

PSY2304 – INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

FALL 2021

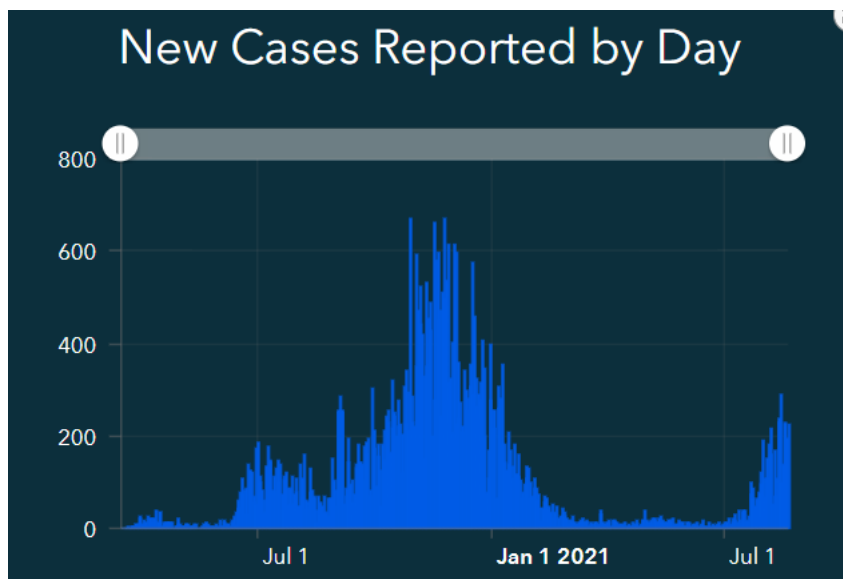
COVID-19 POLICIES

Because of the ease with which Covid-19 can be spread in an indoor setting such as a classroom, we will be following strict classroom policies designed to reduce the risk that anyone in our class transmits or contracts Covid-19 while in the room. These rules are in place to keep you, your classmates, and me safe. If you ever have any questions or concerns about these policies, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Note that any change in TTU policy regarding masks or vaccination may result in a change to these classroom policies.

COVID IN LUBBOCK

As of this writing (8/20/21), Covid in Lubbock is actually worse than it was this time one year ago. The graph below shows that Covid cases peaked in December '20, then began to fall in January '21 as vaccines became available. Then in July '21, with vaccination slowing, natural immunity from previous infection expiring (it may last as little as three months), and the highly contagious delta variant spreading, cases again began to climb.



Note that these number are from the summer (which in the past has been less severe than winter) and before students return. As such, we can expect things to get worse (though I certainly hope I am wrong about that).

MASKS

Per TTU policy, face masks are not required to attend class. However, I am strongly encouraging you to wear a mask. The evidence strongly indicates that wearing face masks reduces the spread of Covid and, as such, saves lives. As of the writing of this syllabus the CDC recommends that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks during indoor gatherings.

My three-year old daughter cannot be vaccinated against Covid, my father is a cancer survivor with a pacemaker, and my mother is a heart-attack survivor with COPD. Attending class in person without a mask, regardless of your vaccination status,

puts their lives in danger. So I am asking you, one human being to another, to please submit to the minor inconvenience of wearing a mask to help protect them, yourselves, your classmates, and everyone we come in contact with during these dangerous times.

WHEN WILL CLASS GO FULLY ONLINE?

Class will be fully online if any of the following conditions are true:

- If anyone in the class (myself or a student) tests positive for Covid or has contact with someone who tests positive for Covid, the class will go fully online for whatever the current CDC recommended quarantine time frame is.
- If college, city, state, or federal regulations stipulate that the class be online only, then we will be online only as mandated.

COURSE ATTENDANCE

You are never required to attend class physically. I will take in class attendance only to have a reference point for starting quarantine in case someone in the class tests positive for Covid-19. All lectures will be available online, and all coursework will be completed via Blackboard.

The CDC has a list of medical conditions that make a person higher risk for severe illness from Covid-19. If you have any of the conditions on this list, you are strongly advised (for your own safety) not to attend the class in person. The CDC list of underlying medical conditions can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

You will never need to be in class to complete a test or other assignment. You will always be able to complete all work via Blackboard. I will never give any assignment that requires you to be physically present in the room.

