

# Psychology 3367-90

## Social Psychology

Online

Bemidji State University, Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Kathryn Klement, aka Dr. K  
Hours and Office: By appointment, virtual office hours Thursdays 11am-12pm  
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**Content Note:** I have a feminist perspective on the world, and that perspective will influence how I choose to teach this class. What does that mean? That means that our discussions of the science, research, and topics of social psychology will include examinations of power dynamics, such as gender inequalities. Power dynamics will also influence discussions of other socially-relevant topics, such as ethnic prejudice and discrimination. Some of the topics we will discuss may challenge your worldview and your values. This is a safe space, where we will recognize everyone's opinions. *However, statements that are disrespectful to another's opinions will not be tolerated.*

### BSU Course Description

Survey of contemporary research in interpersonal perception and attraction, aggression and altruism, group dynamics, conformity, compliance, and attitude formation and change. Prerequisite: PSY 1100. 3 credits.

### Actual Course Description

This course is going to cover how humans interact with themselves, with each other, and with the world around them. This is fun stuff! Why do some people have such weird ideas about other people? Why can't different groups get along? Why do advertisers run those boring ads millions of times on TV? What does it mean to fall in (and out) of love with someone else? Can people really be brainwashed? These are just some of the questions we'll be answering this semester.

This course is also about how social psychologists think, what they actually do, and what the results of their research actually mean. I hope to make you critical thinkers, so that when you see a Huffington Post article about how smelling farts will help to prevent cancer, you're motivated to find the actual research and learn that there's more to the story. Like how the actual study was about introducing small amounts of hydrogen sulfide into mitochondria, and the practical implications of what happened. It is also my hope that you are able to learn more about yourself and find real-world

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applications for the topics we discuss. Humans are social creatures, so I expect everyone to relate to at least something in this class.

### Learning Outcomes

After completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and describe common research tactics in social psychology, their strengths and weaknesses.
2. Identify and describe basic concepts and findings about interpersonal perception, including self-perception, other perception, and stereotypes and prejudice.
3. Identify and describe basic concepts and findings about interpersonal influence, including persuasion, conformity, compliance, obedience, and the effects of group membership.
4. Identify and describe basic concepts and findings about social relations, including friendship and intimacy, helping behavior, and aggression.
5. Identify and describe basic concepts and findings about applied social psychology, including applications to legal practices, business and industry, and health psychology.

### Required Materials

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2018). *Social psychology*. (5th ed.). New York: W.W. Norton.

InQuizitive license via W.W. Norton.



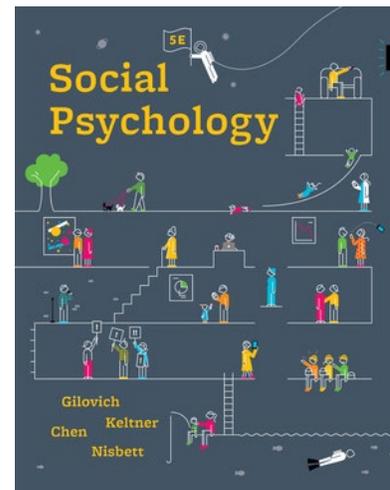
### Policies

**General class format:** The rest of the course will be available after you complete the Syllabus Quiz with 100%. However, all quizzes and assignments are due on Sundays at 11:59PM at the end of their module.

**Meetings and communication:** If you have questions or concerns about the class, or psychology in general, please feel free to contact me. As a first step, please post in the Muddiest Point D2L discussion forum, unless your question is personal or sensitive.

If you would like to talk with me about a personal issue, please use the Instant Message option in D2L (you can find this at the top right of the page when you're in

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D2L). I will try to respond to all messages, either in the Muddiest Point forum or Instant Messages within 48 hours.

As a last resort, you can send me an email (*Kathryn.klement@bemidjistate.edu*) and I will try to respond within 48 hours. If you're using email, please keep in mind the following email etiquette guidelines: (1) check the syllabus or D2L before asking questions, (2) indicate the course in the subject line and topic (e.g. PSY 3367-90 Assignment Question), (3) use proper grammar/punctuation, and (4) use a salutation (that's the "Hello Dr. K or "Dear Dr. K" part) and sign your name.

**Expectations of feedback** As I mentioned above, I will respond to questions on D2L or email within 48 hours. For the homework assignments that require grading, I will provide feedback and grades within 1 week of the deadline. There is no midterm exam, but at the midpoint, I will give you an update of how your grade is doing. If you have questions and would like more immediate feedback, contact me during my virtual office hours on Thursdays from 11am-12pm.

**Attendance policy:** Since this is an online class, you don't have to worry about synchronous attendance! Study and take quizzes when and wherever, dressed however you like!

If you run into any issue maintaining the pace of the course or completing assignments, please contact me as soon as you can! I am happy to work around personal emergencies, but I need to know about them quickly, so we can make alternate arrangements. I won't be able to accommodate you if you contact me after the beginning of the last week of the course (12/3).

