



## **SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS**

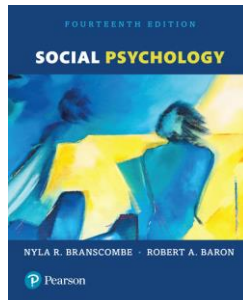
**Course Number:** PSY 301 / SOC 301  
**Course Title:** Social Psychology  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Prerequisites:** PSY 101, PSY 200, PSY 201, and PSY 205

**Instructor:** Stephanie Nead, M.A., LCMHCA, N.B.C.C  
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**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Date Syllabus Prepared:** 2021

### **Required Texts or Major Resources:**

Branscombe, N., & Baron, R. (2017). *Social Psychology*. New York, NY. Pearson



### **Course Description:**

Examines the concept of social relationships and the cognitive and emotional processes accompanying such relationships.

### **Course Objectives:**

The primary objective of the course is to provide you with a general background in the main content areas of social psychology, as well as an understanding of the techniques used by social psychologists to study human social behavior. Social psychology is the scientific study of the way individuals think, feel, and behave in social situations. Social psychologists seek to answer many questions that are relevant to our everyday lives. How are we influenced by our environment and by other people? How do we come to know ourselves? How do we form



impressions of the people we meet? How do we explain others' behavior? What causes relationships to begin or to fail? Why are people sometimes helpful, but at other times aggressive or even cruel? What are attitudes and how do they affect us? What leads to conformity and obedience? What leads to prejudice and discrimination and what can be done about this problem? These questions have been pondered for centuries, but social psychology is unique in that it applies the scientific method to investigate such topics.

Social psychologists not only develop theories of social behavior, but they use empirical research to identify which theories are good and can be put to practical use. In this course, we will learn about these theories, how to interpret and evaluate relevant research findings, and how social psychological principles can be applied to everyday life. Beyond learning the content of the course material, an important goal of the class is to help you think critically about the nature of human behavior and how to apply the information you learn in this course in your daily lives.

### **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICES:**

- If you have a documented disability and need special assistance in this course, notify me during first 2 classes. You need to be registered in the Learning Support Services Office (LSS)) to provide necessary documentation to that office. MS. Robin Richardson can be contacted for details: 843-383-8021 or at [rrichardson@coker.edu](mailto:rrichardson@coker.edu)
- No accommodation will be made without documentation from LSSO. The student is solely responsible for contacting Ms. Richardson.
- There is NO make up for exams or missed assignments except under special circumstances documented by a doctor
- Please follow college procedure if you need to withdraw from the course. Registrar has the information

Please note that more specifically, the policy concerning plagiarism will be administered as follows in this course.

- First time occurrence which is determined to be inadvertent and minimal will result in a warning and a letter grade drop for the particular assignment. In order to receive credit for the work, the student will need to fix the problem/rework the assignment to eliminate the plagiarism. If the occurrence is determined NOT to be inadvertent and minimal the professor will implement one of the following consequences.
- Second offense will result in a letter grade drop in the course if the offense is determined to be inadvertent and minimal. In order to receive credit on the assignment, the student will need to fix the problem/rework the assignment to eliminate the plagiarism. The occurrence will be reported to the Dean.
- Third offense or offense that is determined NOT to be inadvertent or is greater than minimal will result in failure for the course and will be reported to the Dean.



### **Technology Requirements:**

All students in this class must be able to navigate the internet, to access and use Blackboard, to access and use library databases, and to use word processing software to create a properly formatted\* paper.

### **PERSONAL NOTE:**

I hope that this course will be an intellectually stimulating experience for you. I also hope that you will find this course both challenging and relevant to your life. Please do not procrastinate because you will get buried in the amount of material in such a short period of time. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns. I am here to guide you and help you along the way. Online courses are isolating, and I will do my best to keep the course as interactive as possible.

**Procrastination will result in you being backed up, so please don't procrastinate!  
Complete ALL activities!**

### **Writing Guidelines**

**\*In this class all papers should be double-spaced with approximately one-inch margins on all sides. All paragraphs should be indented. All papers should be proofread and spell-checked. These are two different processes; don't rely on spell-check to eliminate all types of writing errors. I do not accept papers in email attachments, unless there is an abnormal situation, AND we have previously discussed your turning in the paper in an alternate form. Otherwise ALL papers must submitted in Blackboard. Please use Word for your word processing application to assure accessibility.**

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

From the **Coker University Student Handbook:**

"Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, or failing to appropriately cite sources. Any form of academic dishonesty is wholly incompatible with the Code of Student Responsibility, the Mission of the University, and generally understood standards of ethical academic behavior. Academic dishonesty is among the most serious of violations that might be committed at the University; for that reason, penalties for academic dishonesty may include suspension or expulsion from the University."

