

Social Psychology

Lecture: Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00-4:20pm, Room: 323 Liberal Arts Building

Why is peer pressure so powerful?

What attracts us to other people?

How does the presence of others influence our behavior?

COURSE OVERVIEW & GOALS

Welcome to Social Psychology! Social Psychology is the study of how the real or imagined presence of others affects our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. What you learn here will be valuable not only for your academic career, but for whatever you choose to do in the future, because social psychology is relevant to everyday life! In this course, we'll work together in a collaborative and inclusive environment to learn about various topics such as close relationships, stereotyping, prejudice, and prosocial behavior. (If you don't know much about these topics yet, don't worry! You will soon 😊)

Student learning goals include:

- Understanding social psychological theories and explanations for how people and environments shape our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.
- Learning how social psychological research is conducted.
- Discovering how social psychology can be applied to understand everyday life phenomena (e.g., interactions with other individuals and groups).

Instructor goals include:

- Establishing a collaborative, close, inclusive classroom environment.
- Facilitating and encouraging your learning.

Course materials:

Required Text: Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Sommers, S. R. (2019). *Social Psychology*, 10th edition. Pearson.



ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTORS

Professor: Dr. Kelly Burke (she/her)

Email: kcburke@utep.edu

Student Hours: Wednesday 12:00-1:30pm or by appointment

Location: Vowell* 302 or via Zoom

*Please note, Vowell is not handicap accessible. If you need an accessible meeting, please email me to schedule one in the Psychology Building.

I refer to these as “student” hours because they’re meant for you! That means I *want* you to come to them anytime you have questions (e.g., about assignments, exams), concerns, or just want to chat about the course. It’s important to me that you know I’m here to support you and your learning. So, if something isn’t working or you have constructive feedback for how to improve class, please let me know! I’m happy to adapt things in response to feedback.

It’ll be extremely beneficial to you to stay on top of the material each week.

If you fall behind, feel stuck, have questions, or have trouble remembering earlier content, please come talk to me right away! I’m here to facilitate your learning, not create undue stress and anxiety during an already stressful time.

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Email: TBD

Student Hours: TBD

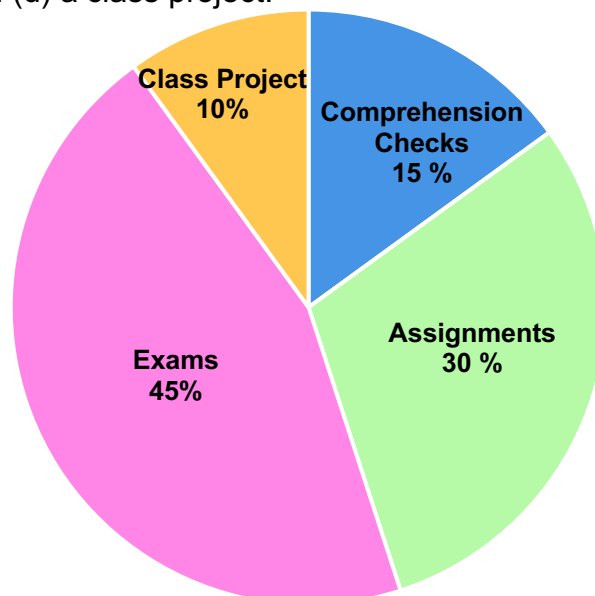
COURSE FORMAT

The course will meet in-person two times a week (Tuesdays & Thursdays).

Course materials (lectures, assignments, comprehension checks, exams, etc.) will be posted on Blackboard. Schedule updates and announcements will also be posted on Blackboard. Therefore, it is extremely important that you check Blackboard and your email regularly for updates from me. If you are not receiving emails from Blackboard, reach out to UTEP tech support.

HOW YOUR LEARNING WILL BE ASSESSED:

We will have four different methods for assessing your learning: (a) exams, (b) assignments, (c) “comprehension checks,” and (d) a class project.



Exams (450 points)

There will be 4 exams, each worth 150 points. Your lowest exam will be dropped for a total of 450 points. Exams consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in the blank, matching, and short answer. Exams cover content from lecture, readings, and class discussions. The final exam is cumulative.

