

PSY3020-1 FA26 - Social Psychology

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Psychology Department

PSY3020-1/SOC3020-1 Social Psychology (3 units)

Fall 2026

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Office hours:	Click here ➡ (https://calendar.app.google/8iq7e2xKmhmcL9W8A) to book an appointment! You must schedule an appointment 12 hours before or the system will prevent you from scheduling. If the available times don't work for you, shoot me an email and we can find something that works for both of us :)
Teaching Assistant:	Olivia Banuelos
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Class Location:	Ryan Learning Center 108
Class Meetings:	M/W 1:30PM - 2:35PM
Department:	Psychology



Units:	3
Final written exam:	Monday 1:30PM - 4:00PM

*Textbook not required. If you would like to cite information from lecture, here is the main text reference:

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2023). *Social Psychology* (6th ed.). W. W. Norton & Company.

PLNU MISSION

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

At its core, social psychology is the scientific study of how people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the social world around them. In this course, we will examine theories and empirical research that help us understand enduring questions about human behavior, including why people form attitudes and stereotypes, how they make sense of themselves and others, and what leads people to help or harm one another. Along the way, we will discover that our intuitions about human behavior are sometimes accurate, but are typically incomplete or incorrect. By examining empirical evidence, we will develop a more nuanced understanding of how social situations shape individual and group behavior. The concepts you learn in this course can be applied to many aspects of everyday life including relationships, communication, education, health, work, and community life. At the end of the semester, it is my hope that this course will give you both a deeper understanding of human social behavior and a more critical lens through which to understand your own experiences and the world around you.

From the catalog: "A study of the theories and methods of social interactions in the development of personal and group behavior. Topics include attitudes, communication, and pro-social and anti-social behaviors."

Also offered as SOC 3020.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will learn to:

- Describe major theories, concepts, and empirical findings in social psychology
- Explain how social, cognitive, and situational factors influence individuals' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.
- Evaluate common assumptions, intuitions, and explanations about human social behavior using principles of scientific inquiry and empirical evidence.



- Apply social psychological theories and research findings to explain behavior and evaluate real-world social problems and situations.

Objectives will be achieved through your reading of the written materials, through the lectures given and discussions led by the instructor and through in-class exercises.

Whether these objectives have been achieved or not will be measured by your scores on quizzes, exams, class participation, and presentations.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a four unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided by the university or our accrediting bodies.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Course Breakdown

Homework/In-Class Exercises	30%
Quizzes	25%
Midterm	20%
Final	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Homework/In-Class Exercises

Homework and in-class exercises involve applied work related to the week's topic.

Quizzes

Weekly quizzes are based on the lectures and any readings assigned for the week. Quizzes will be completed in class.

Exams

Exams are short-answer. Content will be similar to quizzes and in-class activities. The midterm will focus on content from weeks 1-7; the final is cumulative and can cover content from weeks 1-15.

Grade Scale

A	B	C	D	F
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A 93-100	B+ 87-89.99	C+ 77-79.99	D+ 67-69.99	F Less than 59
A- 90-92.99	B 83-86.99	C 73-76.99	D 63-66.99	
	B- 80-82.99	C- 70-72.99	D- 60-62.99	

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments

Each day an assignment is late reduces the original assignment ceiling by 5%, up to a maximum of 50% lost (e.g., one day = 95%, two days = 90%, ten days = 50%). After ten days, the assignment is no longer eligible for credit without an official excused absence. However, you can also request an assignment extension. You can either receive an automatic two day extension or request more time if necessary. If you're interested, complete the form [here](https://pointloma.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0fuXXRNHUY39w34)  (https://pointloma.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0fuXXRNHUY39w34). You must complete the form 24 hours before the assignment deadline. Otherwise, the initial late assignment policy stands. Late work will be accepted until the last week of classes. Official excused absences are given by the Provost's Office. Please be aware that the official PLNU policy is that illnesses are not excused absences, even with a note from a health care provider.

