Canvas, please let the instructor know as soon as possible.

# Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

# Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/).

Honor Code  
All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

# Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

# Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.