PSY 589.01E: Social Cognition

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor: Dr. Stephen Reysen
Class Location: Online
Class Time: Online
Office Location: Henderson 210
Office Hours: Tuesdays 8:00AM to 1:00PM, and by appointment
Phone: 903-886-5940
Email Address: Stephen.Reysen@etamu.edu *(email is the best way to reach me)*

COURSE INFORMATION

In this course we will cover the fundamental theories and research conducted in social psychology. We will cover both classic and modern social psychological research. There is no textbook for this class. Instead we will read journal articles and book chapters each week. I will have these available on myLeo Online. The purpose of the readings is to give you an understanding of (1) the beginnings of social psychology, (2) major areas within social psychology, and (3) how social psychological research is conducted. Due to the breadth of the research that has been conducted in social psychology it is impossible to cover every theoretical contribution. Therefore, I have selected what I believe to be key writings in the field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading:
Grades will be based on reaction papers (1/4 page) and a final research proposal paper. Reaction papers are due by Sunday of that week (feel free to work ahead). The final research proposal is a serious proposal of research. This paper should not exceed 15 pages (double spaced, times new roman 12-point font, .rtf or .doc or .docx format). In the proposal you will review some relevant literature, state a hypothesis, and then propose a study that directly tests your hypothesis. Please discuss this paper with me before beginning. [*Note: Master's students' final papers should not exceed 10 pages*]

Assessment:
Reaction papers: 120 points

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Research proposal: 100 points

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1: Thursday January 29 to Sunday February 1
[Note: no readings this week]

Week 2: Monday February 2 to Sunday February 8
Deutsch, M. (1992). Kurt Lewin: The tough-minded and tender-hearted scientist. *Journal of Social Issues, 48,* 31-43.
Crandall, C. S., Silvia, P. J., N'Gbala, A. N., Tsang, J.-A., & Dawson, K. (2007). Balance theory, unit relations, and attribution: The underlying integrity of Heiderian theory. *Review of General Psychology, 11,* 12-30.
Kruglanski, A. W. (1990). Lay epistemic theory in social-cognitive psychology. *Psychological Inquiry, 1,* 181-197.

Week 3: Monday February 9 to Sunday February 15
Monin, B., & Norton, M. I. (2003). Perceptions of a fluid consensus: Uniqueness bias, false consensus, false polarization, and pluralistic ignorance in a water conservation crisis. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 29*, 559-567.
Pronin, E., Puccio, C., & Ross, L. (2002). Understanding misunderstandings: Social psychological perspectives. In T. Gilovich, D. Griffin, & D. Kahnman (Eds.), *Heuristics and biases: The psychology of intuitive judgment* (pp. 636-665). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
Epley, N. (2008). Solving the (real) other minds problem. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass, 2*, 1455-1474.

Week 4: Monday February 16 to Sunday February 22
Langer, E., Blank, A., & Chanowitz, B. (1978). The mindlessness of ostensibly thoughtful action: The role of "placebic" information in interpersonal interaction. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 36*, 635-642.
Bargh, J. A., Chen, M., & Burrows, L. (1996). Automaticity of social behavior: Direct effects of trait construct and stereotype activation on action. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 71,* 230-244.
van Baaren, R. B., Holland, R. W., Steenaert, B., & van Knippenberg, A. (2003). Mimicry for money: Behavioral consequences of imitation. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 39,* 393-398.

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Vohs, K. D., Mead, N. L., & Goode, M. R. (2008). Merely activating the concept of money changes personal and interpersonal behavior. *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 17,* 208-212.

Week 5: Monday 23 to Sunday March 1
Fiske, S. T., & Linville, P. W. (1980). What does the schema concept buy us? *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 6,* 543-557.

Macrae, C. N., & Bodenhausen, G. V. (2000). Social cognition: Thinking categorically about others. *Annual Review of Psychology, 51,* 93-120.

Holmes, J. G. (2000). Social relationships: The nature and function of relational schemas. *European Journal of Social Psychology, 30*, 447-495.

Week 6: Monday March 2 to Sunday March 8
Cialdini, R. B., Borden, R. J., Thorne, A., Walker, M. R., Freeman, S., & Sloan, L. R. (1976). Basking in reflected glory: Three (football) field studies. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 34*, 366-375.

Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. (1979). An integrative theory of intergroup conflict. In R. Austin & S. Worchel (Eds.), *Social psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 33-47). Nelson-Hall.

Turner, J. C., & Reynolds, K. J. (2012). Self-categorization theory. In P. A. M. Van Lange, A. W. Kruglanski, & E. T. Higgins (Eds.), *Handbook of theories of social psychology* (Vol. 2, pp. 399-417). SAGE.

Week 7: Monday March 9 to Sunday March 15: SPRING BREAK
[Note: no readings this week]

Week 8: Monday March 16 to Sunday March 22
Reicher, S., Spears, R., & Haslam, S. A. (2010). The social identity approach in social psychology. In M. S. Wetherell & C. T. Mohanty (Eds.), *Sage identities handbook* (pp. 45-62). Sage.

