

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS**

I. COURSE INFORMATION:

Prefix & Number:	PSYC 2210	Meeting Times:	TR 3:30pm - 4:45pm
CRN:	89222/89634	Location/Format:	TSRB 132
Semester/Term:	Spring 2026	Section:	A/B

Description: Consideration of the behavior of individuals in social contexts, including interpersonal and group settings.

II. INSTRUCTOR/CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name:	Dr. William Stern	Face-to-Face Office Hours:	TBD
Office Location:	J.S. Coon G53-B	Course Email Address:	sternpsyc2210@gatech.edu
Zoom Office Hours:	By appointment	Personal Email Address:	wstern@gatech.edu

Email policy:

Email is the easiest way to get in touch with me or the TAs quickly, and I encourage you to send an email when you have questions, comments, or concerns.

If you have general questions about the course, please use the course email address (sternpsyc2210@gatech.edu). If you have questions specifically directed at me, please feel free to contact my personal email address. If you email my personal address, please include your **full name and the class you are taking (day/time)**. I teach multiple classes, so this will help you receive a quicker response.

We will strive to answer your questions as quickly as we can, but please remember that everyone has other courses and responsibilities. Please allow 2 business days (excluding weekends and holidays) for response to emails (although response times will typically be shorter than this). If you have not received a response in that timeframe, you may send a friendly remind of your question or concern.

III. OPTIONAL TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:

Optional Text:

Branscombe, N.R., & Baron, R. (2017). *Social psychology (14th ed.)*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education. ISBN 9780134411255

Please note that if you elect to use an older edition of the textbook, page numbers and content may be inconsistent between editions.

IV. EVALUATION/GRADING:

Assignment	Points Possible	Final Grade	Final Points
Unit Exams	300	A	≥ 895
Comprehensive Final Exam	200	B	795-894
Four Portfolios	200	C	695-794
Four Article Reactions	200	D	595-694
In-Class Participation	100	F	≤ 594
TOTAL:	1000		

V. REQUIRED COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS**

- **EXAMS:**

Unit Exams (300 pts. x 3 exams = 300 pts.): There will be three unit exams, corresponding to the first three units. Exams will be a mix of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. Exams are cumulative, and you are responsible for all content in the preceding units as well as the content from the current unit. Exams will also become longer as the semester goes on due to an increasing amount of content. However, each of the three unit exams will still be worth 100 points, regardless of the number of questions.

All exams must be taken in-person. Exams will be taken during class time through Canvas using Lockdown Browser.

Optional Make-up Exam (100 pts. replacing previous exam grade): During the second-to-last regular class meeting, there will be one comprehensive exam covering all of the content discussed across the entire semester. **Taking the make-up exam is entirely optional.** Students who elect to take the make-up exam can use that exam score to replace their lowest Unit Exam grade (even if that exam grade is a 0 due to missing the exam). If a student takes the final exam and scores worse than all of their previous Unit Exams, no grade will be replaced.

Final Exam (200 pts.): During the final exam period, a comprehensive final exam will be given. The exam will cover all material across the entire semester. The final exam is mandatory and cannot be replaced by the optional make-up exam.

- **HOMEWORK:**

Portfolios (50 pts. x 4 portfolios = 200 pts.): These assignments will require you to apply concepts from the course to examples from outside of the classroom. For instance, you may be asked find an example from either a real-world (newspaper/magazine article, non-fiction book, documentary) or fictional (movie, book, TV show) story that illustrates one of the concepts that you learned about in the current unit and write a brief essay about how the example illustrates the concept. Portfolio assignments may also take other forms and vary by unit.

Article Reactions (50 pts. x 4 summaries = 200 pts.): These assignments will require you to read an assigned article and write a brief essay. In the essay, you must provide a short summary of the article, identify two questions the article raised as you read it, speculate on what you think the answers to those questions may be, and propose one experiment which could test one of your questions. The experiment cannot be a replication of the study you read with a minor twist—it must be substantively different.

- **IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

In-Class Activities (100 points): These activities will be given during class time during most class periods. There will be more than 100 points of in-class activities given, however, students may only earn up to 100 points of credit for these activities. No make-up points will be given for in-class activities.

VI. ESSENTIAL COURSE POLICY INFORMATION:

- **ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance in this class is mandatory. There is no grade for attendance, but you are expected to show up to all planned class periods, and completion of in-class participation assignments is contingent on your attendance on the day they are given.