Cheating is defined to include, but not limited to, the following:



1. Copying another student's work or test.
2. Using unauthorized materials during a test.
3. Collaborating with another (except the instructor) during a test or on assignments.
4. Knowingly obtaining, using, buying, selling, transporting, or soliciting in whole or in part contents of a test or other work.
5. Bribing another person to obtain tests or information about tests.

Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation of any other person's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work offered for credit.

Falsification of information is defined to include, but not limited to the following:

1. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of college documents, records, or identification.
2. Destruction of evidence with the intent to deny its presentation to the appropriate hearing or panel.

Any proven case of academic dishonesty will result in an "F" for the assigned work or test and will result in administrative withdrawal from the course with a grade of "F" assigned after an administrative hearing. Additional sanctions, including administrative probation or suspension, appropriate to the incidents, may be imposed pursuant to the Student Code and Grievance. Lastly, if you have read this entire syllabus and reached this point, you may earn two extra credit points by sending me an email with "Completed syllabus" in the subject line. Must be completed within the first week of class.

If you have questions, please ask me or consult page 2 of the student handbook. Coker University subscribes to a plagiarism investigation service (SafeAssign.com). I will randomly and routinely submit papers to this service.

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### **EVALUATIVE METHODOLOGY:**

**Assessment of student's competencies will be evaluated through the following categories:**

**Quizzes:** You will have 6 quizzes to complete during this course. Each quiz will consist of 25 multiple choice questions and must be completed on each **Friday by 11:59pm**. The Quiz will be available Each Monday and you will be given 60 minutes to complete each quiz. Quizzes will cover all information learned that week. Quizzes will cover material from assigned readings, handouts, videos, and discussion posts. (Each quiz is worth 25 points) **There is a no make-up policy for section quizzes. Unless you have been excused for an emergency or a college-sanctioned function BEFORE the scheduled quiz. You will receive a ZERO if you do not submit the quiz by the scheduled time.**



**Article Reviews (2):** You will complete 2 article reviews throughout this course. You will be responsible for locating, viewing and reviewing the article of your choice. The topic of the articles are of your choosing, however should remain within the topic of Social Psychology for each assignment. All articles must be published after 2010. You may access such articles on the Coker Library website. <https://library.coker.edu/>. You can search various articles using [EBSCOhost](#) and utilizing the Academic Search Premier search. Each review will be worth 50 points, 100 points total, towards your final grade. **NOTE: These reviews can go towards your special topics project/paper.**

Format Guidelines

**Each Review should be approximately 2-3 pages in length.**

1. Introductory paragraph
2. Brief Summary of the identified topic
3. Review of the article- *Identifying each thesis statement, article findings, and conclusion.*
4. Personal Reflection: *Express your personal opinion of the material, How does it apply to Social Psychology, What have you learned, What are 2-3 questions you have in response to the material?*
5. Conclusion paragraph
6. Citation

Each review will be worth 50 points and must be submitted by 11:59pm on the due date.

View the rubric for grading guidelines.

**Special Topics Presentation: 3 parts**

**\*Topic Sign up and Due Date assignment will be completed during the first week of class.**

**Part 1: Research Paper (100 points)**

Select a scenario of your choosing from something you have read, seen, or experienced, related to the class readings and discussion and report on it. You have several options: 1) Watch a movie and report on a single scene that can be explained by concepts or theories from the book or readings; 2) Debate about something that has been reported in the media (magazine story, advertising, etc.); 3) Describe a personal experience (someone you know, something your observed, or experienced) that can be explained by concepts or theories from the book or readings; 4) Report on new phenomenon or research that can be related to the class topics. Based



upon your reading of the chapters, report your assessment of the social psychology topic citing specific concepts or research that supports your positions. A good paper will be focused and apply **one to three** theories or concepts with lots of good empirical support for the psychological literature.

Your paper should include the use of **5 academic resources** ( your text book can be one). You must use a **minimum of 2** peer-reviewed journals that normally publishes studies regarding social psychology as resources. The following list of journals typically publishes work on social psychology: *Emotion, Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Journal of Personality, Journal of Research on Personality, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Social Psychological and Personality Science, Psychological Science*. You can access these journals through the *PsycInfo* database.

Remember, your paper will be graded with explicit reference to the summary of findings from your resources and how you use these findings to support your thesis statement. Points will be lost if your paper contains distracting grammatical problems. Here are some broad areas in social psychology within which you can choose a more specific question for your literature review: (1) In what ways are individuals influenced by conformity? (2) What are some ways to reduce the influence of obedience? (3) How do attitudes change? (4) How can groups work together most effectively when making decisions? (5) What determines if someone is attracted to someone else? (6) Which are the best ways to reduce prejudice and discrimination? (7) What kinds of behaviors do implicit versus explicit attitudes predict? (8) How do we compare ourselves to others and how does this influence our behavior? (9) How do cultures differ in their social norms? (10) What factors influence the development of the self?

