

**S230 (Section 14098)**  
**Society and the Individual**  
Fall 2021  
T & R 1:10pm-2:25pm  
Ballantine 008

**Course Information**

Professor: Steve Benard

Office Hours: TR 12pm-1pm, Ballantine 748.

Office Phone: 812-856-7418

Email: [sbenard@indiana.edu](mailto:sbenard@indiana.edu) (Please put “S230” first in the subject line)

Course webpage: Available on Canvas

Graduate Assistant: Deziree Jackson

GA Email Address: [dezjack@iu.edu](mailto:dezjack@iu.edu)

GA Office Hours: KSISR 203 (The house on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Hawthorne, about a block from Ballantine)

Class Location: Ballantine Hall (BH 008)

**Course Description & Learning Objectives**

The objective of this course is to help you understand how the social world shapes our behavior, and how our behavior shapes the social world. To accomplish this, the course provides an introduction to the theories, methods, and practice of social psychology. Social psychology draws on both sociology and psychology, and addresses questions like: How does the way we think shape our interactions with other people? How do our interactions shape the way we think? Why does society work at all, instead of collapsing into anarchy? The answers to these questions are relevant for understanding politics, law, business, how to get along with your roommates, and many other parts of life. This course will draw on a variety of readings and other materials to discuss key concepts in the field, including power, conformity, influence, stereotypes, relationships, conflict, and identity.

**Required Texts**

There is one required text, listed below:

- Hegtvegt, Karen A, and Cathryn Johnson. 2018. *Social Psychology: Individuals, Interaction, and Inequality*. Los Angeles: Sage.

It is important to me to keep the costs of the course as low as possible. This book can be purchased at the IU Bookstore or at various online sources. Used copies were about \$31, electronic copies about \$58, and rentals about \$14 on Amazon.com just before the semester started.

All additional required readings will be available on the Canvas website (<http://canvas.iu.edu>), in the module for the week they are due.

## **Course Organization**

The Canvas page for the course has a home page that provides information on getting started. To keep things simple, the Canvas page is organized into modules for each week. The module for each week will have all the information you need (lectures notes, any non-textbook readings, assignments, etc.).

## **In Class**

In class, we will have a mix of lecture and discussion, and some hands-on activities throughout the semester. I will work hard to keep the lectures informative, engaging, and fun. You can help keep the class interesting by doing the reading before class and participating in the discussion. The lectures will cover some of the same material as the book (especially important or challenging points that could use some more explanation) and some new material, so please make sure to keep up with both.

*Attendance:* The class works best if everyone shows up most of the time, and most students do much better when they attend class. That said, I don't take attendance. Please don't come to class or office hours if you feel sick.

*Chat:* As an experiment, I've enabled the Chat function in Canvas. My plan is to check this periodically during our live class, so you can add questions or comments in the chat. After we try it out I'll make a decision about whether to keep or drop it, based on whether it seems to be adding value to the class

## **Quizzes/Quick Checks in Canvas**

To help you assess how well you are learning the material, there are weekly "quick check" questions in Canvas, in the "Quick Check" section of each Canvas module. You can do these any time during the week; they are due Sunday. You can re-do quick checks until you are satisfied with your score, up to the deadline.

## **Written Assignments**

Written assignments for this course will include two short essays early in the semester, and three "practical essays" at the end of each section of the course (Weeks 6, 10, and 16). These are longer essays in which you will be asked to apply what you have learned so far in class to solving a social problem. **In practical essay weeks, we will not meet in class. Instead, we will use class time to hold additional office hours for anyone who wants to discuss their essay.**

All essays should be submitted via Canvas by midnight on the day they are due. Late essays will be penalized by 10% per day late. All essays should be typed in 12-point font, double spaced,

with no more than 1.25” margins. Technical problems are not a valid excuse for late essays – please save your work often and leave plenty of time to submit your paper.

*The Campus Writing Program:* The Campus Writing Program offers a variety of services to help you with your writing, including a writing tutorial service. My past students have mentioned that they find the writing center very helpful. You can request an appointment with a writing tutor at [WTS@indiana.edu](mailto:WTS@indiana.edu). For more information, please visit: <http://citl.indiana.edu/programs/writing/>.