Exams

You can move the date of the midterm for any reason. Makeups must be taken within one week of the original exam administration time, barring special circumstances. **Email me (<mailto:abitter@pointloma.edu>)** to schedule a time! It is possible that I will not be available for a makeup; however, the operations coordinator or my TA can also administer your exams. All makeups will be short answer and may not have the same questions as the original exam.

Quizzes

If missed, you can move the date of one quiz for any reason. Makeups must be taken within ten days of the original quiz administration time, barring special circumstances. **Email me (<mailto:abitter@pointloma.edu>)** to schedule a time! It is possible that I will not be available for a makeup; however, the psychology department assistant or my TA can also administer your quiz. Makeups may not have the same questions as the original exam.

PLNU ACADEMIC BEHAVIOR POLICY

Both faculty and students at Point Loma Nazarene University have the right to expect a safe and ordered environment for learning. Students are expected to take the initiative to learn and conduct themselves in a mature



and civil manner in the classroom environment. Any student behavior that is disruptive or threatening is a serious affront to Point Loma Nazarene University as a learning community. Students who fail to adhere to these behavioral standards may be subject to disciplinary action, including removal from class or further university sanctions. For a full definition of disruptive behavior, response procedures, and the appeal process, please consult the [Academic Behavior Policy](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/academic-general-policies/#academicbehavior)  in the [University Catalog](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/academic-general-policies/) .

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on State Authorization to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU RECORDING NOTIFICATION

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel. Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students sh



follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) in this course. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly identified as such, including the specific tool(s) used. This means you must cite when using AI, following APA style for your citations. If you do not cite your sources, this is considered plagiarism. Additionally, solely copying AI-produced text without significant modification is also considered plagiarism. AI-generated text must be altered to incorporate your own voice, insights, and understanding. The first time a violation occurs, you will receive a warning; subsequent violations will result in a zero on the assignment. Importantly, all group members must be in unanimous agreement over the use of AI tools.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center, [by email \(mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu\)](mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu) or phone at 619-849-2533. Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines approved accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their approved accommodations in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive; as such, clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability-related need should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. In accordance with ADA, accommodations cannot constitute a fundamental alteration to course outcomes; therefore, planning ahead is vital in establishing appropriate accommodations for equal access to this course. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC eligibility process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

LANGUAGE AND BELONGING

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice-free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and



Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality. If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias (<http://www.pointloma.edu/bias>).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the [Title IX Office \(https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the [Title IX Office \(https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix).

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact [Counseling Services \(mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu\)](mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu) or [consult the list of campus pastors \(https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix/get-help-now\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/title-ix/get-help-now).

If you (or someone you know) has experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources via the [Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy \(http://www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination\)](http://www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination).

CHANGE IN SYLLABUS OR SCHEDULE

It is possible that I will make modifications to the syllabus or schedule during the semester. If this occurs, I will make an announcement by email, in class, or both.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Timeframe	Topics	Exams/Holidays
Week 1	Introduction to Social Psychology	



Week 2	Methods of Social Psychology	Labor Day (No Classes)
Week 3	The Social Self	
Week 4	Social Cognition	
Week 5	Emotion and Well-being	
Week 6	Attitudes, Behavior, and Rationalization	
Week 7	Persuasion	
Week 8	Social Influence	Fall Break
Week 9	Relationships and Attraction	
Week 10	Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination	
Week 11	Living in a Prejudiced World	
Week 12	Groups	
Week 13	Aggression	Thanksgiving Break
Week 14	Morality, Altruism, and Cooperation	



Week 15	Applications of Social Psychology	
Final		Monday 1:30PM - 4:00PM

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Fri Sep 4, 2026	 Week 1 Activity: What is Social Psychology? (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/87666/assignments/1378019) 	due by 11:59pm
	 Roll Call Attendance (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/87666/assignments/1377756) 	

