

# SOC/PSY 342: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY I – SELF, ATTITUDES, & SOCIAL INFLUENCE

## Fall 2020 Syllabus

Portland State University – Completely Online

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Course materials and readings will typically be available on D2L one week before they are due. If you hoped to work ahead of the due dates because of travel or other obligations, this is not the course for you. \*\*

### PEOPLE

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**Instructor.** Dara Shifrer, Assistant Professor of Sociology, [dshifrer@pdx.edu](mailto:dshifrer@pdx.edu)  
Virtual office hours: Thursdays, 2p-3p (<https://pdx.zoom.us/j/93665377070>), or by appointment

**Teaching Assistant.** Hannah Ellefritz, Sociology graduate student, [ellef@pdx.edu](mailto:ellef@pdx.edu)  
Virtual office hours: By appointment

#### Asking questions:

- **Step 1:** Direct questions on your personal grades to the TA—they will respond to you within 24 hours. For other questions, check to see if your question has been answered in the syllabus or in the D2L discussion thread “Student Questions” (in DSL, click on Activities>Discussions).
- **Step 2:** Post your question in the D2L discussion thread “Student Questions.” Your question can be answered by classmates, the Instructor, or the TA. Class communication will become more efficient as classmates with the same question benefit from your post.
- **Step 3:** If your question is personal or you do not receive an answer after 24 hours on the D2L discussion thread, email me at [dshifrer@pdx.edu](mailto:dshifrer@pdx.edu). If you email me through D2L instead, I cannot guarantee a response within 24 hours.

### LEARNING GOALS

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Social psychology is the scientific study of the way individuals' *thoughts, feelings, and behaviors* are influenced by the *real or imagined presence of others*. Social psychologists study behavior as a function of both the *person* and the *situational context*. This 4-credit course is the first of a two-term sequence of courses at PSU that deal with the concepts, issues, theoretical perspectives, and research approaches used in social psychology. This first course focuses particularly on the topics of: the self and intrapersonal processes, beliefs and attitudes, social influence, conformity, and persuasion. An introductory course in either Sociology or Psychology is a prerequisite for this course.

- Understand key social psychological concepts
- Apply social psychological concepts to everyday life and future careers
- Develop critical thinking and writing skills
- Evaluate social psychological and sociological information in media and popular culture
- Prepare for higher level sociological and psychological courses

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

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**Textbook:** *Social Psychology* by David Myers (Editions 11, 12, or 13). This textbook is used across all of PSU's sections of SOC/PSY 342 and SOC/PSY 343. I am sympathetic to how expensive textbooks can be and was told by the McGraw-Hill sales rep that the ebook

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version of this textbook is more cost effective than a physical copy: purchase from campus bookstore or from McGraw-Hill at mhhe.com. If you want to read your eBook on your smartphone, you'll need to download the free ReadAnywhere mobile app from the Google Play or the App store. With the ReadAnywhere app you'll have online/offline access to your textbook and you choose how much of your eBook you want to download to your phone – a few chapters or a whole book. It is essential that you use the same username and password when you login to both the Bookshelf site and the ReadAnywhere app so you have full access to your account.

**Movie or TV show:** The final assignment requires that you watch a movie or TV show of your choosing with themes that align with the course material, so a Netflix, Hulu, or Amazon account may be useful but is not required.

**Internet:** This course is **\*\*COMPLETELY ONLINE\*\*** so you need a reliable internet connection that will allow you to search the web, use email, attach and upload documents, and download and save files. Internet issues will not be a valid excuse for a late assignment – find an alternative source for internet now (such as a coffee shop) and do not attempt to complete assignments at the last minute.

**D2L:** All course materials and grades will be available on D2L (<https://d2l.pdx.edu>). If you have trouble accessing your D2L account, or do not have an ODIN ID & password to log in with, please contact the OIT help desk (Smith Memorial Student Union (SMSU) 18) at 503-725-HELP (4357) or [help@pdx.edu](mailto:help@pdx.edu).

**Netiquette:** Although you might be accustomed to using electronic communication such as text messaging and chat, communicating as part of a course involves a different set of skills and conventions.

- Use formal English. Not everyone is familiar with twitter or text abbreviations.
- Use \*asterisks\* around a word instead of ALL CAPS to show emphasis. ALL CAPS give the impression you are shouting.
- Avoid lengthy posts and make your points as succinctly as possible. Avoid posting a great deal more often than your classmates.
- Avoid any personal criticism or potentially offensive language. If you disagree with a fellow student, describe your perspective clearly and politely rather than criticizing others' comments. Tone can be difficult to interpret online so be extra polite, careful, and kind when posting to the discussion board or emailing other students. If you read a message that feels like a personal attack, wait until you feel calm enough to reply in a way that will defuse the situation. If you are uncertain how to handle the situation, contact the instructor.