### Summary of Assignments and Due Dates

Assignment	Value	Due
<b>Quizzes</b>		
Canvas Quick Checks	12 weeks x 3 points per week = 36 points	Weekly, except in practical essay weeks
<b>Short Essays</b>		
Personal Conflict Essay 1	10 points	9/2
Personal Conflict Essay 2	20 points	9/16
<b>Practical Essays</b>		
Practical 1 (Covers Parts 1 & 2)	50 points	10/3
Practical 2 (Covers Part 3)	50 points	10/31
Practical 3 (Covers Part 4)	50 points	12/12

### Grading

In the course, you can earn a total of 216 points. Your grade will be based on the percentage of points you earn (100-94% = A, < 94%-90% = A-, <90-87% = B+, etc.). Because life is unpredictable, especially now, I will spot you up to 10 points for missed or late assignments, up to a maximum score of 216. In other words, if you earn 200 points, your final grade will be 210/216. If you earn 215 points, your final grade will be 216/216. If you use up these additional points and have a health or other issue that requires accommodation, please contact me.

### Getting Help

Your GA and I look forward to helping you get the most out of this course. There are a few different ways you can get help.

- Meet us for office hours. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12pm-1pm in Ballantine 748. You can sign up for office hours with me at <https://prof-benard.youcanbook.me>. You can also walk in, but students with appointments will have priority. If you don't have availability during these times, you can email me to set up another time to meet.
- Our Graduate Assistant is Sociology Ph.D. student Deziree Jackson. Deziree's office hours are MW 12pm-1pm in SISR 203. KSISR (the Karl Schuessler Institute for Social Research) is the house on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Hawthorne, about a block from Ballantine. You can sign up for office hours with Deziree at [deziree-jackson.youcanbook.me](mailto:deziree-jackson.youcanbook.me).

- We also have an open forum for the class, available on canvas in the “Getting Started” module, in the “Getting Help” section. This is a good place for you to ask general questions about the material or course policies that other students might also have, so we can answer them for everyone. Please do not post any personal or confidential information here.

While this is a fairly large class, I hope to have the chance to get to know all of you during the semester.

## **Course Policies**

*Academic Integrity:* As a student at IU, you are expected to adhere to the standards contained in the *Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct* (the *Code*). Academic misconduct is defined as any activity that tends to undermine the academic integrity of the institution.

Academic integrity violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference, violation of course rules, and facilitating academic dishonesty. When you submit an assignment with your name on it, you are signifying that the work contained therein is yours, unless otherwise cited or referenced. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged. In addition, posting questions from quizzes/exams or assignments to or downloading answers from online sources is considered academic misconduct. All suspected violations of the *Code* will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Student Conduct) and handled according to University policies. Sanctions for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on the assignment, a reduction in your final course grade, or a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities. If you are unsure about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or exam, be sure to seek clarification from your instructor in advance.

*Note Selling:* Various commercial services have approached students regarding selling class notes/study guides to their classmates. Selling the instructor’s notes/study guides or uploading course assignments to these sites in exchange for access to materials for other courses is not permitted. Violations of this policy will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Student Conduct) as academic misconduct (violation of course rules). Sanctions for academic misconduct for this action may include a failing grade on the assignment for which the notes/study guides or assignments are being uploaded, a reduction in your final course grade, or a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities. Additionally, you should know that selling a faculty member’s notes/study guides individually or on behalf of one of these services using IU email, or via Canvas may also constitute a violation of IU information technology and IU intellectual property policies; additional consequences may result.

*Online Course Materials:* The instructor teaching this course holds the exclusive right to distribute, modify, post, and reproduce course materials, including all written materials, study guides, lectures, assignments, exercises, and exams. Some of the course content may be downloadable, but you should not distribute, post, or alter the instructor’s intellectual property. While you are permitted to take notes on the online materials and lectures posted for this course for your personal use, you are not permitted to re-post in another forum, distribute, or reproduce content from this course without the express written permission of the instructor.

*Respect for others:* In the course of our online class discussion, it is natural that some people will have different perspectives. It is normal for people to disagree, but it is important to do it in a mature and thoughtful manner. You are expected to be polite and respectful to all members of the class at all times.

