

# **SOCIOLOGY 261—INTRO TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

*Impact of interpersonal relations on the self as it affects individual behavior in a variety of groups.*



Time: Mon-Fri 2:00-5:00pm

Semester: Summer 2022 (THINK Summer Institute)

Final Exam Time & Location: Fri Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:30-11:30am in WRB 2024

**Professor:** Dr. Clayton Peoples

## **Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce students to social psychology, spanning the following topics: socialization; the self; emotions; deviance; mental health; relationships; prejudice; and social influence, collective behavior.

## **Course Organization:**

In this course, we begin with an introduction to social psychology. We then move on to a discussion of the main perspectives/approaches underlying research on social psychology. Next, we will cover a number of substantive topics, including, but not limited to, those listed in the “course description” above.

## **Course Expectations:**

All university rules/expectations apply, *plus*: I ask that you stay in class the entire period unless you have a pressing engagement (tell me *beforehand*) or have an emergency.

## **Statement on Audio and Video Recording:**

Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may be given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.

## **Required Text (*textbooks are purchased and provided to students in this course by the THINK program*):**

Crawford, Lizabeth and Katherine Novak. 2018. *Individual and Society: Sociological Social Psychology (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)* New York: Routledge. ISBN: 1138284696

## Course Rules:

### Department of Sociology Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism) is a serious offense. All work that you submit in this class must be your own original work, and must have been generated by you specifically for the assignments. Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include canceling a student's enrollment without a grade, giving an F for the course or for the assignment. For more details, see the University of Nevada, Reno General Catalog.

Each student is responsible for being familiar with UNR's policies on academic dishonesty. It is the policy of the Department of Sociology that any student who engages in any act of academic dishonesty will automatically get a course grade of "F." Further, in accordance with UNR's Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty Procedures, a record will be created with the Office of Student Conduct. Repeated offenses may lead to expulsion from the university.

**What is plagiarism?** Whereas most acts of academic dishonesty are obvious, students are sometimes unclear what "plagiarism" entails. Plagiarism means that you incorporate another author's work into your own, but create the impression that you yourself are the original author. For instance, it is plagiarism when you cut and paste another author's text into your own paper, but do not clearly mark it as a quote and do not credit the original source. Another example of plagiarism is when you use another author's text, but change the syntax and vocabulary only slightly. Yet another instance of plagiarism involves using another person's ideas and presenting them as your own. The web offers a number of great resources on the subject of plagiarism that help you decide when you need to credit another author and when something can be assumed to be common knowledge (in which case you do not need to credit a source). See, e.g., <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>.

**How to avoid plagiarism?** When writing a paper, focus on what and how you want to say something, not on the language another author used. The easiest way is to follow a "closed source" policy: That is, when you have read a paper, book or website that is relevant to a paper that you are writing, close it and put it aside before you write your own text. Once you are done, go over your paper again and make sure that you have not inadvertently copied another person's language. Likewise, make sure that you do not pretend that another person's insights are your own.

Keep in mind that plagiarism is more easily detected than you might think. Many instructors and graders have access to the same resources as you (e.g., the internet) and routinely check whether any text you have submitted appears elsewhere. If you are in doubt whether something constitutes plagiarism or not, ask your instructor, TA, or the UNR writing center.

## Course Requirements:

### *Class Participation*

Reaction paper on readings for that day, 12 in all, each worth 1.67 pts: 20 pts.

### *Tests*

Midterm 40 pts.

Final 40 pts.

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Total: 100 pts.

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The grading scale in this course follows the university-wide standard scale:

A = 93-100    A- = 90-93    B+ = 87-90    B = 83-87    B- = 80-83    C+ = 77-80

C = 73-77    C- = 70-73    D+ = 67-70    D = 63-67    D- = 60-63    F = 0-60

## More about the Course Requirements:

### *Class Participation*

Class participation is a very important component of any classroom environment, enriching the learning experience. Your participation is very important in this process. Reflecting the importance of class participation, it is worth 20% of the course grade:

*Reaction Papers:* For virtually every class, you will be required to have read something. We would like for you to type a *one page*, single-spaced reaction to these readings. Twenty reaction papers over the course of the semester represent full credit (1.67 pts each, 20 pts total). *Please don't neglect these—they are, after all, worth 20% of your grade, and they help keep you current on the readings. Since they are part of class participation, reaction papers will NOT be accepted if you have missed class UNLESS you inform me ahead of time or have a legitimate reason for missing (i.e. medical emergency, funeral).*

### *Tests*

Tests will be predominantly multiple choice. *Make-up tests will NOT be given unless you inform me ahead of time or have written documentation showing a legitimate reason for missing (i.e. medical emergency, funeral, etc.). Make-up tests will be subject to a 10% deduction (4 pts deduction out of 40). Additionally, a make-up final exam will be subject to the University rules concerning semester deadlines.*

## The above will help in assessing the below student learning outcomes (SLOs):

SLO 1: Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the individual and larger structures in the social world (e.g. groups, society).

SLO 2: Explain how social-psychological research/inquiry has helped further our knowledge of social relationships and related phenomena.

SLO 3: Apply social-psychological theories and research to a variety of real-world scenarios.

**Tentative Course Outline (May be Subject to Change)**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC/CLASS ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
Mon Jul 11	Introduction	Chapter 1
Tue Jul 12	Research Methods*	Chapter 2
Wed Jul 13	Symbolic Interactionism*	Chapter 3
Thu Jul 14	Social Structure and Personality*	Chapter 4
Fri Jul 15	Group Processes and Structures*	Chapter 5
Mon Jul 18	<b><i>TEST 1 (Midterm)</i></b>	
Tue Jul 19	Socialization throughout the Life Course*	Chapter 6
Wed Jul 20	Self and Identity*	Chapter 7
Thu Jul 21	Emotions and Social Life*	Chapter 8
Fri Jul 22	Deviance and Social Control*	Chapter 9
Mon Jul 25	Mental Health and Illness*	Chapter 10
Tue Jul 26	Personal Relationships*	Chapter 11
Wed Jul 27	Prejudice and Discrimination*	Chapter 12
Thu Jul 28	Social Influence, Constraint, and Collective Beh.*	Chapter 13
Fri Jul 29	<b><i>TEST 2: (FINAL)</i></b>	

\* Reaction Paper Day: Please turn in Reaction Paper on Readings for that Day

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

**Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with Davidson Staff as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.**