



SOC 333 Social Psychology

Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Zachary Palmer
Office Location: Ferguson 232
Office Hours: MW 9-9:50, 11-11:50
University Email Address: Zachary.palmer@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me): Why We Justify Foolish Beliefs, Bad Decisions, and Hurtful Acts (3rd edition) by Carol Tavris and Elliot Aronson

Optional Texts and/or Materials

All other readings and materials will be posted to D2L

Course Description

This course offers an exploration of sociological social psychology, focusing on how individuals construct, defend, and maintain the self within social contexts. We will analyze the three major sociological social psychological perspectives: symbolic interactionism, social structure and personality, and group processes. We will cover a wide range of topics, including dramaturgy, cognitive dissonance, moral panics, identity, and socialization.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Distinguish the core assumptions of the 3 major perspectives in sociological social psychology
2. Explain how the self, identity, and emotion are socially constructed through interactions, norms, and institutions
3. Apply sociological social psychological theories to real-world situations and lived experiences
4. Critically reflect on how people make sense of their actions and fall into cognitive biases (and consider ways of overcoming those biases)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Instructional Methods

Lecture, activities, and in-class discussion.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- This course is discussion-based, which means doing the readings before class is essential. Reading prepares you to participate, ask questions, and engage critically with others' perspectives. If we don't read, we cannot meaningfully discuss, and discussion is how we collectively deepen our understanding of the material. You are not expected to understand everything in the readings your first time through. Coming to class with questions, confusion, or points of tension is part of the learning process!
- Because of the nature of this course, regular attendance and active engagement are essential to your learning and the learning of others. Participation is not possible if you are not present!
- If you are confused, struggling, or going through something that will impact your performance in this course, please reach out to me sooner rather than later! I am happy to help get you back on track, but I can only do so if you let me know you need help.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Assessments

- In-Class Writings- Each week there will be **at least one** short writing assignment or activity completed in class. **You must be in attendance to complete that session's in-class writing and they cannot be made up.** Students who arrive in class after the in-class writing has begun may not receive credit for that day's writing. Three will be dropped, giving you some wiggle room in case of absences. Each will be graded on a check-plus (100%), check (85%), check-minus (75%) scale. Worth 10 points each.
- Discussion Leader- Twice in the semester, students will work in pairs to help facilitate class discussion for a selected reading by submitting a brief prep sheet in advance (including key argument, concept, and discussion questions), guiding conversation during class, and completing a short post-class reflection. This is graded on preparation, understanding of the reading, and engagement. Worth 25 points each.

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- Final Paper- For the final paper, you will analyze a real-world situation or problem using at least two of the perspectives in sociological social psychology (symbolic interactionism, group processes, social structure and personality). Details posted on D2L. Worth 100 points.

Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Topic	Required Readings	Notes
1	Introduction to Sociological Social Psychology	"The Sociological Imagination"	
2	Perspectives in Sociological Social Psychology		No Class Monday (MLK Day)
3	SI- The Social Self	"Presentation of Self in Everyday Life"	
4	SI- Social Interaction	"Doing Gender"	No Class Friday (Dr. Palmer at Conference), Discussion of reading will be Wednesday
5	SI- Socialization	"Becoming a Marijuana User"	
6	SI- Emotions and Feeling Rules	"Emotion Work, Feeling Rules, and Social Structure"	
7	GP- Culture and Meaning in Groups	"Small Groups and Culture Creation"	
8	GP- Status and Power	"Gender, Status, and Leadership"	
9	SPRING BREAK		
10	GP- Interaction Rituals	"Interaction Ritual Chains"	
11	GP- Groupthink	"Organizational Behavior and Disaster"	
12	SSP- Cognitive Dissonance	Introduction, Ch 1 of MWM	
13	SSP- Self-Justification and Escalation	Chs 2 & 3 of MWM	
14	SSP- When Mistakes Become Social	Chs 4 & 5 of MWM	
15	SSP- Institutionalizing Error	Chs 6 & 7 of MWM	
16	Conclusion	Ch 8 of MWM	

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
 - Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
 - Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
 - Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)
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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The [Code of Student Conduct](#) is described in detail online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

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In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

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Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



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