

Social Psychology PSY 3301

Required Texts:

1. Text: OER-<https://psu.pb.unizin.org/socialpsychmethodsjmc948/>

2. *Pillars of Social Psychology*

Edited by Saul Kassin

Publisher: Cambridge University Press

Publication: 2022

Online ISBN: 9781009214315

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009214315>

3. *Conformity, Complicity, and the Science of Why We Make Bad Decisions*

By Todd Rose

Publisher: Hachette Go

Publication: February 1, 2022

ISBN-10 : 0306925680

ISBN-13 : 978-0306925689

Course Information:

Kathleen Rivers M.S. M.A. kathleen.rivers@sulross.edu

Location: (Hybrid): Tuesday's Lawrence Hall Rm. 200 9:00am – 10:45am & Online Blackboard

Dates: January 15, 2025 to April 30, 2025

Office hours: Tuesday's 2:00pm to 4:00pm Phone: (423) 837-8019

Appointment: <https://calendly.com/kathleen-rivers-sulross>

Descripton:

This course is an introduction to the study of social psychology, an area of investigation which focuses on the way the thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors of individuals and groups are influenced by others. Topics include social cognition, conformity, obedience, persuasion, attribution, aggression, prejudice, attraction, and helping.

The Student Learning Objectives for this Course

The student will be able to:

- Recognize the central concepts of social psychology theory and research.
- Recognize social psychology's role in understanding social problems such as aggression and prejudice.
- Recognize how techniques of effective persuasion can be applied to one's own life and work.
- Recognize how concepts and findings in areas related to attraction and persuasion can be applied to enhance one's own life and relationships.
- Identify the basic methods of social psychological research that justify the field's standing as a science.

Class Attendance and Participation Policy:

Students are expected to post on time, actively engage throughout each class discussion. If you will be unable to complete assignments for any reason, you must contact the instructor and request an excused absence in advance. **More than one unexcused absence will result in dismissal from the course and a failing grade.** **Assignment Submission:** All assignments MUST be submitted via Blackboard. **Assignments e-mailed to the instructor will not be accepted.** Late assignments will incur a 5-point penalty for each day they are late.

Course Behaviors:

- Respect and Disruptions: Watch the VIDEO on NETTIQUETTE - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWMk_Zv7nB8 and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80uRE972uQQ>.
- Student Conduct and Discipline section of the SRSU Student Handbook (http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student_conduct_discipline.pdf)

SENSITIVE TOPICS POLICY:

As psychology deals with understanding human nature, it is inevitable that sensitive topics will be brought up in some psychology classes. These can include different world views and attitudes. You are encouraged to share your opinion or position and to question the views of other students and the instructor if it is done in a professional manner without using derogatory terms, bigoted language, or offensive epithets. It is possible to discuss sensitive topics and express different views.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT:

It is my aim to create a learning environment for students that supports diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences. I also understand that the crisis of economic disparity, health concerns, and unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for students to succeed. My commitment is to be there for students and help them to meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to students and to the mission of Sul Ross State University. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

SRSU Disability Services:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. Students with qualifying disabilities who seek accommodations must initiate a request for a meeting for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Counseling and Accessibility Services Office:

Ferguson Hall 112

Alpine, TX

(432) 837-8203

counseling@sulross.edu

7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday-Friday

Library Services Statement:

The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

Honoring Academic Integrity:

Any instance of academic misconduct such as:

- (1) turning in an identical written assignment for another course without approval
- (2) copying from any source without proper citation
- (3) crossing the boundary of what is allowed in a group project
- (4) lying in connection with your academic work
- (5) cheating
- (6) plagiarism
- (7) using AI ChatGPT resources in attempt to cheat on exams, discussion, or writing assignments
- (8) misrepresenting facts and/or collusion are contrary to the purpose of any educational institution and will be dealt with most severely to the extent of the university's disciplinary policy and/or through legal action if indicated.

An instructor who determines that a student has been dishonest academically can at a minimum issue no credit for the assignment/exam, and/or pursue more severe penalties, including but not limited to failing the course. Before the penalty is imposed, the student has the right to appeal to the division chairperson or Assistant Provost for the Academic Affairs. Further information about Academic Honesty can be read in the SRSU Student Handbook and procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy.