If you are unable to access the class for an extended period of time due to personal illness or Covid-19 related quarantine, we can make arrangements for you to make up any missed work.

FOOD AND DRINKS

Because neither food nor drinks can be consumed while wearing a face-covering, they will be prohibited in the classroom. This goes for me as well, and believe me I will be missing my coffee.

ATTENDING WHILE SICK

If you or someone with whom you have close contact (e.g. family member, coworker, roommate) are experiencing ANY symptom associated with Covid-19, please do not come to class. If you are sneezing or coughing excessively in class, you will be asked to leave. As noted above, you are never required to be in class physically, and I will never assign points based on attendance in class. Per the CDC, any of the following may be symptoms of Covid-19:

Fever or chills	Cough	Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	Fatigue	Muscle or body aches	Headache
New loss of taste or smell	Sore throat	Congestion or runny nose	Nausea or vomiting	Diarrhea	

If you or someone you have close contact with are experiencing any of the above symptoms, you are strongly advised to get tested for Covid-19. Tests are now widely available at most pharmacies and urgent cares and should be available free of charge. At home testing kits can now also be purchased for self-administration.

Please do not return to class until you or the person you had contact with have received a negative result on your Covid-19 test (meaning you don't have the disease).

If you test positive for Covid-19, please follow the guidance of your healthcare provider regarding when it is safe to return to class.

If someone you have close contact with tests positive for Covid-19, you will need to quarantine. The CDC has more information on how and when to quarantine at the following website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

AVAILABILITY OF LECTURE MATERIAL OUTSIDE OF CLASS

All lectures (technology permitting) will be live streamed. You will have the option to watch and participate from home. Thus, you are never required to be in class. I will also make recordings of all lectures available after class, so you may watch them at a later time if you prefer.

CONTINGENCY IN CASE OF INSTRUCTOR ABSENCE

If at any time I am unable to physically attend class (either due to Covid, Covid exposure, or Covid symptoms), I will make every effort to continue broadcasting lectures at our regularly scheduled class time. I have the necessary hardware and software at home to broadcast and record lectures. If for any reason I am unable to continue live streaming lectures, I or another faculty member will contact you with instructions on how the class will proceed.

CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR

INSTRUCOR BIO

Dr. Will Crescioni (that's me) is an adjunct professor (i.e. academic mercenary) of psychology at Texas Tech. I teach full time at South Plains College, where I am a full professor and have taught for about seven years. I received my B.S. in psychology and philosophy at LSU in 2007 and my Ph.D. in social psychology at Florida State in 2012.

If for some reason you want more information about me, you can visit my professional website [here](#) or my "Meet Dr. Crescioni" professional/personal chimera of a website [here](#).

OFFICE LOCATION

Because I am not a full-time faculty member at Texas Tech I do not have permanent office space. If you would like to meet just shoot me an email and we can work out a time that works for both of us. The easiest way to "meet" would be to use the course Collaborate link, but we can also find a time and place to meet face-to-face if you prefer. When meeting face-to-face I require that we both wear masks and practice social distancing.

EMAIL

Many simple matters can be handled over email. My email address is wcrescioni@southplainscollege.edu. Please be sure to read and adhere to the email rules listed below.

I do not check emails on evenings or weekends. If you send me an email between Monday morning and Friday at noon, I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours. Emails sent after noon on Friday will not receive a response until Monday.

THE COURSE AT A GLANCE

GRADING

- 500 total points
- Four unit tests and one final exam worth 100 points each
 - The lowest of these five tests will be dropped
- One book report worth 100 points
- Grade based on total points earned by the end of the semester
- No individual extra credits assignments
- No artificial grade boosts

BOOK REPORT

- Worth 100 points
- The book report rough draft is due October 21st by 11:59 PM.
- The book report final draft is due November 17th by 11:59 PM
- Based on book from the provided list
- Graded for spelling, grammar, and punctuation; following directions; and overall paper quality Late papers lose 25 points per day

ASSIGNMENTS

EXAMS

(4 @ 100 points each)

There will be four unit exams and one comprehensive final exam in this course. Each exam is worth 100 points. I will drop your lowest exam grade (which can be your final exam) when computing your final grade. Thus, only your four highest exam grade will count toward your final grade.

