Description and Goals of the Course
This course provides an introduction to the study of human thought and behavior within social contexts. In this course, we will explore how aspects of the individual (e.g. personality, attitudes, goals) interacts with aspects of the situation (e.g. social norms, group characteristics, external rewards) to influence behavior. Topics to be covered include (but are not limited to) altruism, stereotypes and prejudice, attraction and close relationships, aggression, and attitudes and persuasion. We will focus on the science of social psychology by discussing research methodologies and theoretical perspectives in relation to various course topics.

A combination of readings, class discussions, projects, and written work will be used throughout the course. This course covers a lot of material and it is imperative not only that you read the material carefully but with a critical eye as well. My goal is to give you an understanding of social psychology and how it may apply to you, people you know or perhaps if you choose a career in psychology, your future patients. I expect you to take an active, analytic, critical and self-critical approach to the material, theories, and methods we cover, as well as your own beliefs and ideas regarding the subject.

Student Learning Objectives
1) Critically evaluate information and research
2) Understand and describe classic and current social psychological theories
3) Consider the ways in which human social behavior is influenced by errors in reasoning, attitudes, prejudices, misconceptions, and situational factors
4) Analyze human social thought and behavior by reconsidering your own natural tendency to assume that people’s behavior reflects internal characteristics
5) Recognize social psychological principles in your own life outside of the classroom
6) Understand how social psychological phenomena influence health

Course Requirements

McGraw Hill Connect (access included with text) is an online student class support system. As such, it is designed to provide you with supplemental lessons, videos, and exercises that are designed to help you master the material. More importantly, McGraw Hill Connect allows the opportunity to do self-assessments as you prepare for exams. McGraw Hill Connect is REQUIRED for this section of Social Psychology.
Blackboard
This course is entirely online and will use the Blackboard platform. You are expected to have reliable and dedicated internet access which enables you to view electronic resources, participate in discussions, and complete online exams. Blackboard will also be used for posting important class documents including information about tests, supplemental readings, specific instructions for the various writing assignments, announcements, homework, and project assignments. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly to ensure completion of all required coursework. If you do not know your login information for Blackboard, please contact the IT Help Desk, (361) 825-2692. If there are issues within your Blackboard course, please contact me first, as typically the instructor is the only one who can make changes/fix issues within a course. If you are having technical difficulties, please contact the IT Help Desk or your ISP.

Course Evaluation
Readings
You are required to read assigned chapters from the text before the week during which we will discuss them. Your textbook also has online resources available and I encourage you to utilize this interactive program. This site from the publisher has review materials such as practice quizzes, self-assessments, and other activities to help you maximize learning. While these supplemental activities will not be graded, they will help you to understand material and increase your overall mastery in the class.

You may also be assigned additional readings throughout the semester. Instructions on accessing assigned readings will be posted on Blackboard. These supplemental readings are designed to broaden your understanding of the subject material.

Exams (50 points)
Exams will be taken online and cover the textbook chapters and class discussions from the preceding section (see class schedule). Typically, tests will be available for 24 hours on exam days. More information about accessing online tests will be provided in class announcements.

There will be 4 online tests which will count towards the final grade. Exams will be multiple choice and short answer. Each test is worth 50 points. There will be no make-up tests. If are unable to complete tests online, please contact the instructor in advance to arrange alternate arrangements.

Learning Team Discussions (50 points)
You are expected to post at least one discussion prompt and respond to at least two additional discussions, per week. Discussions should be focused on weekly reading material. More information about discussions, including grading rubric, will be provided once class begins.

Learning Team Project (100 points)
Students are required to complete a presentation of a significant research study in Social Psychology. You will complete this project as part of a learning team, which is assigned by your instructor. Your team presentation will cover the introduction, method, results, and conclusions of a classic study in Social Psychology. The choice of studies is up to students but choices must be approved by the instructor prior to starting the project. You will be responsible for submitting a topic request form, team member job duties, and project feedback of your team experience, in
addition to the learning team project. The overall project will be worth 100 points and will be graded on several components, including how well the project (1) explains the rationale for the study, (2) presents how the study was done, (3) covers the results of the study, and (4) describes why the study should be considered a valuable contribution to Social Psychology. Further instructions will be provided.

**Homework/Participation (50 points)**

Additional homework assignments and supplementary readings will be assigned. Credit for this work will be graded on accuracy, completeness, and how well it was used to prepare for and contribute to class discussions. Incomplete work may result in loss of credit for that assignment.

If at any point you prefer not to complete an assignment (or if your attempt to complete it is unsuccessful), you can still receive credit by turning in a one-page report discussing the psychological factors that prevented you from carrying out the assignment. The number of points awarded will be determined based on the quality of your response, at the instructor’s discretion.