Psychology Program Marketable Skills:

1. **Speaking Effectively:** Students will demonstrate competency in public speaking and communicating scientific information to diverse audiences.
2. **Describing Feelings:** Students will demonstrate empathic or active listening and conversational skills, and/or write clearly about their affective stance, respectfully attuned to the needs of their audiences.
3. **Identifying Resources:** Students will demonstrate the aptitude to locate, organize and evaluate the credibility of information from multiple sources.
4. **Analyzing:** Students will demonstrate ability to examine the underlying issues of scientific problems, attending to the pertinent details and creating action plans, recognizing ambiguity and complexity as essential components.

Assignments & Exams

Discussions: Every Tuesday class meeting we will be discussing assigned readings. Students are to be prepared to answer questions and discuss the readings. This means that material will have to be reviewed ahead of time. Class participation (20-points for each class period). There will be (10) discussions online at (20-points each) that will cover research articles that will be posted by the instructor. Since this is a small class each student will be responding to all the students in the course.

Checklists – There will be 5 checklists consisting of 10-questions at 1-point each. This is to ensure students have been keeping current on course material. Some of these questions will be on the midterm and final exams.

Midterm and Final Exams - Two (2) exams will be given during the course of this term. They may consist of 50 multiples choice, fill in the blank, **or** essay questions. The dates of the exams are planned for the dates listed below in the class schedule. Please note that there will be no make-up exams unless it is an excused absence with corresponding documentation.

Portfolio Project - The goal of this assignment is for students to complete the course with an individual collection of materials related to this course, which are relevant to them and/or their field. The portfolio will relate the information from class to life beyond this introduction and may encourage you to reflect, experience, and review psychologically in the real world. Obviously, people take away different things from the class and your portfolios will display this. This project must include the Self-Introduction and the Personal View Presentation. No late portfolios will be accepted unless due to illness and with documented proof.

- **Self-Introduction** – Write four pages about yourself and your experience in this class. (100 points). Due April 29, 2025. Rubric will be provided.
- **Personal view:** Develop and present a PowerPoint on a notable person in Social Psychology that now frames your current view about the subject (100 points). You will

include their research interests, theories, and their primary research methodology. Rubric will be provided (200 points). Presentations on April 29, 2025.

Additional requirements will on occasion come up during the class. These requirements will be described as we encounter them, given our development as a class and as individuals.

Tutoring:

[The Lobo Den Tutoring Center](#) offers FREE tutoring support to help you excel in your courses. Whether you need assistance in Writing, Math, Science, or other subjects, we're here to help!

Important Information:

- **Drop-in and Scheduled Appointments:** Flexible options to fit your needs.
- **Hours of Operation:** Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- **Workshops:** Attend our regularly hosted academic workshops on STEM topics and professional development, often in collaboration with specialized faculty.
- **Location:** BWML Room 128.
- **Contact Us:** For more information or to book an appointment, email tutoring@sulross.edu or call (432) 837-8726.

Looking for additional support?

- **Tutor.com** offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support for ESL and ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors.
- **Access Tutor.com via Blackboard:** Log in to your Blackboard account to get started anytime, anywhere.

Take advantage of these valuable resources to boost your confidence and performance in your classes. We look forward to helping you succeed!

Schedule:

- Each week we will be going over the OER text at the beginning of class. The second half of the class will be book discussions.
- For the first 6 weeks we will cover a chapter each week from *Pillars of Social Psychology*.
- The next six weeks we will cover chapters from *Conformity, Complicity, and the Science of Why We Make Bad Decisions*.
- Assignments in the form of discussions and or checklists are due every week on Sunday by 11:59pm.
- Midterm will be online starting Friday March 7, 2025 at 8:00am to Sunday March 9, 2025 at 11:59pm.
- Final Exam will be online starting Friday May 2, 2025 at 8:00am to Sunday May 4, 2025 by 11:59pm.

Connecting with Students for Success

As a part of a research study, I am committed in this course to the following:

I will know
your name

I will provide
user-friendly,
timely feedback
on your
assignments

I will hold high
standards and
support you to
achieve them

I will hold an
individual
meeting with
each student
during the
semester

This course will be participating in an initiative at Sul Ross State University referred to as “Connecting with Students for Success”. This study is aimed at connecting with students in a way that sets them up for better success, overall. As a part of this study, each student will be required to meet with me at least once during my office hours before February 18th, 2024. The reasoning behind this, is that I would like to personally speak to each of you about how you feel regarding your career, help you with questions about the course, discuss how you feel about the class overall, and your time at Sul Ross State University. Please schedule an appointment with the professor, as soon as possible, via email. I will be flexible in scheduling these appointments with you. Please see the office hours available for scheduling on the first page of the syllabus. If you need another time frame, please discuss with the professor.