*Public Health:* At the start of the fall 2021 semester, Indiana University is requiring that masks be worn indoors on campus, including in classrooms. An exception is allowed for presenters who are at least six feet away from their audience. This requirement will be in place until there is an officially announced change in policy. Please observe this requirement conscientiously as it is intended for the safety of everyone in the community.

Any students who come to class without a mask will be asked to mask up. If any students refuse to wear a mask in class, they will be dismissed from the classroom on that day, and will be expected to leave the room and the building. On the third incident, the Chair of the Department will be notified, who will in turn notify the Dean of Students Office.

*Bias Reporting:* As your instructor, one of my responsibilities is to create a positive learning environment for all students. Bias incidents (events or comments that target an individual or group based on age, color, religion, disability, race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status or veteran status) are not appropriate in our classroom or on campus. Any act of discrimination or harassment based on race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability can be reported through any of the options: 1) email [biasincident@indiana.edu](mailto:biasincident@indiana.edu) or [incident@indiana.edu](mailto:incident@indiana.edu); 2) call the Dean of Students Office at (812) 855-8188; or 3) use the IU mobile App ([m.iu.edu](http://m.iu.edu)). Reports can be made anonymously if desired.

*Disability Services for Students:* Every attempt will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities (e.g. mental health, learning, chronic health, physical, hearing, vision, neurological, etc.). You must have established your eligibility for support services through the appropriate office that services students with disabilities. Note that services are confidential, may take time to put into place and are not retroactive; captions and alternate media for print materials may take three or more weeks to get produced. Please contact Disability Services for Students at <http://disabilityservices.indiana.edu> or 812- 855-7578 as soon as possible if accommodations are needed. You can also locate a variety of campus resources for students and visitors that need assistance at: <http://www.iu.edu/~ada/index.shtml>.

*Sexual Misconduct:* Title IX and IU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibit sexual misconduct in any form, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, and dating and domestic violence. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help.

If you are seeking help and would like to speak to someone confidentially, you can make an appointment with:

The Sexual Assault Crisis Services (SACS) at (812) 855-8900 (counseling services)

Confidential Victim Advocates (CVA) at (812) 856-2469 (advocacy and advice services)  
IU Health Center at (812) 855-4011 (health and medical services)

It is also important that you know that Title IX and University policy require me to share any information brought to my attention about potential sexual misconduct, with the campus Deputy Title IX Coordinator or IU's Title IX Coordinator. In that event, those individuals will work to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available. Protecting student privacy is of utmost concern, and information will only be shared with those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist. I encourage you to visit [stopsexualviolence.iu.edu](http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu) to learn more.

*Digital Access:* Digital devices (like laptops and cell phones) are becoming increasingly important to success in college. In this course, you may need digital devices to access readings, and complete and submit written assignments.

I recognize that some students are unable to afford the cost of purchasing digital devices and that other students rely on older, more problem-prone devices that frequently break down or become unusable. I also recognize that those technology problems can be a significant source of stress for students. Given those challenges, I encourage students to contact me and/or the teaching assistant if they experience a technology-related problem that interferes with their work in this course. This will enable me to assist students in accessing support.

I also encourage students to be aware of the many technology-related resources that Indiana University provides, including:

- Free on-campus wireless internet (wifi) access through the "IU Secure" network.
- Free software for download and for cloud-based use.
- Free unlimited, secure online storage through Box (a great way to back up files).
- Free 24/7 IU tech support (e.g., email, Canvas, wifi, printing, device setup, etc.).
- Students can borrow laptops and tablets and receive free tech support from the Learning Commons in the Wells Library (<https://libraries.indiana.edu/learning-commons>).
- Discounts on devices from leading technology companies, including Apple, Dell, and Microsoft.

*Student Advocate's Office:* If you experience a personal issue that affects your academic work, and you do not feel comfortable discussing it with your instructors, the Student Advocate's Office may be able to help you. Among other services, they can help inform your instructors of issues that may affect your work:

<https://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/student-advocates/>

**See the week-by-week description of the course starting on the next page →**

Part 1: What is social psychology?