- Exams will be distributed via Blackboard. They will take 80 minutes and are timed. If you require additional time or accommodation, you must provide documentation at least one week prior to the first exam.
- All exams will be available for a 48-hour window during which you can take the exam at your convenience; however, be advised that if you run into technical issues in the middle of the night, I won't be able to assist you until the next day.
- You must take the exam during the allotted 48-hour window. The 48-hour windows always include one scheduled class period (e.g., 3:00-4:20pm on a Tuesday or Thursday).
- Because your lowest exam will be dropped, makeups will not be given except for (a) absences sanctioned by UTEP and made in advance or (b) serious and unavoidable medical circumstances.
- Exams require you to use Respondus Lockdown, a program that will "lock" you out of being able to use other websites or items to take the exam. No notes, books, power points, electronic devices, etc. are allowed during exams. You are also prohibited from discussing the exam with each other during the 48-hour exam window.
- You should download [Respondus Lockdown](#) and install it on your computer ASAP.

Assignments (300 points)

There will be 10 assignments, each worth 30 points. Assignments will provide you with an opportunity to (a) practice the material you have been learning and (b) apply what you're learning in class to the real-world. These will be completed either in class or outside of class. To receive credit for *in-class* assignments, you must be present on the day the activity is handed out. To receive credit for *out-of-class* assignments, you must complete the assignment on Blackboard by 11:59pm the day it is due.

"Comprehension Checks" (150 points)

There will be a total of 10 "Comprehension Checks," each worth 15 points. These will include multiple choice, true/false, fill-in the blank, matching, and very short answer questions. These are intended to help prepare you for the exams by reinforcing (a) recent material you have learned and (b) prior material that is relevant to the current material. These will be released on Blackboard on Mondays and due by the end of the day (11:59pm) Sunday (if you have any trouble completing it on Blackboard, email me as soon as possible).

Class Project (100 points)

During the last week of classes, we will apply what you have learned in this course to the real-world by completing a class experiment. This project will be worth 100 points. You must be present in class on November 29 and December 1 to receive credit for the project. If you have a university approved conflict, please let me know as soon as possible.

Grading

Your overall grade in the course will be determined by the number of points you receive divided by the total number of points in the course, and will follow this breakdown:

A: 90-100%	C: 70-79.9%	F: 59.9% or lower
B: 80-89.9%	D: 60-69.9%	

For any grading disputes you would like to bring up, you have one (1) week from when you receive your grade to review it and contact me. After the week has passed, I will not review it again.

COURSE POLICIES:**Our Inclusive Learning Environment**

I'm dedicated to establishing and maintaining an inclusive, welcoming, and open learning environment that values diversity. Regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, geographic background, religion, political ideology, language, or culture, I expect everyone to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of our class. If there is anything that results in barriers to your inclusion, engagement, accurate assessment or achievement, please notify me as soon as possible.

COVID-19

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please [contact CASS](#) and let your instructors know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The [Student Health Center](#) is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. **If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on the UTEP campus during the first week of classes.** For more information about current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, please do not come to class. Instead, contact me and we can make other arrangements.

Attendance/Late Policy

Although attendance and participation are not graded, active participation and engagement will help you understand the material better. I know it can be intimidating or difficult to actively participate (trust me, I really get it). So to encourage this, I'll be committed to providing the spaces and opportunities for you to actively participate by pausing during lectures to give you time to ask questions or make comments and providing small group sessions that make it easier to engage with your classmates.

Makeup exams and assignments will not be offered except on a case-by-case basis (e.g., if you have a family or personal emergency). You must be present to receive credit for the class project and assignments that are handed out during our in-class lectures.

I want to reiterate the importance of communicating with me. If you experience any issues (e.g., COVID, child-care.), please come talk with me!

Laptops/Phones

If you are going to use social media or visit any other non-course-related websites during class, please sit in the back of the classroom out of respect for everyone else. If you get this far in the syllabus, email me a picture of your favorite animal for 1 point extra credit!

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Note, the course schedule is tentative and subject to change. All readings should be done *before* class on the day that they are assigned. CC = Comprehension Check

