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Office: Melson Hall 205  
Office Hours: By appointment via Google Hangouts on Tue & Wed 9:00 am-2:00 pm  
Google Hangout Address: tkurtis@westga.edu

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The goal of this course is to expose you to a SOCIAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL WORLDVIEW that you can use to make sense of everyday events throughout your lives. One can understand a social-psychological worldview in terms of two complementary ideas:

1. **Appreciation for the Contextualized Character of Psychological Experience:**
   Explanations of experience in both everyday society and the field of psychology often locate the foundations of psychological experience in internal structures of people: their inherent traits, defining beliefs, enduring attitudes, personal values, etc. In contrast, a social psychological analysis emphasizes the extent to which the foundations of psychological experience lie in contextual forces—temporary environmental conditions, enduring cultural settings, or particular historical circumstances—to a greater extent than most people realize.

2. **Appreciation for the (Socially) Constructed Character of Psychological Experience:**
   Again, explanations of experience in everyday society typically reflect naïve realism: the idea that experience is a more-or-less passive reflection of objective reality except in cases where some form of bias leads people to a mistaken experience of reality. In contrast, a social psychological analysis emphasizes the dynamic construction of experience: the fact that people actively build an experience of reality based partly on their learned conceptions about the way the world works.

Besides these two fairly common features of a social-psychological worldview, a more unique feature of this course is an emphasis on an **international perspective**:

3. **International Perspective: Awareness of Positioning**
   This course emphasizes an international perspective on social psychology via supplemental reading selections, lecture material, and assignments that direct your attention to the world beyond the USA. The point of this international focus is not simply to examine psychological functioning in various “other” settings. Instead the point is to encourage you to consider how your experience of subjectivity and identity is not just “natural”, but is instead “positioned” in broader historical and cultural processes.
ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

Required Reading: The required textbook is Gilovich, Keltner, Chen, & Nisbett (2013). Social Psychology (3rd Ed). New York: W. W. Norton. The textbook is available online or from the UWG Bookstore. An earlier edition of the text is permissible. If you choose to use a different edition of this textbook, you are responsible for any differences between your version and the 3rd edition. In addition to the textbook, required supplemental reading assignments inject an international perspective into the course. Links to these assignments will be available to you via the course website.

*In the syllabus, this text is referenced as GKCN.*

Online Lectures: In addition to reading assignments, it is your responsibility to “attend” online lectures. These lectures will be available on CourseDen in the form of a powerpoint file with accompanying sound.

Exams:
There will be 2 exams: a midterm exam on March 5th and a final exam on April 30th.

Make up exams. The examination dates should be considered firm. I expect everyone will take the examinations as they are scheduled. In rare circumstances and with appropriate documentation, you may be permitted to take a make-up exam. **In the event that you cannot attend either of the scheduled examination periods, it is your responsibility to contact me in timely fashion (i.e., no later than one week before the exam) to make an alternative arrangement.** Please note that the following events are NOT acceptable reasons for requesting a make-up exam: participation in a wedding, travel, oversleeping, and minor illness.

Missing the final exam. If you miss your final exam, and prior arrangements have not been made, you may receive a grade of F on that exam, and this may affect your final grade in the class. If you miss your exam due to an emergency, please contact the Psychology office at (678) 839-6510 or go to Melson Room 123 as soon as possible to complete the application: “Missed Final Exam: Verification of Emergency”. This form will need to be approved by the chair for an incomplete grade which may allow you the time to make up your exam or complete your final assignments. This application will require documentation and authorization from you to verify your emergency.

Exam content. Exams will consist of multiple choice items Multiple choice items will test your understanding of material from the textbook and will come from a pool created by the textbook publisher.

Course Participation:
There will be two forums for course participation.

1. Critical Reflection: As a mechanism to ensure engagement with course materials, I require you to submit 1 critical reflection paper (see below for dates). Your critical reflections should be a minimum of 5 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 font), and you should submit it as a Word document via Dropbox. The point of these critical reflections is to provide you with the opportunity to practice and demonstrate deep engagement with course materials.
When grading your reflections, I will be looking for evidence of timely submission of entries, thoughtful and thorough engagement with course content, critical thinking and analysis, and application of course content to broader intellectual discourse or everyday experience. (Extended guidelines and a grading rubric will be available on the course site).

2. **Class Participation:** You will be regularly earning classroom participation points through your timely completion of weekly course modules, active engagement in class activities, thoughtful contributions to weekly online discussions, and attention to netiquette (see Orientation Module for further information).

