

Social Psychology (Soci 4340)

Spring 2023; Terrill Hall Rm 120; M/W 3:30-4:50

# Instructor Information

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| Instructor | Email | Office Location & Hours |
| Kevin McCaffree, PhD | Kevin.mccaffree@unt.edu | Fridays 2-5pm (on Zoom: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/9466560178>)  By appointment (288b Sycamore) |

# General Information

## Description

Social psychology is a fascinating field that combines a traditional psychological focus on individual cognition with a sociological focus on socialization, interaction and groups. In this class we will be touring much of the field, though we will focus particularly on aggression and altruism towards the end of the course. At the end of this class, you’ll be able to identify and precisely apply key social psychological concepts in a way that is useful to you and, potentially, helpful for others.

## Required Text:

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., Nisbett, R.E. 2018. Social Psychology: Fifth Edition. W.W. Norton & Co.

Class Assignments

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| --- | --- |
| **Type of Assignment** | **Details** |
| **Attendance/ Reading Reflection** | Your attendance grade will be calculated from your submission of two reading questions each week. These questions should be carefully thought out, should draw from and cite specific material in readings or lecture, and should range from between 150-250 words *each*. These questions will be due Friday by midnight each week, uploaded to Canvas.  This assignment is NOT due the first two weeks of class (i.e., weeks 1 and 2), the last two weeks of class (i.e., week 16 and Finals Week) or Spring Break week (week 9).  Each set of questions is worth 20 points (10 points each), and questions will be required for 12 weeks (total) of the course, for a total of 240 points. |
| **Exams** | There are four multiple choice exams in this course. These will be of varying lengths but will be easily completed within the 80-minute class period.  On exam days, we will not meet in person. Instead, when class time would normally begin, you’ll need to log onto the course website on Canvas and take the exam. You will have the entire class period to complete the exam.  Each exam is worth 100 points, for a total of 400 points. |
| **Podcast Project** | One of the objectives of this course is to apply social psychological perspectives. For this assignment, you will have the opportunity to identify a current event or phenomenon of interest to you and put the course material into practice to explain it.  Your task here will be to develop a ~8-10 minute explanation, in podcast format, of a topic of your choice using a social psychological concept(s). The following assignments and deadlines make up the podcast project:  1. Topic selection Uploaded to Canvas by 3/12 (25 points)   * Pick a topic of mainstream cultural interest. Tell me a little a bit about what you know of the topic, why that topic interests you, and what you would like to learn more about.   2. Draft script Uploaded to Canvas by 3/26 (50 points)   * Your script should: (1) clearly describe your current event/phenomenon, (2) clearly define your social psychological concept(s), (3) apply your social psychological concept(s) to your current event/phenomenon, (4) engage your audience, and (5) reference your sources (i.e., who is the person that developed the social psychological concept? How did they use the concept?). As you are writing your script think about the following: What can we learn about your topic using social psychology that we didn’t know before? Keep in mind that you are creating a podcast, so your script should be written to engage your audience.   3. Final script Uploaded to Canvas by 4/16 (50 points)   * For this assignment, you will need to review my feedback on your script and incorporate it into your final script. Was anything in your draft script incorrect, unclear, or illogical? Did your draft script contain spelling or grammar errors? Could your script be better organized? Could you make your script more engaging? **You will be graded on whether you incorporated my feedback.**   4. Podcast Uploaded to Canvas by 5/10 (135 points)   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Criteria** | **Score** | | The podcast clearly describes/defines the topic and social psychological concept(s), and appropriately and creatively applies the social psychological concept to the topic to teach the audience something new. The podcast is engaging and is 8-10 minutes in length. | 100% | | The podcast clearly describes/defines the topic and social psychological concept(s) and applies the social psychological concept to the topic to teach the audience something new. The podcast lacks some creativity or is slightly too short/long. | 90% | | The podcast describes/defines the topic and social psychological concept(s) and applies the social psychological concept to the topic to teach the audience something new but lacks clarity or creativity or is not performed in an engaging way. | 80% | | The podcast describes/defines the topic and social psychological concept(s) and applies the social psychological concept to the topic to teach the audience something new but demonstrates some misunderstanding of the topic or concept. The podcast is unclear or contains logical flaws. | 70% | | The podcast does not describe/define the topic and/or psychological concept(s), and/or fails to apply the social psychological concept to the topic. The podcast demonstrates substantive misunderstandings of the topic or concept or is far too short/long. | 60% and below |  * Record your podcast via [phone](https://www.wikihow.com/Record-Audio-on-a-Mobile-Phone), [Zoom](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/203741855-Cloud-recording), or [Skype](https://www.howtogeek.com/365082/how-to-record-skype-calls/). Don’t just follow your script, perform it! Practice beforehand so you know when to pause, what to emphasize, etc. Be creative! If you want to go above and beyond, add some intro music! Your podcast will be graded according to the following rubric:   Your podcast project is worth a total of 260 points and will be due during finals week. |

