

# Social Psychology

**Lecture:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00-4:20pm, Room: NURS 217

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*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition. Pearson.



## ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTORS

**Professor:** Dr. Kelly Burke (she/her)

**Email:** [kcburke@utep.edu](mailto:kcburke@utep.edu)

**Student Hours:** Thursday 1:30-3:00pm or by appointment

**Location:** Vowell\* 301 or via Zoom

\*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 anytime you have questions (e.g., about assignments, exams), concerns, or just want to chat about the course. It’s important that you know I’m here to support you and your learning. If something isn’t working or you have constructive feedback for how to improve class, 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, come talk to me right away! I'm here to facilitate your learning, not create undue stress and anxiety.**

**Teaching Assistant:** TBD

**Email:** TBD

**Student Hours:** TBD

**Location:** TBD

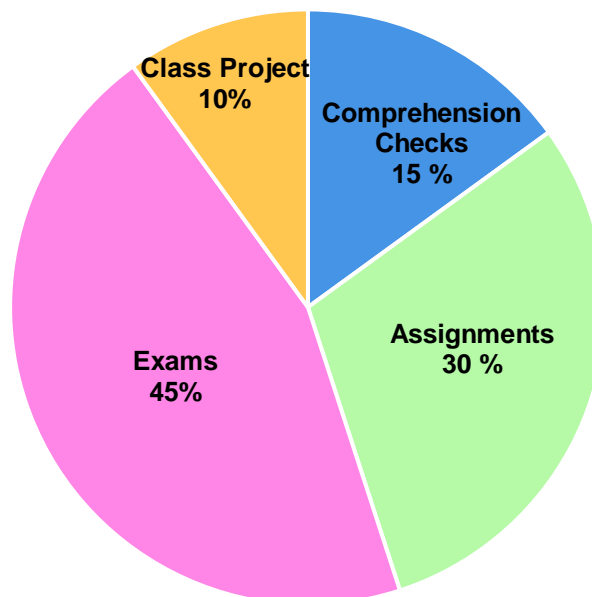
### **COURSE FORMAT**

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. 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, 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, 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 11 assignments, each worth 30 points. Your lowest assignment will be dropped for a total of 300 points. Assignments provide you with an opportunity to (a) practice the material you've 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 of the activity. 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 11 "Comprehension Checks," each worth 15 points. Your lowest Comprehension Check will be dropped for a total of 150 points. These include multiple choice, true/false, fill-in the blank, matching, and very short answer questions. They are intended to help prepare you for 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 trouble completing it on Blackboard, email me as soon as possible). No notes, books, power points, electronic devices, other people's help, etc. are allowed.

**Class Project (100 points)**

During the last few 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 April 25, April 30, and May 2 to receive credit. If you have a university approved conflict, please let me know as soon as possible so we can make alternate arrangements.

**Extra Credit (10 points)**

You are eligible to receive up to 10 points of extra credit by participating in psychological research at UTEP via the SONA system. The 10 extra credit points equate to 2 hours of SONA credit. To receive credit, you must register SONA credits for this class (not multiple classes). The deadline to complete this is Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**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. 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, [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](mailto: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. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is available in the El Paso area. For more information about current rates, testing, and vaccinations, visit [epstrong.org](http://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). 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.

Emergencies, illnesses, weather, and other priorities happen. Makeup exams, assignments, etc. will not be offered except under exceptional circumstances. This is why you can drop several assignments. This is designed to replace a more complicated excused absence and missed work system. Only approved absences for university-recognized activities, military leave, and religious holidays may be excused if documentation is provided in accordance with the university policies listed

in the Student Handbook. In such cases, you will be required to complete an alternative assignment. You must be present to receive credit for the class project and assignments given in class.

### **Laptops/Phones**

If you are going to use social media or visit 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!

## **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 \(OSCCR\)](#)) 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 the grade you're hoping for.

## **UTEP RESOURCES**

### **Classroom Accommodation**

UTEP is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. For additional information, visit the CASS website at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>.

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 915-747-5148, [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room

106. The instructor must be notified by CASS by the end of the first week of classes to facilitate accommodations. However, if an emergency arises later in the semester, contact CASS ASAP.

### **Library**

A number of resources (e.g., online access to 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 couple options available:

- Check out a laptop or mobile hotspot from UTEP:  
[https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/TSCenter/tsc\\_eqcheckout.html](https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/TSCenter/tsc_eqcheckout.html)
- Use the computers in the Collaborative Learning Center (UTEP Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

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

[https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/SOFTWARE\\_PAGES/soft\\_microsoftoffice365.html](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.
- 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, contact your advisors or get help from any number of support services and resources available (see below).

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](mailto: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](mailto:care@utep.edu), or 1101 N. Campbell St.
- **[UTEP Student Health and Wellness Center](#)** addresses health care needs of UTEP students. You may contact them at 915-747-5624, [studenthealth@utep.edu](mailto: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.*



**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

The course schedule is tentative and subject to change. All readings should be done *before* class.

Week	Date	Topic	Ch	Assignments	Comprehension Checks
1	1/16 1/18 1/21	<b>Intro to Class</b> Intro to Social Psychology	Ch 1	<b>#1 (in-class)</b>	CC 1 due Sun. 11:59pm
2	1/23 1/25 1/28	Methodology <b>Methodology</b>	Ch 2	<b>#2 (in-class)</b>	CC 2 due Sun. 11:59pm
3	1/30 2/1 2/4	Social Cognition <b>Social Cognition</b>	Ch 3	<b>#3 (in-class)</b>	CC 3 due Sun. 11:59pm
4	2/6 2/8 2/11	Social Perception Social Perception	Ch 4	<b>#4 (due Sun.)</b>	CC 4 due Sun. 11:59pm
5	2/13 2/15	Catch-up/Exam Review <b>EXAM 1 (Ch 1-4)</b>			
6	2/20 2/22 2/25	The Self Need to Justify Actions	Ch 5 Ch 6	<b>#5 (due Sun.)</b>	CC 5 due Sun. 11:59pm
7	2/27 2/29 3/3	<b>Need to Justify Actions</b> Attitudes	Ch 7	<b>#6 (in-class)</b>	CC 6 due Sun. 11:59pm
8	3/5 3/7 3/10	Attitudes Prejudice	Ch 13	<b>#7 (due Sun.)</b>	CC 7 due Sun. 11:59pm
9	3/12-14	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>			
10	3/19 3/21	Prejudice/Exam Review <b>EXAM 2 (Ch 5-7, 13)</b>			
11	3/26 3/28 3/31	Aggression Conformity	Ch 12 Ch 8	<b>#8 (due Sun.)</b>	CC 8 due Sun. 11:59pm
12	4/2 4/4 4/7	Conformity Groups	Ch 9		CC 9 due Sun. 11:59pm
13	4/9 4/11 4/14	<b>Groups</b> Attraction & Relationships	Ch 10	<b>#9 (in-class)</b> <b>#10 (due Sun.)</b>	CC 10 due Sun. 11:59pm
14	4/16 4/18	Prosocial Behavior <b>Catch-up/Exam Review</b>	Ch 11		
15	4/23 4/25 4/28	<b>EXAM 3 (Ch 8-12)</b> <b>Class Project</b>		<b>#11 (due Sun.)</b>	CC 11 due Sun. 11:59pm
16	4/30 5/2	<b>Class Project</b> <b>Class Project/Review</b>			
<b>Final</b>	<b>5/9</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>			

**Other Important Dates:**

- Jan. 31: Spring Census Day, last day to register for classes.
- March 28: Drop/Withdrawal Deadline.