

Sociology 150
Social Psychology

John Kaiser, Ph.D.
Fall 2022
UC Berkeley
12:10pm-1:00pm M, W, F
160 Anthro/Art Building

This course introduces the major approaches, issues, and debates within social psychology. It begins by exploring the foundational concepts in the field, emphasizing the nature of self in society. We use major paradigms--symbolic interactionism, phenomenology, ethnomethodology, critical-structural, attachment theory, and emotion management-- to study identity, meaning making, cognition, emotion, interaction, behavior, and the social construction of reality. We also explore themes in a number of substantive areas, including automaticity and implicit bias, health and illness, humor and laughter, anger, shame attraction and flirting, medication use, care giving, social media/trolling, obedience and conformity, power and status differentiation, stigma, empathy, collective effervescence, solidarity and division, religion. We also apply core concepts to various social inequalities.

A central goal is understanding the connection between individuals and society, especially how people influence each other through situated processes. How do people construct “reality” in social interactions? How do situations shape behavior, interactions, cognition, feelings, and sense of self? How do individuals create situations? How do culture, institutions, and structures affect these processes?

Students should come away from this course with four core competencies: 1) the ability to read social psychology articles; 2) the ability to think critically about social psychological theories and methods; 3) a general understanding of key findings and concepts in the major substantive areas; and 4) ability to apply—and enjoy— social psychology in everyday life. The first three competencies mainly require *explicit* knowledge gained through lectures and readings while the fourth requires the *tacit* knowledge gained through hands-on field studies.

Note: this syllabus may change at the discretion of the instructor. Always refer to the syllabus on bCourses for current course information.

Coursework and Grading

Participation.....	10%
Field Studies.....	60%
Midterm Exam.....	15%
Final Exam.....	15%

Attendance & Participation: Class meetings will consist of in-person lecture. Lecture slides will be posted before class, when possible. I invite you to ask questions that are relevant to the whole class, but please do not ask personal questions during class. If you have a personal question or need extra help with the material or an assignment, please email me. Participation grades will be based on your contribution to the written discussions on bCourses. This will begin the first day of class and end Sunday of the last week of class. A total of 10 relevant posts of at least 50 words each are required for full credit. No more than 2 posts per week will be counted.

Field Studies: There will be six different field study assignments. Each will require a write-up of 2-3 pages. They are due by 11:59pm on the dates indicated on the schedule below (due dates are also on bCourses/assignments). Detailed instructions for each field study will be available on bCourses/assignments at the appropriate time. All assignments will be submitted through bCourses.

Late policy: The due date is the last possible time that you may submit an assignment without penalty, so you should turn it in before then. You may turn assignments in past the deadline (up to a point), but they will be subject to a late penalty: 10% of the assignment's total possible points will be deducted every 24 hours it is past the due date (e.g. a score of 10 becomes a 9 if submitted within 24 hours after the deadline), with a maximum penalty equivalent to two letter grades (e.g. an A becomes a C). If you don't submit an assignment within two weeks after the deadline, it may not be accepted. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to ask if an assignment that is more than two weeks late can still be turned in.

Nothing short of an emergency (verified with adequate documentation) or DSP accommodations (verified with official DSP letter), will exempt anyone from this policy, so please submit your assignment well before the due date/time to avoid potential problems. *Thinking about asking for an extension on any of the assignments?* Although you may have a legitimate reason for making such a request, not all of your classmates—perhaps even some with more difficult situations—necessarily feel entitled or comfortable to ask. The same goes for exams. If circumstances beyond your control might keep you from passing the class, please let me know.

If you cannot submit your assignment for any reason on bCourses, you must email it to the instructor before the deadline to avoid the late penalty. Note that technical problems with internet, bCourses, etc., do not constitute grounds for exception to this policy. Last minute problems occurring the day before something is due are not appropriate grounds for exception from the policy, because you have the option of turning it in before then. Assignments will not be graded until they appear on bCourses.

Midterm and Final Exams: This course has a midterm and a final exam. The midterm will begin. The University has set the date/time of the final exam: Friday, December 16 at 11:30am. At the minimum, you should know the main concepts and theories presented in our lectures. We will have a review session for each exam. The final exam will emphasize the second half.

Anyone who misses an exam for any reason may not be able to make it up. A make-up exam, if available, may be different--and possibly more difficult--than the original exam.¹

Reading: Course readings will be available on bCourses/files. The readings are listed per week in the schedule below, and they appear in the order that they should be read. If you can't read all of them by Monday, try to at least read the first one before the week starts, then the next one by Wednesday, finishing all by Friday's class. Always read analytically and take notes as you go.