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter	CC
1	8/23 8/25	Introduction to Class Introduction to Social Psychology	Ch 1	
2	8/30 9/1	Methodology Methodology	Ch 2	
				CC 1 due Sunday 11:59pm
3	9/6 9/8	Social Cognition Social Cognition	Ch 3	
				CC 2 due Sunday 11:59pm
4	9/13 9/15	Social Perception Social Perception	Ch 4	
				CC 3 due Sunday 11:59pm
5	9/20 9/22	Catch-up day/Exam Review EXAM 1 (Ch 1-4)		
6	9/27 9/29	The Self The Need to Justify Actions	Ch 5 Ch 6	
				CC 4 due Sunday 11:59pm
7	10/4 10/6	The Need to Justify Actions Attitudes	Ch 7	
				CC 5 due Sunday 11:59pm
8	10/11 10/13	Attitudes Prejudice	Ch 13	
				CC 6 due Sunday 11:59pm
9	10/18 10/20	Prejudice EXAM 2 (Ch 5-7, 13)		
10	10/25 10/27	Aggression Conformity	Ch 12 Ch 8	
				CC 7 due Sunday 11:59pm
11	11/1 11/3	Conformity Groups	Ch 9	
				CC 8 due Sunday 11:59pm
12	11/8 11/10	Groups Attraction & Relationships	Ch 10	
				CC 9 due Sunday 11:59pm
13	11/15 11/17	Prosocial Behavior Prosocial Behavior	Ch 11	
				CC 10 due Sunday 11:59pm
14	11/22 11/24	EXAM 3 (Ch 8-12) Thanksgiving – NO CLASS		
15	11/29 12/1	Class Project Class Project		
Final	12/8	FINAL EXAM @ 4:00-6:45PM		

Other Important Dates:

- Sept. 7: Fall Census Day, last day to register for classes.
- Oct. 28: Drop/Withdrawal Deadline.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the [UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures](#). It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student or possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office (Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution) for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

By enrolling in this course, you agree to uphold a class honor code in which we trust one another and engage only in behaviors that reflect our community standards of academic integrity.

If any part of you feels even slightly tempted to engage in academic dishonesty for the sake of a better grade, come talk to me and I'll give you all sorts of tips and tricks to earn that grade you're hoping for.

UTEP RESOURCES

Classroom Accommodation

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 915-747-5148, cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. The instructor must be notified by CASS by the end of the first week of classes to facilitate accommodations support implementation. However, if an emergency arises later in the semester, contact CASS ASAP.

Library

A number of resources (e.g., online access journals and eBooks, reference service, librarian assistance) are available through [UTEP Library](#).

Technology Solutions

If you experience technological difficulties (e.g., email, Blackboard, software), you can submit a ticket to the [UTEP Helpdesk](#) for assistance. You can also find additional [remote learning resources here](#).

If you don't have access to the internet or a computer, there are a few options available:

- Check out a laptop or mobile hotspot from UTEP:
https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/TSCenter/tsc_eqcheckout.html
- Use the computers in the Collaborative Learning Center (UTEP Library, 2nd floor)
- Make an appointment to use the Liberal Arts computers:
<https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/technology/coronavirus/>

You can download Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, etc.) for free from UTEP:

https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/SOFTWARE_PAGES/soft_microsoftoffice365.html

If you experience any difficulties with Blackboard:

- Try using a different web browser. Chrome and Firefox are recommended.
- Ensure your browser is updated and clear your cache.
- Consult Blackboard or UTEP Blackboard help links, on the left side of Blackboard home page.
- Contact UTEP's help desk

Writing Center

For assistance with writing style and formatting, to receive tutoring help, and more you can visit the [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#).

Military Student Success Center

UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the [Military Student Success Center](#) and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.

Financial Resources

The Dean of Students can help with [financial resources](#), including emergency loans to purchase textbooks.

Mental, Physical, and/or Academic Challenges

As a student, you may experience challenges such as struggles with academics, finances, student life, or your personal well-being. Please know this is completely normal, and you shouldn't hesitate to ask for help. Come to me, or if it's about an issue beyond the scope of our class, please contact your advisors or get help from any number of support services and resources available (see below).

Please note, faculty have a legal obligation to report incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking allegedly committed by or against a student or employee of the university to a Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator. This means that if you report such an incident, I have a legal obligation to report it and cannot guarantee confidentiality. Any reports of suicidal thoughts will also be reported. As such, it is important to make you aware of the following resources available to you that do allow for confidential reporting:

- [The University Counseling Center](#) offers counseling services for UTEP students. You may contact them at 915-747-5302, caps@utep.edu, or 202 Union West.
- [The Campus Advocacy, Resources, & Education Office](#) seeks to empower students who have been impacted by violence by providing private advocacy, resources, and support services. You may contact them at 915-747-7452, care@utep.edu, or 1101 N. Campbell St., Room 100-103.
- [UTEP Student Health and Wellness Center](#) addresses health care needs of all UTEP students. You may contact them at 915-747-5624, studenthealth@utep.edu, or 100 Union East.

Syllabus Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give you guidance on what will be covered during the semester, and will be followed as closely as possible. However, I may modify, supplement, and make changes throughout the semester.

** Portions of this syllabus were adapted from Professors Krystia Reed, Katherine Serafine, and Rebecca Littman.*