Reicher, S. D., Haslam, S. A., Spears, R., & Reynolds, K. J. (2012). A social mind: The context of John Turner's work and its influence. *European Review of Social Psychology, 23,* 344-385.

Turner, J. C., Oakes, P. J., Haslam, S. A., & McGarty, C. (1994). Self and collective: Cognitive and social context. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 20,* 454-463.

Week 9: Monday March 23 to Sunday March 29
Branscombe, N. R., Ellemers, N., Spears, R., & Doosje, B. (1999). The context and content of social identity threat. In N. Ellemers, R. Spears, & B. Doosje (Eds.), *Social identity: Context, commitment, content* (pp. 35-58). Blackwell.

Levine, M., Prosser, A., Evans, D., & Reicher, S. (2005). Identity and emergency intervention: How social group membership and inclusiveness of group boundaries shape helping behavior. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 31*, 443-453.

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Kurtis, T., Adams, G., Yellow Bird, M. (2010). Generosity or genocide? Identity implications of silence in American Thanksgiving commemorations. *Memory, 18,* 208-224.

Week 10: Monday March 30 to Sunday April 5
Semin, G. R., & Smith, E. R. (2002). Interfaces of social psychology with embodied cognition. *Cognitive Systems Research, 3*, 385-396.
Coman, A., Brown, A. D., Koppel, J., & Hirst, W. (2009). Collective memory from a psychological perspective. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society, 22,* 125-141.
Loftus, E. F. (2005). Planting misinformation in the human mind: A 30-year investigation of the malleability of memory. *Learning and Memory, 12*, 361-366.

Week 11: Monday April 6 to Sunday April 12
Wheeler, S. C., & Petty, R. E. (2001). The effects of stereotype activation on behavior: A review of possible mechanisms. *Psychological Bulletin, 127*, 797-826.
Adams, G., Biernat, M., Branscombe, N. R., Crandall, C. S., & Wrightsman, L. S. (2008). Beyond prejudice: Toward a sociocultural psychology of racism and oppression. In G. Adams, M. Biernat, N. R. Branscombe, C. S. Crandall, & L. S. Wrightsman (Eds.), *Commemorating Brown: The social psychology of racism and discrimination* (pp. 215-246). APA Books.
Voelklein, C., & Howarth, C. (2005). A review of controversies about social representations theory: A British debate. *Culture and Psychology, 11,* 431-454.

Week 12: Monday April 13 to Sunday April 19
Shweder, R. A. (1990). Cultural psychology—what is it? In J. Stigler, R. Shweder, & G. Herdt (Eds.), *Cultural psychology: Essays on comparative human development* (pp. 1-46). Cambridge University Press.
Markus, H. R., & Kitayama, S. (1991). Culture and the self: Implications for cognition, emotion, and motivation. *Psychological Review, 98*(2), 224-253.
Miyamoto, Y., Nisbett, R. E., Masuda, T. (2006). Culture and the physical environment. *Psychological Science, 17*, 113-119.

Week 13: Monday April 20 to Sunday April 26
Kim, H., & Markus, H. R. (1999). Deviance or uniqueness, harmony or conformity? A cultural analysis. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 77*, 785-800.
Adams, G., & Markus, H. R. (2004). Toward a conception of culture suitable for a social psychology of culture. In M. Schaller & C. S. Crandall (Eds.), *The psychological foundations of culture* (pp. 335-360). Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Week 14: Monday April 27 to Sunday May 3
Adams, G., Estrada-Villalta, S., Sullivan, D., & Markus, H. R. (2019). The psychology of neoliberalism and the neoliberalism of psychology. *Journal of Social Issues, 75*(1), 189-216.
Adams, G., & Dzokoto, V. A. (2007). Genital-shrinking panic in Ghana: A cultural psychological analysis. *Culture & Psychology, 13*(1), 83-104.

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FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE Sunday May 3 (BY 11:59PM) on myLeo Online

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:
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:

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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.

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. (1) Immaturity will NOT be tolerated! If a student's behavior is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to stop. (2) Respect: Given the nature of this course, we may discuss issues that some of you may find embarrassing, uncomfortable, and/or even "inappropriate." To remain in this class, you must be respectful of others and maintain a mature and professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course. (3) The Student's Guidebook addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions. It's simple. Do NOT cheat (to cheat is to act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage) or plagiarize (to plagiarize is to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one's own)!

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.

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- 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 (e.g., 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)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

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

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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.

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 https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center/

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, or follow this link: https://www.etamu.edu/telus/

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Community Psychology Clinic

The Community Psychology Clinic at East Texas A&M offers assessments services to assist students who may be experiencing difficulties in their classes, mental health issues, support groups, Autism, ADHD, and assist with gaining accommodations in college. All services are FREE to students. Call today to schedule an appointment 903-886-5660 or email cpc@etamu.edu

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