

PSYC 320: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Spring Semester 2024

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

Name: Mark A. Ferguson, Ph.D.
Email: mark.ferguson@uwsp.edu
Office: SCI D331
Hours: MW 10-11:30am or
by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Section/Credits: 2/3
Meetings/Location: Asynchronous Online
Prerequisite: PSYC 110
GEP AD/BS: HC/SS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of theory and research in social psychology. Social psychology refers to the *systematic study of social group membership*—its causes and effects in everyday life. The course begins by outlining the different approaches to social psychology, as well as their history and implications for the field. It next focuses on three broad clusters of social-psychological processes: *intrapersonal processes* (how mental processes are shaped by group membership), *intragroup processes* (how social groups create and maintain distinct social realities over time), and *intergroup processes* (how social groups contest other social realities in society). The course will conclude with a summary of themes, challenges, and opportunities in social psychology.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After taking this course, you will...

- Be able to critique the individualistic perspective on psychology
- Be able to summarize the elements of our collective psychology
- Be able to analyze how groups construct and contest realities

TEXTBOOK AND TECHNOLOGY

Crisp, R. J., & Turner, R. N. (2020). *Essential social psychology* (4th ed.). Sage. <https://study.sagepub.com/crispandturner4e>

This course requires access to both a supported computer and a stable internet connection. A webcam would be useful for meeting with the professor. It is not advisable to complete the entire course solely on a mobile device. This would make it difficult to review documents (such as the [presenter notes in slides](#)). Thus, you must maintain consistent access to a supported computer in this course. For information about UWSP's computer labs, [please check out this website](#).

This course is administered fully online through the [Canvas website](#). In Canvas, you will review course materials, participate in discussions, and submit assignments. To access Canvas, you will need a web browser or the Canvas Student mobile app for [Apple iOS](#) or [Google Android](#) devices. All options require your UWSP login and password. For Canvas operating system and browser requirements, [please review this website](#). If you would like to learn more about how to use Canvas features (such as quizzes), [please see this website](#). If you need technical support, contact Canvas Support directly by clicking on the Help button in Canvas.

COURSE CALENDAR

Section	Module	Reading	Assignments	Due
Introduction	1: Introduction	Crisp, Chapter 1	Discussion 1 Quiz 1	M 1/29
	2: Biology	Barrett, Chapter 2	Discussion 2 Quiz 2	M 2/5
	Focus Week 1	None	Paper 1	M 2/12
Intrapersonal Processes	3: Motivation	Crisp, Chapter 4	Discussion 3 Quiz 3	M 2/19
	4: Cognition	Crisp, Chapter 2 & 3	Discussion 4 Quiz 4	M 2/26
	5: Identity	Crisp, Chapter 7	Discussion 5 Quiz 5	M 3/4
	Focus Week 2	None	Paper 2	M 3/11
Intragroup Processes	6: Influence	Crisp, Chapter 5	Discussion 6 Quiz 6	M 3/25
	7: Power	Crisp, Chapter 6	Discussion 7 Quiz 7	M 4/1
	8: Prosocial	Crisp, Chapter 11	Discussion 8 Quiz 8	M 4/8
	Focus Week 3	None	Paper 3	M 4/15
Intergroup Processes	9: Conflict	Crisp, Chapter 9	Discussion 9 Quiz 9	M 4/22
	10: Prejudice	Crisp, Chapter 8	Discussion 10 Quiz 10	M 4/29
	11: Violence	Crisp, Chapter 10	Discussion 11 Quiz 11	M 5/6
Conclusion	12: Conclusion	Crisp, Chapter 14	Discussion 12 Quiz 12	M 5/13
	Focus Week 4	None	Paper 4	*F 5/17*

The Crisp readings are found in your textbook. The Barrett chapter is in the Biology module on Canvas. All assignments are open from the first day of class and close on Mondays at 11:59pm. There is a 24-hour grace period after the deadlines, which means that late submissions within this window will be accepted without penalty. Focus weeks provide time to work on the papers (without readings, discussions, or quizzes). This calendar is preliminary and subject to change.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Module Quizzes

There will be 12 module quizzes in this course. Each quiz will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions and will focus on one module of the course (with roughly half of the questions from the book and the other half from the materials on Canvas). The quizzes will be available on Canvas. You should complete the quizzes after doing the readings, reviewing the materials on Canvas, and participating in the discussions. Click on the specific week's Canvas module to complete the quiz. You will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz and are allowed to take them twice; you will receive the higher of your two scores. All quizzes are drawn randomly from larger item pools. This means that all quiz attempts (even for the same student) are unique. Questions will be displayed one-at-a-time and you cannot move backwards. Although you are only required to complete 10 of the quizzes, you are encouraged to complete all 12 of them (this will allow you to replace lower scores on the other quizzes). The quizzes will be worth 20 points each for a total of 200 points (or 42% of your final grade).

Discussion Posts

There will be 12 graded discussion forums in this course. For each discussion forum, you will be required to post twice—once with your response to the prompt, and a second time in response to another student's response. Click on the particular week's Canvas module to post in the discussion forum. You will receive an overall score for your two postings for the week. Although you are only required to post in eight of the forums, you are strongly encouraged to post in all 12 of them (this will allow you to replace lower scores on the other forums). The discussion posts will be worth 20 points each for a total of 160 points (or 33% of your final grade).

Response Papers

There will be four response papers in this course. For each paper, you will be required to complete an activity and answer some questions about it. These papers will be limited to two pages (double-spaced, 12-point font) and must be submitted on Canvas by the due date. Although you are only required to complete three of the papers, you are strongly encouraged to complete all four of them (this will allow you to replace lower scores on the other papers). The response papers will be worth 40 points each for a total of 120 points (or 25% of your final grade).