- **FINAL EXAM DATE AND TIME:**

The final exam will be held during finals week. Time TBD.

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS**

- **POLICY FOR LATE WORK:**

Portfolios and article reactions can be turned in up to 48-hours late for a 20% deduction in grade per day the assignment is late. After 48 hours, no late work will be accepted. No late or make-up work will be accepted for in-class activities beyond institute-mandated make-up opportunities.

- **POLICY FOR MISSED EXAMS AND QUIZZES:**

Students missing an exam for any reason should take the optional make-up exam at the end of the semester. Further make-up arrangements will not be considered beyond institute mandate.

No make-up exams will be given for the final.

- **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

- **A NOTE ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI):**

In this class we treat AI-based assistance, such as ChatGPT, the same way we treat collaboration with other people: you are welcome to talk about your ideas and work with other people, both inside and outside the class, as well as with AI-based assistants.

However, all work you submit must be your own. You should *never* include anything that was not written directly by you in an assignment without proper citation (including quotation marks and in-line citation for direct quotes).

Including anything you did not write in your assignment without proper citation will be treated as an academic misconduct case. If you are unsure where the line is between collaborating with AI and copying AI, we recommend the following heuristics:

Heuristic 1: Never hit “Copy” within your conversation with an AI assistant. You can copy your own work into your own conversation, but do not copy anything from the conversation back into your assignment. Instead, use your interaction with the AI assistant as a learning experience, then let your assignment reflect your improved understanding.

Heuristic 2: Do not have your assignment and the AI agent open at the same time. Similar to the above, use your conversation with the AI as a learning experience, then close the interaction down, open your assignment, and let your assignment reflect your revised knowledge. This heuristic includes avoiding using AI directly integrated into your composition environment: just as you should not let a classmate write content directly into your submission, so also you should avoid using tools that directly add content to your submission.

Deviating from these heuristics does not automatically qualify as academic misconduct; however, following these heuristics essentially guarantees your collaboration will not cross the line into misconduct.

- **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES:**

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS**

If you have learning needs that require some adaptations for you to succeed in this course, please contact Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>). We can arrange to accommodate your learning needs based on their recommendations.

VII. CORE IMPACTS STATEMENT:

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

VIII. COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Across the entire course, students will...

1. Demonstrate knowledge of major findings in the field of social psychology.
 - i. Assessed by course exams and final
2. Identify a variety of research techniques used by social psychologists.
 - i. Assessed by article reviews
3. Identify and explain how major principles of social psychology manifest in real-world or fictional examples.
 - i. Assessed by portfolio assignments and exams
4. Illustrate an understanding of the basics of APA-style on a writing assignment.
 - i. Assessed by article reviews and portfolio assignments

IX. SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

This syllabus should be viewed as a guide. While every attempt is made to provide an accurate overview of the course, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes to the syllabus are at the discretion of the instructor and will be made with advance notice.

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY SYLLABUS**

X. COURSE CALENDAR:

Dates	Topics	Assignments
Day 1	Syllabus and Introduction	
Day 2	Basics of Social Psychology	
Day 3	Social Cognition	
Day 4	Schemas	
Day 5	Behavior and Attitudes	
Day 6	Attitudes and Cognitive Dissonance	
Day 7	The Social Self	Article Review 1
Day 8	Review	Portfolio 1
Day 9	Exam 1 – 35 MC, 10 Fill-in-the-blank, 2 short answer	
Day 10	Social Influence	
Day 11	Compliance and Obedience	
Day 12	Persuasion	
Day 13	Group Influence	
Day 14	The Dark Side of Group Influence	Article Review 2
Day 15	Review	Portfolio 2
Day 16	Exam 2 - 50 MC, 10 Fill-in-the-blank, 2 short answer	
Day 17	Intimate Relationships	
Day 18	Attraction and Love	
Day 19	Prosocial Behavior & Altruism	
Day 20	Aggression	Article Review 3
Day 21	Prejudice	
Day 22	Review	
Day 23	Exam 3 - 70 MC, 10 Fill-in-the-blank, 2 short answer	
Day 24	Group Conflict	
Day 25	Stress & Resilience	
Day 26	Emotion	Article Review 4
Day 27	Optional Make-Up Exam	Portfolio 4
Day 28	Final Exam Review	
FINALS WEEK	Final Exam – 70 MC, 20 Fill-in-the-blank, 4 short answer	

*NOTE: Course calendar is subject to change at the discretion of instructor