**Exam Schedule**

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| --- | --- |
| Date | Subject |
| 2/17 | **Exam One** |
| 3/10 | **Exam Two** |
| 4/7 | **Exam Three** |
| 5/5 | **Exam Four** |

**Grade Breakdown**

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| --- | --- |
| Assignment | Possible Points |
| Reading Reflections | **240 points; ~27% of final grade** |
| Exams | **400 points; ~44% of final grade** |
| Podcast Project | **260 points; ~29% of final grade** |
| TOTAL | **900 points** |

**General Policies:**

\*\* Late work will not be accepted unless there are emergency circumstances; a doctor’s note will be required, and will need to be emailed to the Dean of Students for approval.

\*\*Instances of plagiarism will result in an automatic F and referral to the Dean of Students.

\*\*I will not be posting powerpoint slides (copyright).

\*\*There is no extra credit in this course, however, in-class participation will make students eligible for end-of-semester grade bumps.

\*\*The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course.

# Course Schedule\*

| Week | Topic | Reading | Assignments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 (1/17-1/20) | Syllabus and Introductions | None | None |
| Week 2 (1/23-1/27) | Philosophy of Science and the Replication Crisis | Gilovich et al., Chp 1, 4 | None |
| Week 3 (1/30-2/3) | The Self | Gilovich et al., Chp. 3 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 4 (2/6- 2/10) | Groups | Gilovich et al., Chapter 12 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 5 (2/13- 2/17) | Emotions | Gilovich et al., Chp. 6 | Submit reading questions  **Exam 1 (on Canvas) 2/17** |
| Week 6 (2/20- 2/24) | Persuasion and Manipulation | Gilovich et al., Chp. 8 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 7 (2/27-3/3) | Attitudes, Behavior and Rationalization | Gilovich et al., Chp. 7 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 8 (3/6- 3/10) | Social Attribution | Gilovich et al., Chp. 5 | Submit reading questions  **Exam 2 (on Canvas) 3/10**  **Podcast Topic Due Midnight 3/12 Uploaded to Canvas** |
| Week 9 (3/13-3/17) | SPRING BREAK | None | None |
| Week 10 (3/20-3/24) | Social Influence | Gilovich et al., Chp. 9 | Submit reading questions  **Podcast Draft Script Due Midnight 3/26 Uploaded to Canvas** |
| Week 11 (3/27- 3/31) | Aggression | Gilovich et al., Chp. 13 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 12 (4/3- 4/7) | Aggression | Readings Posted to Canvas | Submit reading questions  **Exam 3 (on Canvas) 4/7** |
| Week 13 (4/10- 4/14) | Altruism and Cooperation | Gilovch et al., Chp. 14 | Submit reading questions  **Podcast Final Script Due Midnight 4/16 Uploaded to Canvas** |
| Week 14 (4/17- 4/21) | Altruism and Cooperation | Gilovich et al., Chp. 10 | Submit reading questions |
| Week 15 (4/24- 4/28) | Future Directions in Social Psychology | Readings posted to Canvas | Submit reading questions |
| Week 16 (5/1- 5/5) | OPEN |  | **Exam 4 (on Canvas) 5/5** |
| Finals Week |  |  | **Podcast** due midnight 5/10 uploaded to Canvas |

\*This syllabus, with its course schedule, is based on the most recent information about the course content and schedule planned for this course. Its content is subject to revision as needed to adapt to new knowledge or unanticipated events. Updates will remain focused on achieving the course objectives and students will receive notification of such changes. Students are responsible for attending to such changes or modifications posted on the CANVAS site ([https://unt.instructure.com](https://unt.instructure.com/)) for this course.