**Synchronous check-ins:** A few times throughout the course, I'll be hosting meetings on Zoom. The purpose of these meetings is to check in and see how everyone is doing, as well as answer specific assignment-related questions. These meetings are not required but may be good for you to connect with me and other students. I will give 5 bonus points for each Zoom meeting you attend.

**Reading the textbook/taking notes:** You should be reading the textbook. It is full of awesome data and studies in social psychology. It's important for you to read the textbook because the point of this class is to learn about social psychology. You should also be taking notes during lecture; each module has a set of handouts to help with note-taking during the lectures.

**Submitting assignments:** All assignments, reflection papers, anything that you are turning into me should be turned in via D2L. And again, everything's due on Sundays at 11:59PM.

**Late assignments:** I will accept late assignments. However, each day the assignment is late, 10% is deducted from the highest score you can earn (so, turning in a paper 2 days late = the highest you could earn was an 80%). This also means that assignments turned in 10 days late are effectively 0s. The only exception to this is if you have made arrangements with me at least 24 hours prior to the due date.

**Academic integrity:** Do not cheat. Do not try. Do not use your cell phone, or a crib sheet, or your neighbor's paper during exams. Do not turn in someone else's work as your own; I have excellent Google skills. If you cheat, or if I suspect you of cheating, it will be awkward and gross, and I will have to fail you for the assignment the first time, and fail you for the course the second time. So please, don't do it. If you're not sure what counts as plagiarism, please ask. If you're not sure whether or how to cite something, ask me! (As a quick tip, copying and pasting something you find on the internet into a paper you then submit without citing that source is plagiarism.) I will find out. So don't do it. More officially:

**Bemidji State University Statement of Academic Integrity:** You are expected to practice the highest standards of ethics, honesty, and integrity in all of your academic work. Any form of dishonesty (e.g. Plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation) will result in disciplinary action. Possible disciplinary actions may include failure for part or all of a course, as well as suspension from the university.

**Expectations of students:** I expect that all students treat each other with respect and conduct academic work in a spirit of cooperation. All assignments should be typed (12-point font, double-spaced) and follow APA format (within reason – not everything requires a title page and a references page; I'll let you know if/when I expect that). \*\*For every submission that requires an upload, please submit only a .doc/.docx or .pdf format.\*\*

**Accommodations for disabilities:** I am happy to provide special accommodations for students with documentation of a disability. If you would like to request accommodations or other services, please contact Accessibility Services in person in Sanford Hall, Room 201 or by phone at 218-755-3883 or e-mail

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Accessibility@bemidjistate.edu. They are also available through the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529.

If you do not have a documented disability, but you do have a life situation that can make school difficult for you (e.g., chronic pain, caregiving responsibilities), please talk to me so that we can make any needed arrangements. You only need to disclose as much as you want. My purpose as a professor is to facilitate your learning about social psychology, not to audit your life.

**Mental health and counseling:** Students may experience mental health concerns or stressful events that may lead to diminished academic performance. If that's you, you are not alone! The Student Center for Health & Counseling is available to assist you with concerns and can include stress relief services. They can be reached in Cedar Hall, First Floor and their number is 218-755-2053.

It's unlikely we'll have many conversations about sensitive topics in this course. However, I will always try to give a heads-up if I will be discussing content like sexual violence, suicide, or other potentially triggering subjects. Please take care of yourself and determine whether you need to excuse yourself for those topics.

**BSU Psychology Department diversity statement:** The Department of Psychology at Bemidji State University is dedicated to preparing students who will apply their psychological knowledge in an increasingly diverse world. We strive to create and sustain a welcoming, supportive and inclusive environment for students, faculty and staff of all races and ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, abilities, and religions.

Accomplishing this mission requires a broad range of perspectives and backgrounds. Diversity enriches both our department, and the science of psychology, and our local and global communities. We strive to cultivate an inclusive community that values diverse questions, viewpoints, approaches, and participants to foster ingenuity, challenge biases, and promote intellectual growth.

**Withdrawal:** After the fifth day of class (**8/31**), withdrawing will lead to a *W* on your transcript. Please check your eServices course schedule page for the last date to withdraw. You can also contact Records and Registration with questions about withdrawing from the course or check out their [page on withdrawing and dropping](#).

## **Assignments and Grading Criteria**

### **Total points:**

There are six different ways to earn points in this class. The point distribution is listed below:

150 points	InQuizitive
150 points	Discussion Questions
25 points	Media Analysis Paper
25 points	PSA Fact Sheet Assignments
25 points	PSA Fact Sheet
25 points	Final Reflection Paper
<b>400 points</b>	<b>Total possible points for course (minimum)</b>

**Extra credit:** There will also be opportunities for extra that may arise throughout the course. However, do not count on using extra credit to make up for not doing your best on the rest of the class assignments.

### **Grading Scale by Percentage (and Points):**

A = 90-100 (360-400)

B = 80-89 (320-359)

C = 70-79 (280-319)

D = 55-69 (220-279)

F = <54 (<219)

### **InQuizitive**

InQuizitive is a web-based application created by the textbook publisher that helps to reinforce concepts we're learning in class. For each chapter, you must complete a minimum of correct answers to a variety of question types (fill-in-the-blank, matching, etc.). Each set of chapter questions (20 per chapter) is worth 10 points.