Guidelines and Resources

Formatting guidelines:

header with your name, due date, and assignment (single space the header) on the first page only (top left corner)
creative title, in bold and centered at the top of the first page between your header and the start of your report (no title page);
1" margins;
indented paragraphs (no extra spaces between paragraphs);
doubled-spacing;
12-point Times New Roman font;
page number (bottom, centered)

Disability Accommodations: If you need disability-related accommodations in this class, be sure that the DSP has sent the instructor your letter. If your accommodations include extensions on assignments and you wish to make use of your accommodation for a particular assignment, you need to email the instructor before the deadline for that assignment. Since some of our assignments are due on Sunday you will automatically receive a 24 hour extension at the minimum (you still need to email me). When I come back to work, I will reply to your request. Extensions of more than three days may require input from your DSP advisor.

Once your DSP deadline is determined, it will be subject to the course policy for submitting assignments: no additional extensions will be allowed and if you submit your assignment after your DSP deadline it will be subject to the course policy for late assignments. When you turn in your paper, indicate your DSP deadline in the comments section (e.g. DSP deadline: 4/20). Extensions on exams will be provided per each student's accommodations as stated in their DSP letter. Note that accommodations are not granted retroactively. Non-DSP students who need academic accommodations should contact the Disability Students Program, 260 Cesar Chavez Center.

Student Learning Center (SLC): The SLC provides peer writing tutors. You are encouraged to make use of their services. You do not need an appointment. Find them in the Chavez Center (<http://slc.berkeley.edu>).

¹ Anyone requesting to take an exam at a different time must provide acceptable documentation of the circumstances that necessitate such an exception to course policy. A late penalty may apply. No exams will be given *before* the set time.

NOTE: Plagiarism, broadly put, is the presentation of another's words and/or ideas as one's own. It is grounds not only for automatic failure, but also for administrative disciplinary action. This also applies for other forms of academic dishonesty (a.k.a. cheating). Please see the Berkeley Campus Code of Student Conduct, Section III B, Academic Violations, and Section IV, Disciplinary Procedures. We use TurnItIn to screen for plagiarism.

Wellness Resources: In the event that you need mental health support, or are concerned about a friend, UC Berkeley offers many services, such as free short-term counseling at University Health Services. An excellent campus website having links to many resources is: <http://recalibrate.berkeley.edu/> Another campus website addressing mental health services in specific reference to this time of the coronavirus pandemic: <https://uhs.berkeley.edu/coronavirus/student-mental-health>

Remember that seeking help is a good and courageous thing to do — both for yourself and for those who care about you. Berkeley offers several types of counseling services. You can call to talk to someone for help or to make an appointment: 642-9494. There is also on-campus drop-in counseling that does not require an appointment: <https://uhs.berkeley.edu/counseling/lets-talk>. You can also drop in at the Tang center if you need immediate and urgent support (first 5 sessions are free). Those hours are Monday-Friday 10am-5pm.

Office Hours and Email: My office hours are Wednesdays 3pm-5pm. Sign up [here](#). Please email if you would like to meet but cannot make that time. [Here](#) is the link for Zoom office hours.

My email address is j_kaiser@berkeley.edu. Please allow at least 24 hours for a reply. I usually do not check email on the weekends and holidays. Please do not use bCourses to communicate with me. Just email me directly.

Our course has three Readers who will grade assignments:

Alma Rodriguez: alma_rodriguez90@berkeley.edu
Mellony Palma: mellony.p@berkeley.edu
Lily Janey: lily07207797@berkeley.edu

If you have a question about your grade on an assignment, please email the Reader who graded it.

Course Schedule

WEEK ONE **August 24 and 26**

Introduction to the Course and Symbolic Interactionism

- Sandstrom, et al. *Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality*. Ch. 1.

WEEK TWO

August 29, 31, and September 2

Symbolic Interaction and Impression Management

- Mead. "The Self, the I, and the Me."
- O'Brien. "Meaning Is Negotiated through Interaction."
- Goffman. "Presentation of Self in Everyday Life. Albas and Albas. "Aces and Bombers."
- Ekman. "Smiles when Lying."

WEEK THREE

September 5 (no class), 7 and 9

Identity Work and Stigma

- Snow and Anderson. "Identity Work among the Homeless."
- Vinitzky-Seroussi and Zussman. "High School Reunions."
- Goffman. *Stigma*, Ch. 1.
- Rosenhan. "Being Sane in Insane Places."