What are the big, interesting questions about social life? What kinds of data do we need to answer them, and how do we get it? What is social psychology useful for? How can you use it to approach the world more analytically?

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**Week 1: Introduction to the Course**

**Aug. 24-26**

Class 1: Introduction to the course  
(No Reading Due)

Class 2: What is social psychology?  
*Reading due:* HJ Chapter 1

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**Week 2: Research Methods**

**Aug. 31 - Sept. 2**

Class 3: Research methods in social psychology  
*Reading due:* HJ Chapter 2

Class 4: Research methods in social psychology, pt. 2  
*Assignment due:* Personal conflict essay 1

Part 2: Individuals

First, we'll look at how we understand ourselves: How do we develop an identity, or an understanding of who we are as a person? How do our attitudes about things develop and change?

Next, we'll look at how we understand other people. How do we perceive, evaluate, and interact with other people? How, and why, do we present ourselves differently to different people or in different social situations? Do we have a "real" self?

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**Week 3: The Self**

**Sept. 7-9**

Class 5: The self  
*Reading due:* Gran, "The Chameleon"

Class 6: Presenting the self  
*Reading due:* HJ Chapter 3

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**Week 4: Attributions**

**Sept. 14-16**

Class 7: Attributions  
*Reading due:* HJ Chapter 5

Class 8: Case study of attitude change  
*Assignment due:* Personal Conflict Essay 2

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**Week 5: Attitudes****Sept. 21-23**

Class 9: Attitudes, pt. 1

*Reading due:* HJ Chapter 6

Class 10: NO CLASS

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**Week 6: Practical****Sept. 28-30***Assignment due:* Practical Essay 1 due 10/3

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**Part 3: Groups**

Why do most people hate group projects? What makes groups and teams work effectively? Why can groups of capable, experienced, motivated people fail anyway?

How do groups organize themselves? How do they influence their members? Why do some people do all the talking? How does social influence shape culture?

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**Week 7: Groups and Teams****Oct. 5-7**

Class 11: Groups and teams, pt. 1

*Reading due:* None

Class 12: Groups and teams, pt 2

*Reading due:* Duhigg, "What Google Learned From its Quest to build the Perfect Team."

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**Week 8: Status Processes in Groups****Oct. 12-14**

Class 15: Status, pt. 1

*Reading due:* HJ: Chapter 8

Class 16: Status, pt. 2

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**Week 9: Influence and Culture/Negotiation****Oct. 19-21**

Class 17: Social influence and culture

*Reading due:* Surowiecki, Chapter 3, "Monkey See, Monkey Do: Imitation, Information Cascades, and Independence." (25pp)

Class 18: Negotiation

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**Week 10: Practical****Oct. 26-28**



Assignment due: Practical Essay 2 due 10/31

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Part 4: Power, conflict, and inequality (plus a week on meaning and happiness)

Where does power come from? How is it used and misused in groups? What causes conflict, stereotyping, and prejudice between groups, and is it possible to reduce it?

And to end the semester on an optimistic note, we'll wrap up with a week on interpersonal relationships, happiness, and finding meaning in life.

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**Week 11: Power in Groups and Networks**

**Nov. 2-4**

Class 19: Power as relationships

Reading due: HJ: Chapter 9

Class 20: The experience of power

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**Week 12: Legitimacy of Authority**

**Nov. 9-11**

Class 21: Legitimacy in groups and organizations

Reading due: HJ Chapter 10

Class 22: Jonestown

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**Week 13: Intergroup Relations**

**Nov. 16-18**

Class 23: Social Identity and Intergroup conflict

Reading due: HJ Chapter 12

Class 24: Stereotyping

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**Week 14: Thanksgiving break**

**Nov. 23-25**

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**Week 15: Finding meaning in life**

**Nov. 30-Dec. 2**

Class 25: Relationships & Attachments

Reading due: Haidt, "Love and attachments" (27pp)

Class 26: Engagement with the world and with life

Optional reading: Nakamura, "The Nature of Vital Engagement in Adulthood" (14pp)

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**Week 16: Course practical**

**Dec. 7-9**

Assignment due: Practical Essay 2 due 12/12