BOOK REPORT

(1 @ 100 points)

During the course of the semester, you will choose and read one popular-press psychology book from the list provided. After reading this book, you will write a 3 - 5 page, double-spaced report according the directions provided on Blackboard. Detailed instructions and an assignment rubric are available on Blackboard.

Choose one of the following books

- *Willpower*, by Roy Baumeister and John Tierney
- *Stumbling on Happiness*, by Daniel Gilbert
- *Blink*, by Malcom Gladwell

- *Whistling Vivaldi*, by Claude Steele
- *The Righteous Mind*, by Jonathan Haidt
- *The Better Angels of our Nature*, by Steven Pinker
- *Against Empathy*, by Paul Bloom
- *The Marshmallow Test*, by Walter Mischel
- *Blindspot*, by Mazarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald
- *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, by Daniel Kahneman
- *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*, by Beverly Daniel Tatum

Late book reports will lose 25 points per day.

PLAGIARISM

All written work in this course must be submitted in your own words. All written assignments will be submitted via Turn It In, a software program that will compare your writing to thousands of websites and a previously submitted assignments. Any of the following will be considered plagiarism:

- Directly copying any portion of your paper from a website or other printed source without proper citation.
- Directly copying more than 10% of your paper from external sources, even with proper citation.
- Submitting an assignment which you have previously submitted to a different course, either here or at any other institution.
- Copying a significant portion of your paper from another source with only minor or cosmetic alterations.
- Submitting an assignment that directly copies or significantly resembles the work of another student.

Should you commit any of these acts of plagiarism, you will receive a zero on your assignment and the instructor reserves the right to pursue any disciplinary action deemed necessary and appropriate by himself and South Plains College.

GRADING

Your grade in this class will be based entirely on Tests and your Book Report. Extra credit may be offered to the entire class at the instructor's discretion, but individual extra credit and artificial grade boosts (e.g. "I just need *one more point* to get an A! Please! Pretty please!") will **NEVER** be offered.

I strongly encourage you to monitor your grade throughout the semester and to contact me as soon as you have any concerns. If you get in touch with me early, we can work together to help overcome the obstacles you may be facing; if you wait until the end of the semester it may be too late. Remember, I am here to help – you just need to ask!

Grading Breakdown

Grading Breakdown	
Tests	400 points

Book Report	100 points
Total	500 points

BLACKBOARD TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Support for issues relating to Blackboard can be obtained via the “Blackboard Support” link in the course Blackboard page, by visiting https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student, or by calling (800) 424-9299. Issues for which you should use this route include, but are not limited to:

- Inability to access Blackboard page (e.g. page will not load)
- Inability to access specific content within the Blackboard page (e.g. assignments, lecture videos)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Topic
Unit 1: Introduction to Social Psychology		
24-Aug	Tue	Class Introduction
26-Aug	Thu	An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology
31-Aug	Tue	Research Methods in Social Psychology
2-Sep	Thu	Statistical Thinking
7-Sep	Tue	No Class - Labor Day
9-Sep	Thu	Evolutionary Theories in Psychology
14-Sep	Tue	Unit 1 Spillover Test 1 goes live @ 3:20 PM; due by 3:20 PM on Friday, 9/17
Unit 2: The Person and the Situation		
16-Sep	Thu	Self and Identity
21-Sep	Tue	Theory of Mind
23-Sep	Thu	Social Cognition and Attitudes
28-Sep	Tue	Persuasion: So Easily Fooled
30-Sep	Thu	The Psychology of Groups
5-Oct	Tue	Social Comparison
7-Oct	Thu	Attraction and Beauty
12-Oct	Tue	Unit 2 Spillover Test 2 goes live @ 3:20 PM; due by 3:20 PM on Friday, 10/15
Unit 3: The Dark Side		
14-Oct	Thu	Aggression and Violence
19-Oct	Tue	Conformity and Obedience part 1 Book Report Rough Draft Due @ 11:59 PM
21-Oct	Thu	Conformity and Obedience part 2
26-Oct	Tue	Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping part 1
28-Oct	Thu	Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping part 2
2-Nov	Tue	The Psychology of Evil
4-Nov	Thu	Unit 3 Spillover Test 3 goes live @ 3:20 PM; due by 3:20 PM on Sunday, 11/7
Unit 4: The Better Angels of Our Nature		