Participation Bonus

If you clearly make a "good faith effort" to complete all 12 quizzes, 12 discussion posts, and four papers in this course, you will earn an extra credit bonus on top of your final grade. A "good faith effort" is defined as making reasonable attempts on all of the assignments, rather than making weak attempts for the purpose of getting the extra credit. The participation bonus is worth 24 points (an extra 5% on top of your final grade).

Please see syllabus calendar, Canvas assignments page, and online resources for additional information and specific due dates for all assignments.

PROGRESS WORKSHEET

For technical reasons, the Canvas mobile app grade percentage and assignment drops will BE INACCURATE until the end of the semester. As a result, I encourage you to use this worksheet to keep track of your progress, rather than relying on FAULTY and MISLEADING information.

Module Quizzes		Discussion Posts	
1: Introduction	_____ / 20 points	1: Introduction	_____ / 20 points
2: Biology	_____ / 20 points	2: Biology	_____ / 20 points
3: Motivation	_____ / 20 points	3: Motivation	_____ / 20 points
4: Cognition	_____ / 20 points	4: Cognition	_____ / 20 points
5: Identity	_____ / 20 points	5: Identity	_____ / 20 points
6: Influence	_____ / 20 points	6: Influence	_____ / 20 points
7: Power	_____ / 20 points	7: Power	_____ / 20 points
8: Prosocial	_____ / 20 points	8: Prosocial	_____ / 20 points
9: Conflict	_____ / 20 points	9: Conflict	_____ / 20 points
10: Prejudice	_____ / 20 points	10: Prejudice	_____ / 20 points
11: Violence	_____ / 20 points	11: Violence	_____ / 20 points
12: Conclusion	_____ / 20 points	12: Conclusion	_____ / 20 points
Subtotal (Best 10)	_____ / 200 points	Subtotal (Best 8)	_____ / 160 points
Response Papers		Final Points	
Paper 1: Biography	_____ / 40 points	Quizzes	_____ / 200 points
Paper 2: Research	_____ / 40 points	Discussion Posts	_____ / 160 points
Paper 3: Analysis	_____ / 40 points	Response Papers	_____ / 120 points
Paper 4: Applied	_____ / 40 points	Participation Bonus	_____ / 24 points
Subtotal (Best 3)	_____ / 120 points	Total	_____ / 480 points
Grading Scale			
A = 454-480	B = 398-417	C = 350-369	D = 288-321
A- = 432-453	B- = 384-397	C- = 336-349	F = 0-287
B+ = 418-431	C+ = 370-383	D+ = 322-335	

COURSE POLICIES

Communication

Our communication in this online course will generally occur through digital methods. If you want to contact me about a private matter (such as your grades), you can send an email. I typically respond to emails within 48 hours (excluding weekends or holidays). You can also visit in-person office hours or make an online appointment. Conversely, if you need to contact me about a public matter (such as asking a question about a paper), you can post in the Questions discussion forum on Canvas (see the Course Overview module). This allows everyone to ask questions, answer questions, and review answers.

Equal Access and Disability Accommodations

If you have a condition that may impact your learning or participation in course activities, contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC). They work with students and instructors to identify appropriate accommodations and services. Since accommodations are rarely applied retroactively, it is critical that students make timely requests. Please check out the [DRC website](#) for more information. If you have questions, please feel free to email (drc@uwsp.edu), call (715-346-3365), or stop by (108 CCC) the DRC for assistance.

Extensions

Extensions will generally only be considered for students who cannot complete assignments on time due to academic, athletic, military, or religious obligations, major illnesses, and comparable reasons. Requests for extensions might require documentation, such as letters from coaches or physicians. In most cases, assignments will need to be completed within one week of the initial deadline to receive credit.

Incompletes

Incomplete grades will only be considered for students in exceptional situations, such as serious medical and emergency situations. They are not for students who feel overwhelmed by routine academic or extracurricular commitments. Requests for incompletes must be accompanied by documentation. In most cases, all coursework must be completed within one regular semester (fall or spring) to avoid receiving an automatic F in the course.

Misconduct

The professor takes academic misconduct (such as cheating and plagiarism) seriously. All work submitted for this course should be generated by the students themselves. No other person, company, or entity should be used to create any substantive portion of course assignments, which includes (but is not limited to) hiring others to compose assignments or using artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT. Any such submissions will be considered academic misconduct. The minimum penalty for each instance of misconduct will be a zero for the assignment. Additional penalties under university policy will be considered. Please do not put yourself or others through disciplinary hearings. To read about UWSP's policies, check out the [Dean of Students' website](#).

Netiquette

In an online course, a majority of our communication takes place in the discussion forums. Our primary means of communication here is written. The written language has many advantages: more opportunity for reasoned thought, more ability to go in-depth, and more time to think about an issue before posting a comment. Still, written communication also has some disadvantages, such a lack of face-to-face signaling that occurs via body language, intonation, pausing, facial expressions, and gestures. Accordingly, please be aware of the possibility of miscommunication and compose your comments in a positive, supportive, and constructive manner. You can learn more at [this netiquette website](#).

Safety and Reporting

UW-Stevens Point is committed to the promotion of safe, inclusive, and productive campuses—where people from all backgrounds and perspectives can actively and comfortably contribute to our learning communities. Thus, under federal and state laws, as well as university policies, the professor is required to report acts of an offensive or criminal nature that occur inside or outside of class. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and violence. Disclosure or description of such incidents, past or current, may be reported to the Dean of Students and local authorities. If you would like to report incidents anonymously, please review the options on the [Dean of Students' website](#).