

This is a sample syllabus only. The instructor may make changes to the syllabus in future courses.

Introduction to Social Psychology
Sociology 120

Instructor: Chris Biga, PhD
Phone: 205-934-8408
Email: cbiga@uab.edu

Office: Heritage Hall 460J
Office Hours: _____
and by appointment

Course Texts:

Gilovich, Thomas, Dacher Keltner, Serena Chen, and Richard Nisbett. 2013. *Social Psychology*, 3rd Edition. W.W. Norton & Company: New York, NY.

Course Description:

"How societies and groups affect perception of self and others; emotional climate and structure of group interaction; processes and dynamics of group leadership, interaction, and dissolution. (UAB Undergraduate Catalog 2014-2015)

Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the theories and research of social psychology. There are two major branches of social psychology: psychological social psychology and sociological social psychology. Psychological social psychology focuses on the scientific study of how individuals think, feel, and act in and are influenced by social situations. Sociological social psychology focuses, on the other hand, is on the scientific study of how individuals *interact* in and reproduce social situations. This class will explore the subtle nuances of these two scientific endeavors. It is my hope that from participating in this course, you will gain an understanding and appreciation for, not only how social forces shape your behavior and the behavior of others, but how your behavior influences others and society. The overriding goal of this course is simply to communicate the vibrancy of social psychology and its relevance to everyday life.

Upon completing the course, students should be able to (i) identify the major themes and issues in social psychological research; (ii) understand the key social psychological theories discussed in the course; and (iii) apply social psychological principles to some aspects of their own lives. In attaining these goals, both psychological and sociological perspectives will be used.

Course Requirements:

Attendance: Attendance is highly recommended, and attendance will be taken daily. While attendance is not graded, it will be used to gauge student commitment. If you are absent from class, for any reason, it is your responsibility to let me know and make up exams, assignments, etc. You should also obtain class notes from another student. All power point presentations will be post on Blackboard. I do not provide copies of my course notes.

Assignments: There will be five (5) assignments over the course of the semester. Each assignment will be worth 20 pts. The assignments will vary in task, from writing a critical commentary, a

personal reflection paper, to group projects involving conducting social experiments. The assignments will be posted on Canvas after their announcement in class. You will be given 7 days to complete assignments.

Section Exams: There will be three (3) section exams during the semester. Each exam will cover 4-5 chapters. Each exam consists of multiple choice and essay questions. The purpose of the section exam is to test your conceptual and factual knowledge about the section material covered. Exams will be administered during class on days outlined in the calendar. You will have **50 minutes** to complete each exam. The exams will include material from class lectures, the class text book, and any additional readings posted on Canvas. Each exam will be worth 100pts.

Point Structure:

Assignment	(5x20pts)	100pts	A	90-100%	358-400pts
Exams	(3x100pts)	300pts	B	80-89%	318-357pts
Total		400pts	C	70-79%	278-317pts
			D	60-69%	238-377pts
			F	0-59%	000-237pts

Communications:

All official correspondence will be sent **ONLY** to the @uab.edu address. All students are responsible for ensuring that the correct e-mail address is listed in Canvas by the beginning of Week 1. UAB E-mail is the only method I will use to electronically communicate with students. It is your responsibility to make sure a valid email UAB address is provided. Failure on your part to do so can result in you missing important information that could affect your grade.

Drop/Add:

According to UAB policy _____ is the last day to drop this course. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of "W" is _____. Students registering late will be able to make up all class material.

Accommodation of Religious Beliefs:

Religious beliefs shall be reasonably accommodated with respect to all examinations and other academic requirements. Please notify the professor in advance if there is a conflict.

Reasonable Accommodations:

Any students who need reasonable accommodations are invited to share these concerns or requests with the professor. All accommodations must be approved by Disability Support Services (DSS), If you have a disability but have not contacted DSS, please call 934-4205 or visit DSS at 516 Hill University Center.

Academic Honest Policy:

UAB Faculty expects all members of its academic community to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Academic dishonesty and misconduct includes, but is not limited to,

acts of abetting, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and misrepresentation. Candidates are expected to honor the UAB Academic Honor Code. Please consult this resource for additional information regarding the specific procedures to be undertaken when a student violates the UAB Academic Honor Code.

<https://www.uab.edu/students/academics/honor-code>

Let me make it clear: if you cheat or plagiarize you will *fail* the course and your name will be forwarded to the University Compliance Office.

Make-up Policy:

If you must miss a commentary, discussion, quiz or exam, you will need to schedule a time to make-up the assignment *before* your absence. Only in extreme cases will this policy be modified. REMEMBER, not all quizzes, discussions, and papers are used to calculate final grades, you may not need of a make-up.

Etiquette:

Respect fellow students and myself. Topics in this class can become sensitive and someone (including myself) may say something with which you disagree. Critical discussion is encouraged, but respect differences of theoretical perspective. All class discussions must be sociological in nature.

Reservation:

I reserve the right to make changes in this syllabus to better serve the class's needs. Any changes will be announced in class in advance.