

PSY320-1 FA17 - Social Psychology

[Jump to Today](#) [Edit](#)

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.

Instructor: Max E. Butterfield, Ph.D.

Email: mbutter@pointloma.edu

Office Phone: (619) 849-2405

Office: Culbertson Hall 105

Office hours: [Click here to see hours or book an appointment!](#)
[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/selfsched?
sstoken=UU1NQ2x2ak51ZDc4fGRlZmF1bHR8ZDJmMjEzZGVjY2RiZThlMTY2NTczYjlmZGVjMTNiOTI](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/selfsched?sstoken=UU1NQ2x2ak51ZDc4fGRlZmF1bHR8ZDJmMjEzZGVjY2RiZThlMTY2NTczYjlmZGVjMTNiOTI)

Class Location: Liberty Station Conference Center 205B

Class Meetings: Mondays 6:00 – 8:40 PM

Department: Psychology

Units: 3

Final Exam: [Official day and time set by the university](#)
<http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/academics/class-schedules>

Text (optional): *Social Psychology* (11th ed.) by David G. Myers

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Although we may sometimes feel isolated in our increasingly connected world, the reality is that our lives are inextricably linked to the people around us. This course will introduce you to the ways in which we shape our experiences and how these experiences

are in turn shaped by others. We will focus on three important themes that dominate our social experience: social thinking, social influence, and social relations. During this course, we will cover fun, engaging, revealing, and challenging subjects: Among many other topics, we will expose the secret tactics used by marketers and sales professionals to sell products; we will tackle hard truths about prejudice, stereotyping, violence, and aggression; and we will explore the inner workings of romantic relationships and physical attraction. Classroom activities will focus on lecture, discussion, and hands-on experiences. You will be evaluated based on your engagement with the material, your knowledge of it, and your ability to apply it to real-world problems and situations. When all is said and done, it is my hope that you will come to see that social psychology is an incredibly fun, challenging, and useful topic of study for anyone interested in interacting with other people or in knowing more about themselves.

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. Offered fall only."

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to...

- Recognize common errors in social thinking that lead to a variety of avoidable problems, such as poor financial decisions, interpersonal difficulties, and lack of self-knowledge.
- Understand the relationship between attitudes and behavior and the factors that influence them.
- Identify, defend against, and implement the common social influence techniques used in marketing, advertising, sales, and interpersonal communication.
- Discuss the role of social influence processes in conformity and obedience, persuasion, and group influence.
- Differentiate between personal and situational factors that contribute to the development and maintenance of prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination.
- Identify the primary factors that promote (or inhibit) the development of individual-level aggression, group peace/conflict, helping, physical attraction, and love.
- Apply course content to their real lives.

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 three unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted by the due date listed on Canvas. In-class assignments must be completed in class and cannot be made up. Other late work will be accepted until 11:59 PM on the last day of classes for the current semester. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

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 [Class Schedules \(http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/academics/class-schedules\)](http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/academics/class-schedules) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

COURSE OUTLINE

Dates**Supplemental Reading****Topic**

	Syllabus & Worldview	none
	Genes, culture, & gender	Chapter 5
	Research Methods	p. 16 – 29
Weeks 1 – 5	The Self	Chapter 2
	Social Beliefs and Judgments	Chapter 3
	Behavior and Attitudes	Chapter 4
	Conformity and Obedience	Chapter 6
Weeks 6 – 10	Persuasion	Chapter 7
	Group Influence	Chapter 8
	Prejudice	Chapter 9
Weeks 11 – 15	Aggression	Chapter 10
	Attraction	Chapter 11

Final Exam**All readings****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 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. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies \(http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=18&navoid=1278\)](http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=18&navoid=1278) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at [DRC@pointloma.edu \(mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu\)](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See [Disability Resource Center \(http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/offices/administrative-offices/academic-advising-office/disability-resource-center\)](http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/offices/administrative-offices/academic-advising-office/disability-resource-center) for additional information.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies \(http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=18&navoid=1278\)](http://catalog.pointloma.edu/content.php?catoid=18&navoid=1278) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

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.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Your final letter grade will be determined by a variety of assessments of your engagement, knowledge, and ability to apply what you have learned. In order to ensure fair grading, I will calculate your grade using both total points and z scores, which measure your performance compared with the performance of the class (i.e., grading on a 'curve'). The score that will ultimately be used for you is the one that results in the **higher** of the scores. In order to pass this course, however, you must earn at least 50 % of all possible points.

Assessment	Percent
In-class activities	20
Quizzes	20
Take home activities	20
Midterm	20
Final	20

Grade	Percentage Needed	z Score Needed	Cumulative Percent	Percent Who Receive	Category Cumulative Percent
A	93 %	1.33	9.2 %	9.2%	
A-	90 %	1.00	15.9 %	6.7%	15.9%
B+	88 %	.67	25.1 %	9.3%	
B	84 %	.33	37.1 %	11.9%	
B-	80 %	.00	50 %	12.9%	34.1%
C+	77 %	-.33	62.9 %	12.9%	
C	70 %	-1.00	84.1 %	21.2%	
C-	65 %	-1.33	90.8 %	6.7%	40.8%
D+	62 %	-1.67	95.3 %	4.4%	
D	55 %	-2.00	97.7 %	2.5%	
D-	50 %	-2.33	99 %	1.3%	
F	0	< -2.33	100 %	1.0%	9.2%

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Tue Aug 29, 2017	 01 Genes, Culture, Gender https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/34800/assignments/218422	due by 11:58pm

Date	Details	
Mon Sep 4, 2017	 01 Personal Worldview (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/34800/assignments/218454)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 11, 2017	 01 Quiz: Worldview and Genes, Culture, Gender (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/34800/assignments/218432)	due by 6pm
Mon Oct 30, 2017	 Midterm (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/34800/assignments/218427)	due by 6pm
Mon Dec 11, 2017	 Final (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/34800/assignments/218429)	due by 7:30pm