Field Study 1 due Sunday, September 11

WEEK FOUR

September 12, 14, and 16

Stigma and Phenomenology

- Granberg. "Stigma Exits after Weight Loss."
- Phillips et al. "Courtesy Stigma in Medical Care of Sex Workers."
- Thoits. "Resisting the Stigma of Mental Illness."
- Maravasti. "Being Middle Eastern: Identity Negotiation in the Context of the 'War on Terror'."
- Du Bois. "Double Consciousness and the Veil."
- Schutz. "The Stranger."

Field Study 2 due Sunday, September 25

WEEK FIVE

September 19, 21, and 23

Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology

- Pollner. "Mundane Reason."

- Becker. "Becoming a Marihuana User."
- Garfinkle. "A Conception of and Experiments with Trust as a Condition of Concerted Stable Actions."
- Tannen. "The Pragmatics of Cross-Cultural Communication."

WEEK SIX
September 26, 28, and 30

Automaticity and Rationalizing Inequality

- Bargh, Chen, and Burrows. "Automaticity of Social Behavior."
- Rivers, et al. "On the Roles of Stereotype Activation and Application in Diminishing Implicit Bias."
- Wilson. "The Adaptive Unconscious."
- Bonilla-Silva. "The Central Frames of Color-Blind Racism."

Field Study 3 due Sunday, October 2

WEEK SEVEN
October 3, 5, and 7

Obedience, Conformity, and Power

- McLeod. "The Milgram Shock Experiment."
<https://www.simplypsychology.org/milgram.html>
- Burger. "Replicating Milgram: Would People still Obey Today?"
- Dolinsky et al. "Would You Deliver an Electric Shock?"
- Asch. "Effect of Group Pressure upon the Modification and Distortion of Judgments."

WEEK EIGHT
October 10, 12, and 14

Power and Status

- Moon. *God, Sex, and Politics*. "Introduction."
- O'Brian. "Wrestling the Angel of Contradiction: Queer Christian Identities."
- Fisk. "Comparing Ourselves to Others."

Review on Wednesday

Midterm on Friday

WEEK NINE
October 17, 19, and 21

Emotion Management Theory (EMT)

- Hochschild. "Emotion Work."
- Cahill and Eggleston. "Managing Emotions in Public."
- Smith and Kleinman. "Managing Emotions in Medical School."
- Jooyoung Lee. "Escaping Embarrassment."

WEEK TEN **October 24, 26, and 28**

Doing and Being Done by Emotion

- Francis. "Humor as Emotion Management."
- Billig. "Humor and Embarrassment."
- Katz. "Families and Funny Mirrors."
- Katz. "Pissed off in L.A."
- Tavory. "The Structure of Flirtation."
- Goodboy and Brann. "Flirtation Rejection Strategies."

Field Study 4 due Sunday, October 30

WEEK ELEVEN **October 31, November 2, and 4**

Signal Theory of Emotion and Attachment Theory

- Scheff. "Shame in Self and Society."
- Gaskins. "The Puzzle of Attachment: Unscrambling Maturation and Cultural Contributions to the Development of Early Childhood Bonds."
- Samaran. "The Opposite of Rape Culture is Nurture Culture."

WEEK TWELVE **November 7, 9, and 11 (no class)**

Empathy/Disempathy and Altruism

- Darley and Batson. "From Jerusalem to Jericho."
- Bruneau et al. "Parochial Empathy Predicts Reduced Altruism and Endorsement of Passive Harm."
- Quinn. "Masculinity and Sexual Harassment."
- Wang and Tod. "Evaluations of Empathizers Depend on the Target of Empathy."

Field Study 5 due Sunday, November 13

WEEK THIRTEEN
November 14, 16, and 18

Ability/disability

- Berry. "Minimizing Confusion and Disorientation."
- Timmermans. "Social Death as Self-fulfilling Prophecy."
- Mingus. "You Are Not Entitled to Our Deaths: COVID, Abled Supremacy and Interdependence." <https://bit.ly/3Kewv97> -and- "Access Intimacy, Interdependence, and Disability Justice" <https://bit.ly/34e6CDN> -and- "You Are Not Entitled to Our Deaths: COVID, Abled Supremacy and Interdependence" <https://bit.ly/3Kewv97>
- Heasman and Gillespie. "Neurodivergent Intersubjectivity."

WEEK FOURTEEN
November 21, 23 (no class), and 25 (no class)

Collective Effervescence and Solidarity

- Boyns and Luery. "Negative Emotional Energy."

WEEK FIFTEEN
November 28, 29, and December 2

Collective Effervescence and Solidarity (cont.)

- Ehrenreich. "An Epidemic of Melancholy."
- Draper. "Effervescence and Solidarity in Religious Organizations."
- Forbes. "Seeking Sanity."

Review on Friday

Field Study 6 due Sunday, December 4

Attention: Final Exam: Friday, December 16 11:30am