Note about grading: As you complete the InQuizitive questions, your grade will automatically be generated in D2L, though the individual grades won't "count" toward your final grade yet (and will also show to be out of 100 points). At the midpoint (after Module 4) and end of the semester, I will calculate your total InQuizitive grade from the individual scores.

*InQuizitive is worth 150 points in total.*

### Discussion Questions

Social psychology is a collaborative enterprise. Where once researchers worked on their own (maybe with a fleet of young research assistants at their beck and call), today projects can have more than one principal investigator (co-PIs) and span multiple labs. Each week, I will post a discussion question designed to complement the course material and stimulate conversation amongst the class about various issues in social psychology. There will be 15 discussion questions and each response will receive up to 10 points. There are two parts to the questions: your initial response to the prompt and your response to another classmate's post. Thus, there are two deadlines associated with the discussion questions, in order to make sure that everyone has time to respond to someone else. Initial posts are due on Thursday nights at 11:59pm, and response posts are due Sundays at 11:59pm. Each of these posts are worth 5 points; you can check out the rubric in the Resources module to see my expectations for posts. *Discussion Questions are worth 150 points in total.*

### Media Analysis Paper

For this assignment, you need to analyze a piece of media. This can be a movie, tv show, book, or comic. Its content must relate to social psychology, and your analysis must include an explanation of the relevant topics. For example, in the show, The X-Files, Mulder is a giant conspiracy theorist, convinced that his sister was abducted by aliens. You could write a paper analyzing Mulder's belief in aliens and tying that to a few different theories in social psychology, like belief perseverance and cognitive dissonance. Another example could be the movie 12 Angry Men, and how different group processes, like groupthink or social facilitation, might impact juries' decision-making. The paper should be 2-3 pages, double-spaced. It is due at the end of Module 7 (December 9th). More information, as well as a rubric and link to potential movies, can be found on D2L (see the Assignment folder in Module 7).

*The Media Analysis Paper is worth 25 points.*

### Final Reflection Paper

At the end of the course, you will write a reflection paper (due at the end of Module 8, December 14th). I want to reflect on what you've learned over the class, and how you might apply that knowledge going forward. Your paper should be 1-2 pages, double-spaced. More information, as well as a rubric, can be found on D2L (see the Assignment folder in Module 8).

*The Final Reflection Paper is worth 25 points.*

## PSA Fact Sheet

Over the course of the semester, you'll be working to create a fact sheet that applies what you're learning about social psychology to a real-world problem. Think of it like a PSA campaign (like anti-drugs or anti-smoking). It doesn't have to be health-related – it can be anything, but it needs to be a problem that you think can be solved with social psychological concepts. Disordered eating behaviors in teenagers? Improving recycling habits? Encouraging direct communication in relationships? Whatever issue you choose, you're going to create a sheet that provides a solution. There will be intermediate deadlines (i.e., selecting a topic, finding 2 scholarly sources, submitting a draft for peer review) to help keep you on track. More information, as well as a schedule for intermediate deadlines and a rubric, can be found in the Resources module and Course Schedule module on D2L.

*The PSA Fact Sheet Assignments are worth 25 points in total. The PSA Fact Sheet is worth 25 points in total.*

The following is a brief schedule of modules in the course.

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Content</b>
<b>1</b>	8/27 – 9/9	Introduction to Social Psychology Available: Ch 1 Lectures & Notes Due: Syllabus Quiz; DQ 1-2; Ch 1 IQ
<b>2</b>	9/10 – 9/23	Research in Social Psychology Available: Ch 2 Lectures & Notes Due: DQ 3-4; Ch 2 IQ; PSA Fact Sheet Topic Selection
<b>3</b>	9/24 – 10/7	Social Cognition Available: Ch 3-5 Lectures & Notes Due: DQ 5-6; Ch 3-5 IQ
<b>4</b>	10/8 – 10/21	Attitudes & Behavior Change Available: Ch 7-9 Lectures & Notes Due: DQ 7-8; Ch 7-9 IQ; PSA Fact Sheet Source List
<b>5</b>	10/22 – 11/4	Interpersonal Relations Available: Ch 6, 10 Lectures & Notes Due: DQ 9-10; Ch 6, 10 IQ
<b>6</b>	11/5 – 11/25	Intergroup Relations Available: Ch 11-14 Lectures & Notes Due: DQ 11-13; Ch 11-14 IQ; Draft of Fact Sheet/Peer Review
<b>7</b>	11/26 – 12/9	Applying Social Psychology Available: App Module 1-4 Lectures & Notes Due: DQ 14-15; App Ch IQ*; Media Analysis Paper
<b>8</b>	12/10 – 12/16	Wrap-Up Due: PSA Fact Sheet; Final Reflection Paper

DQ = Discussion Question; IQ = InQuizitive; \* = You only need to complete one Application Module IQ (i.e., 1, 2, 3, or 4).

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