9-Nov	Tue	Positive Psychology
11-Nov	Thu	Helping and Prosocial Behavior part 1
		Helping and Prosocial Behavior part 2
16-Nov	Tue	Book Report Final Draft Due @ 11:59 PM
18-Nov	Thu	Self-Regulation and Conscientiousness part 1
23-Nov	Tue	Self-Regulation and Conscientiousness part 2
25-Nov	Thu	No Class - Thanksgiving
		Moral Psychology
30-Nov	Tue	Test 4 goes live @ 3:20 PM; due by 3:20 PM on Friday, 12/3

Note: Course schedule is tentative and subject to change.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one's own work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Academic integrity is a personal choice to abide by the standards of intellectual honesty and responsibility. Because education is a shared effort to achieve learning through the exchange of ideas, students, faculty, and staff have the collective responsibility to build mutual trust and respect. Ethical behavior and independent thought are essential for the highest level of academic achievement, which then must be measured. Academic achievement includes scholarship, teaching and learning, all of which are shared endeavors. Grades are a device used to quantify the successful accumulation of knowledge through learning. Adhering to the standards of academic integrity ensures that grades are earned honestly and gives added value to the entire educational process. Academic integrity is the foundation upon which students, faculty, and staff build their educational and professional careers. For a more complete discussion of academic integrity go to:

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentconduct/academicinteg.php>

As stated in the Texas Tech University Statement of Academic Integrity, "Texas Tech promotes an ethical standard that does not condone academic misconduct and strives to instill values that uphold academic integrity. . . . Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, and any other activity that a student may participate in that prevents an honest representation of his or her academic performance. . . . Cheating and plagiarism are the most common forms of academic misconduct and are defined, in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct from the Student Affairs Handbook (Part IX, Section B.19)." It is your responsibility as a student to be familiar with Texas Tech's Code of Student Conduct, and policies on academic integrity and academic misconduct. These materials can be found in the Student Affairs Handbook, Part IX, and at the following web site:

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/dos/handbook/>

Evidence of academic misconduct will result in a grade of 0 for that assignment for any student(s) involved. In addition, students who have violated the rules of academic integrity will be reported to the department of Student Judicial Services (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/>)

HOLY DAYS

A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day—without penalty—within a reasonable time after the absence.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note: instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please contact Student Disability Services in West Hall or call 806-742-2405.

TTU RESOURCES FOR DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

Texas Tech University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from gender and/or sex discrimination of any kind. Sexual assault, discrimination, harassment, and other [Title IX violations](#) are not tolerated by the University. Report any incidents to the *Office for Student Rights & Resolution*, (806)-742-SAFE (7233) or file a report online at titleix.ttu.edu/students. Faculty and staff members at TTU are committed to connecting you to resources on campus. Some of these available resources are: **TTU Student Counseling Center**, 806-742-3674, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/scc/> (*Provides confidential support on campus.*) **TTU Student Counseling Center 24-hour Helpline**, 806-742-5555, (*Assists students who are experiencing a mental health or interpersonal violence crisis. If you call the helpline, you will speak with a mental health counselor.*) **Voice of Hope Lubbock Rape Crisis Center**, 806-763-7273, voiceofhopelubbock.org (*24-hour hotline that provides support for survivors of sexual violence.*) **The Risk, Intervention, Safety and Education (RISE) Office**, 806-742-2110, rise.ttu.edu (*Provides a range of resources and support options focused on prevention education and student wellness.*) **Texas Tech Police Department**, 806-742-3931, <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttppd/> (*To report criminal activity that occurs on or near campus.*)