Situations which require you to miss a deadline must be discussed with me in advance. You are expected to attend class on time, as arriving late is disruptive and disrespectful. Please discuss any emergencies or other mitigating circumstances with me.

Your overall grade will be calculated based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 1</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 2</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Test 3</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Team Discussions</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Team Project</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>indicates work of distinction, of consistent and exceptionally high quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>indicates good work, maybe not consistent or of distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>indicates average work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>indicates marginal work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>indicates unacceptable work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VERY IMPORTANT – Late Work/Missed Exams**

No late assignments will be accepted. Emergency situations which require you to miss an exam/deadline must be discussed with me in advance or as soon as they arise.
Classroom Expectations
✓ Students are expected to actively participate in all class activities. This means that, not only are you expected to contribute to class discussions and activities, but your comments, questions, and contributions should indicate that you have read the assigned material and are prepared to contribute to class meetings.
✓ We are all adults and it is expected that we will treat other students and the instructor with respect. During discussions, feel free to express your disagreement with ideas but refrain from criticizing or belittling anyone (including researchers, authors, etc.) with whom you disagree.

Using Resources Outside of Class
There are a number of resources available to you outside of class and I strongly encourage you to contact me if you have any questions, difficulties, comments, or simply want feedback. *I want you to succeed in this class.*

I encourage you to set up study groups, or work with a partner whenever appropriate. Discussing the textbook material together and talking about what we are doing in class can be a great way to test your ability to express the ideas you are developing.

You are also strongly encouraged to make use of the Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA). CASA offers a variety of services including tutoring, writing assistance, and mentors. The personnel in the center are a great resource to help you with various aspects of academic and college life. You can access their website for additional information at [http://casa.tamu.cc.edu/](http://casa.tamu.cc.edu/).

The Counseling Center can help you to better understand and address factors which may interfere with your academic success. Counseling can help to increase self-awareness, improve self-confidence, strengthen coping skills, and teach you more effective strategies for all aspects of your life. Counselors can also help you to improving study skills, reduce test anxiety, strengthen time management skills, and improve problem solving skills. They are located in the Driftwood Building and you can access their website at [http://counseling.tamu.cc.edu/](http://counseling.tamu.cc.edu/).

Correspondence
Email is the best way to get in touch with me. *Be sure to include your course & section number in the email subject line.* I generally respond to email within 24 hours, except on the weekends. I am always ready and willing to make myself available to help you succeed in this course. While most questions can probably be answered via email, you may also schedule meetings during office hours to discuss more complicated concerns. Be sure to identify and remedy any concerns as early as you can during the semester. The more time we have to address concerns, the more likely it is that we will be able to resolve it in a way that allows you to be successful. If you wait until the end of the semester, there is little I can usually do to help at that point.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of
another as one’s own work.) Make sure you are familiar with all the information on TAMUCC’s Academic Honesty Policy at http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=242#Academic_Honesty and if you have any questions or are unclear about anything, by all means please talk with me or contact someone at the Center for Academic and Student Achievement (CASA) at http://casa.tamucc.edu/ before engaging in any questionable behavior. In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero for the assignment or exam.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

Classroom/Professional Behavior
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

GRADE APPEALS
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

COURSE SCHEDULE
This is a tentative schedule. Dates may change at the discretion of the Instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>EXAMS</th>
<th>HOMEWORK/ASSIGNMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1 | Introducing Social Psychology | Chapter 1 | | Syllabus Quiz – Due 07/08  
Introduction – Due 07/08  
Learning Team Discussion – Due 07/08 |
| Week 2 | The Self in a Social World
Social Beliefs & Judgments Behavior & Attitudes | Chapters 2-4 | Online Exam 1 – 07/15/2016 | Learning Team Discussion – Due 07/15  
Chs. 2-4 Online homework – Due 07/15  
Topic Proposal – Due 07/15 |
| Week 3 | Genes, Culture, & Gender
Conformity & Obedience
Persuasion | Chapters 5-7 | Online Exam 2 – 07/22/2016 | Learning Team Discussion – Due 07/22  
Chs. 5-7 Online homework – Due 07/22 |
| Week 4 | Group Influence
Prejudice & Disliking Others
Aggression: Hurting Others | Chapters 8-10 | Online Exam 3 – 07/29/2016 | Learning Team Discussion – Due 07/29  
Chs. 8-10 Online homework – Due 07/29  
Learning Team Project – Due 07/29  
Peer Evaluation Form – Due 07/29 |
| Week 5 | Attraction & Intimacy
Helping | Chapters 11-12 | Online Exam 4 – 08/04/2016 | Learning Team Discussion – Due 08/04  
Chs. 11-12 Online homework – Due 08/04  
Project Feedback – Due 08/04  
Final Assignment – Due 08/04 |