Your research papers should be approximately **6-8** pages in length. Please use correct formatting, headings, and write with collegiate professionalism

### **Format Guidelines**

- i. Introductory of chosen Topic (*recommended: 1/2- 1 page*)
  - i. *Autobiographical connection between you and your chosen topic. (Why did you choose this topic)*
- ii. Identification of personal thesis (*recommended – 1/2 age*)
  - i. (What is your theory on the social matter?)
- iii. Summaries of identified resources (*recommended - 2-4 pages*)
- iv. Key Concepts
  - i. Identify major differences/ arguments found in your research (*recommended -1 page*)
  - ii. Identify theories and key concepts (*recommended 1/2 -1 page*)
- v. Personal reflection (*recommended: 1 page*)
- vi. Conclusion (*recommended: 1/2-1 page*)



This paper will be worth 100 points and must be submitted by 11:59pm on your assigned due date.

You will also need to be able to answer questions, draw conclusions, and discuss this area of research.

**Part 2: Presentation (40 points)**

You will create a PowerPoint, Prezi, Google presentation or other digital form of presentation and post to the designated discussion board for you to share the findings or your research topic and receive feed back from your peers.

Your power point presentation should be no less then 10 slides. Your presentation should include;

- Introduction to your chosen topic, (Why you chose this topic, what are current arguments within this topic, which argument do you agree with?)
- A review of each empirical article and their findings and the ability to answer each of these questions (“What did they do? Why did they do it? What did they find? Why is this important?”)
- How it relates to todays society
- Conclusion (Summarize your findings and argue your stance)
- Citation Page (DON’T FORGET)

**Part 3: Presenter Response (10 points)**

1) **Audience posts-** You are responsible to respond to each of your classmate’s presentations. You will provide a thoughtful and educated response to each presenter’s topic and provide one question you would like the presenter to answer.

2) **Presenter Responses-** As the presenter you will choose 3 questions from your peers to respond.

**Participation:** Students are expected to attend and participate in all class activities. Learning is collaborative and therefore requires the physical and mental presence of all concerned. The attendance and participation grade includes attention to professional behavior, including timeliness (i.e., completing and turning in all assignments on time). Participation also includes



being prepared for class and thoughtful contributions to class discussions. As this is an online course, Attendance and participation will strongly reflect the participation in assigned Discussion topics.

**Discussion Forum:** Participation will be graded based off completion and participation of discussion forums. There will be **4 discussion** posts throughout this course. Each forum will require an initial post with 1 thoughtful and educated response followed along with responding to 2 of your classmate's posts. Simply agreeing to your classmates post is ***NOT*** a thoughtful and educated response. There should be a **total of 3 posts from each student each week** a discussion forum is scheduled. All posts **must be completed by Sunday at 11:59pm**.

***Extra Credit:*** There will be extra credit opportunities throughout the course. Please DO NOT count on this to "fix" your grade. I can not guarantee enough extra credit will be offered to "Save" your grade so make sure you are doing your best and completing all assignments on time. Do pay close attention, as some extra credit opportunities may not be so noticeable. I will announce various extra credit opportunities in the Blackboard announcements.

### Course Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Due</u>
TBD	Chapters 1&2	Quiz 1 Discussion 1	TBD TBD
TBD	Chapters 3 & 4	Quiz 2 Discussion 2	TBD TBD
TBD	Chapters 5 & 6	Quiz 3 Discussion 3	TBD TBD
TBD	Chapters 7 & 8	Quiz 4 Discussion 4 Article Review # 1	TBD TBD TBD
TBD	Chapters 9 & 10	Quiz 5 Presentations	TBD TBD
TBD	Chapters 11 & 12	Quiz 6 Presentations	TBD TBD





TBD	N/A	Presentations	TBD
TBD	N/A	Presentations	TBD
		Article Review # 2	TBD

### **Grading Guidelines**

Your goal is to accumulate points toward a final tally of 500. The breakdown for grade assignment is detailed below. I expect all students to participate in ways that are appropriate to a College classroom. Grades reflect the quality of your work and how well you have mastered the material. I do not ‘give’ grades, but rather record the grade you earned. Blackboard grades shown are not always accurate. I maintain individual records and will notify you of grades when requested. The easiest way to track your grade is to keep a log of your points earned and add the sum. The grading scale is listed below.

6 Quizzes	25 points each	150 points total
2 Article Review	50 Points Each	100 points total
Discussion Board Participation	25 points each	100 points total
Special Topics Project	150 points	<u>150 points</u>
Total:		500 points

### **GRADING SCALE**

450-500 points	A
400-449 points	B
350-399 points	C
300-349 points	D
299 points & below	F