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## GUIDELINES

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**Academic Honesty:** The PSU Student Conduct Code prohibits all forms of academic cheating, fraud, and dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, buying and selling of assignments for others, unauthorized disclosure and receipt of academic information, and other practices understood to academically dishonor. Plagiarism describes the use of

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another person's words or ideas without giving that person credit. Information on avoiding plagiarism available at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>. Any assignment or exam found to be academically dishonest will receive no credit and you will be referred to the appropriate PSU authority. You will fail the course if any additional incidents of academic dishonesty occur.

**Accommodations:** Any student with a physical, psychiatric/emotional, or learning disability should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to arrange academic accommodations to support your success in the course. The DRC can be reached at 503-725-4150 or at [drc@pdx.edu](mailto:drc@pdx.edu).

**Harassment and Discrimination:** As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that, as a faculty member, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals at <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help>. For more information about Title IX, please complete the required student module Creating a Safe Campus at <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/safe-campus-module>.

**Recommendations:** It is likely you will eventually ask professors to recommend you for graduate programs, jobs, or internships. Professors are not obligated to write references for any student who asks. Therefore, your job as a college student is to become the kind of student professors can rave about in recommendations: hardworking, collegial, intellectually inquisitive, and honest.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

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Counter to popular perception that college courses should involve lecture, research finds learning and retention is most effectively built by presenting important ideas in a multitude of diverse ways. This course's assignments involve readings from the textbook, academic sources, and popular sources, as well as video and audio clips. Online student discussions and a final writing assignment incorporate active learning into the class. In addition to preparing you for the exam, the weekly quizzes help you to monitor that you are catching each week's most important points.

Course grades are based on one Exam, nine Quizzes, one Writing Assignment, nine Discussions, and one Profile Picture. Total points received will be reduced by 20% for each day an assignment is late (with days counting as ended at 11:30pm). Assignments will not be accepted if they are more than one week late. No extra credit is available in this course. One-page memos can be used to dispute grades on a single assignment—you cannot dispute your grade more than 7 days after the grade was posted on D2L. If the assignments listed at the end of this syllabus change, you will receive advance notification.

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Grade	%
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	86-89%
B	82-85%
B-	80-81%
C+	76-79%

Grade	%
C	72-75%
C-	70-71%
D+	66-69%
D	62-65%
D-	60-61%
F	≤59%

**1000 total points** available for the term:

1 Exam at 300 points	300
1 Writing Assignment at 300 points	300
9 Quizzes at 25 points each	225
9 Discussions at 15 points each	135
1 D2L Profile Picture at 40 points	40

**Exam (DUE Sunday, December 6, 2020 by 11:30pm):** The exam, administered through D2L, assesses your mastery of important course concepts. In addition to preparing you for the exam, the exam study sheet helps guide your attention as you engage with course material. Some questions on the Exam may have already appeared on the Quizzes. You will have a window of 4 days to complete the exam, and 2 hours to complete the exam once you begin. There will be no make-up exams except in extreme circumstances (e.g. death in the family, serious illness) accompanied by written documentation. If you do not contact me before the exam, you will also have to provide a documented reason why you could not contact me. Make-up exams are 100% essay.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes, administered through D2L, assess whether you're retaining key points of the materials you were assigned to read, view, and listen to in the days previous to the quiz day. With a window of at least 7 days in which you can begin each Quiz on D2L, you will have 1 hour to complete each Quiz once you begin. Quizzes cannot be made up. Altering the deadline for a quiz requires advance notice and written documentation of the reason.

**Writing Assignment:** Effectively communicating your thoughts in written form will benefit you in college and in your career. You will complete a two-part Writing Assignment in which you apply social psychological theories from class to a movie or TV show of your choice. The first part of the Writing Assignment is a one-paragraph summary of the movie or TV show (DUE November 15, 2020 by 11:30pm). The second part of the Writing Assignment is a four-page double-spaced paper applying theories to various parts of the movie or TV show (DUE December 2, 2020 by 11:30pm). More details will be provided to you well in advance of the due dates. Writing Assignments are only accepted through the D2L Assignment Submission Folders.

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**Online Discussions:** The online discussions (on D2L, Activities>Discussion) will require you to apply the course material to real-life examples through interaction with your classmates. Be sure to maintain netiquette (described above) in all online class discussions. To increase the substance and meaning of the discussions, you'll be assigned to smaller groups for each discussion. One student in each group will be assigned to be a facilitator for each discussion, summarizing the main themes of the discussion and monitoring classmates' participation. Facilitators complete the Discussion Facilitator Form (on D2L, Contents>Main Files) and upload it to the appropriate Assignment Submission Folder (on D2L, Activities>Assignments). If you were assigned as Facilitator and fail to complete this task, you will receive no credit for this discussion, even if you participated in other parts of it.