### Grading Scheme: (possible 400 points)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Reflection</td>
<td>100</td>
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### Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>360-400 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>320-359.9 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>280-319.9 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>240-279.9 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;240 pts</td>
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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Accessibility.** Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. To make an appointment, please contact Counseling & Career Services in 123 Row Hall, or call 678-839-6428. For additional information, visit the following website: [http://www.westga.edu/counseling/index_8884.php](http://www.westga.edu/counseling/index_8884.php). Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of abilities should also contact me as soon as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations.

**Student Conduct.** Appropriate classroom behavior is expected from all students.

1. The use of offensive language is prohibited.
2. Appropriate behavior in the online environment is: asking questions, answering instructor’s questions, participating in discussions, being polite, using appropriate language and good netiquette skills.
3. Inappropriate behavior in the online environment is: using bad language, using inappropriate symbols, shouting in all caps, using texting language, using threatening language, harassing others, making insensitive comments related to gender, sexual orientation, social status, ethnicity, race or religion.
4. We are all professional adults and I expect professional, courteous communication.
5. Email me directly with questions or comments not related to our current topic of discussion.

**Academic and Personal Integrity:** As outlined by the University of West Georgia Honor Code, “West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity.” Violations of this policy will be met with sanctions and ignorance of its provisions is not an acceptable excuse. Make sure to read the university policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty in your student handbook. Plagiarism involves the use of others words’ and/or ideas without giving them proper credit, which includes passing another person’s paper off as your own and failing to cite a source. If you copy a student’s paper or copy a paper off the internet, you will get caught. Plagiarism software can detect copied papers and copied text. Avoid any form of plagiarism, including **self-plagiarism.** Do not copy or use another person’s words or ideas when
constructing your critical reflection. Do not turn in a paper you wrote for another class. If you include quotations or ideas from other sources, make sure to cite your sources using proper APA style citation. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failure of the assignment.

**Communication Policy.** As the instructor, I will endeavor to reply to all messages that conform to conventional standards of polite, respectful correspondence within 48 hours. I will reply to other (i.e., less than polite) messages as circumstances permit. Please note that I reserve the right (and have the responsibility) to purge offensive or excessively aggressive posts to Course Den. Although it should go without saying, please refrain from attacking, harassing, or threatening either fellow students or instructors via the Course Site (or any other means, for that matter).

**Intellectual Property Rights.** Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and notes presented by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, course materials may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

*Note:* The syllabus contains a lot of essential information about the course so please make sure to read it carefully and revisit it regularly during the semester. In addition, all students must review the following information about university policies: http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

**TENTATIVE CLASS CALENDAR**

This class calendar is tentative and can be changed as needed by the instructor. Start date is January 8, 2018 and the end date is April 30, 2018.

**UNIT ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE**

Week 1 (Jan 8-Jan 12): Course Orientation Module

Week 2 (Jan 15-Jan 19): *GKCN* Ch. 1: An Invitation to Social Psychology

Week 3 (Jan 22-Jan 26): *GKCN* Ch. 2: The Methods of Social Psychology

Week 4 (Jan 29-Feb 2): *GKCN* Ch. 3: The Social Self


**UNIT TWO: THE CONTEXTUALIZED CHARACTER OF EXPERIENCE**

Week 5 (Feb 5-Feb 9): Online reading assignments:


Week 6 (Feb 12-Feb 16): *GKCN* Ch. 9: Social Influence

Week 7 (Feb 19-Feb 23): Video assignment: Generation Like- Available online at the following link: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/generation-like

Week 8 (Feb 26-Mar 2): GKCN Ch. 10: Relationships and Attraction

Midterm Exam: March 5 (available online from 6 am-10 pm)

UNIT THREE: THE (SOCIALLY) CONSTRUCTED CHARACTER OF EXPERIENCE
Week 10 (Mar 12-Mar 16) GKCN Ch. 5: Social Attribution
** Critical Reflections due by 11:59 pm Fri, 16 March (submit via Dropbox)
Week 11 (Mar 19-Mar 23): SPRING BREAK- No classes
Week 12 (Mar 26-Mar 30) GKCN Ch. 4: Social Cognition
Week 13 (Apr 2-Apr 6) GKCN Ch. 7: Attitudes, Behavior, and Rationalization
Week 14 (Apr 9-Apr 13) GKCN Ch. 8: Persuasion

UNIT FOUR: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY IN ACTION
Week 15 (Apr 16-Apr 20) GKCN Ch. 11: Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination
Week 16 (Apr 23-Apr 27) Final Lecture

Final Exam: Apr 30 (available online from 6 am-10 pm)