

Sociology 150  
**Social Psychology**

John Kaiser, Ph.D.  
Fall 2023  
UC Berkeley  
12:00pm-1:00pm M, W, F  
50 Birge

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. These require *explicit* knowledge gained through lectures and readings and *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.....	50%
Midterm Exam.....	20%
Final Exam.....	20%

*Attendance & Participation:* Class meetings will consist of in-person lecture. Attendance at every lecture is expected. 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 on the Sunday of the last week of class. A total of 10 relevant posts of at least 100 words each are required for full credit. No more than two posts per week will be counted, so plan accordingly. It is the student's responsibility to check that your posts have posted correctly; no make-up credit for any posts that didn't post successfully will be possible. This is participation with a rolling deadline, not an "assignment," so it is not subject to extensions for any reason, including technical and medical reasons.

*Field Studies:* There will be five different field study assignments. Each will require a write-up of 2-3 pages, plus your fieldnotes. They are due by 11:59pm on the dates indicated on the schedule below (due dates are also on bCourses/assignments). These should be analytical, thoughtful, well-organized and clearly written (first-person, academic prose). Detailed instructions for each field study will be available on bCourses/assignments at the appropriate time. All assignments will be submitted through bCourses. If you have a question about your grade on an assignment, email the Reader who graded it.

*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 of 30%. Please submit your assignment well before the due date/time to avoid potential problems.

*One-time extension:* If you have a legitimate need for a short, one-time-per-semester extension of three days maximum, email me before the deadline or soon after. I must receive the email 24 hours before the original due date (or up to 24 hours after, if your circumstances necessitate that). The length of the extension begins from the original due date of the assignment (not when you requested it). If an extension occurs, indicate your extended due date in the bCourses comments box when you turn your document in. The Reader will apply the late penalty if you do not include that information.

Technical problems with internet, bCourses, etc., do not constitute grounds for exception to this policy. Last minute problems occurring the day before a due date or failure upload do not constitute grounds for exception from the policy. If you cannot submit your assignment for some reason on bCourses, you must email it to me before the deadline to avoid the late penalty, and then upload it to bCourses ASAP (assignments will not be graded until they appear on bCourses). It is the student's responsibility to check that their document loaded correctly to bCourses. Once the deadline has passed, assignments may not be resubmitted.

If you would like information regarding a grade and/or feedback on an assignment, you should email the Reader within two weeks of when the assignment was graded. Although "revise and resubmit" is not an option, I encourage you to integrate the feedback you receive into the following assignments.

*Note: to avoid an awkward situation (i.e. giving off the impression that you're asking for favoritism), please do not ask for an exception to this policy.*

***Midterm and Final Exams:*** This course has a midterm and a final exam. The midterm will begin at **12:10pm on Friday, October 13th**. The University has set the date/time of the final exam: Friday, December 15th at 11:30am. We will have a review session for each exam. Anyone who misses an exam for any reason may not be able to make it up.<sup>1</sup>

***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:**

- a single-spaced header with your name, due date, and assignment 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, email the instructor 24 hours before the deadline (or up to 24 hours after the deadline in one-time special circumstances).

Note: 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, though). When I come back to work, I

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<sup>1</sup> Make-up exams are not like extensions on assignments, and may not be possible except for the most extreme circumstances, such as hospitalization. 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 will apply to any exam taken after the scheduled time/date, no matter the circumstances. No exams will be given *before* the set time.

will reply to your request. Extensions of more than four days may require that your DSP advisor confirm your need for a long extension.

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>).

***Office Hours and Email:*** My office hours are Fridays 4:00pm-6:00pm. If you cannot make that time, let me know; we might find a time that works for both of our schedules. Sign up [here](#). My email address is [j\\_kaiser@berkeley.edu](mailto:j_kaiser@berkeley.edu). Please allow at least 24 hours for a reply. I usually do not check email after hours, on weekends, and on holidays. Please do not use bCourses to communicate with me. Just email me directly.

Our course has three Readers who will help grade assignments:

- Alma Rodriguez: [alma\\_rodriguez90@berkeley.edu](mailto:alma_rodriguez90@berkeley.edu)
- Mellony Palma: [mellony.p@berkeley.edu](mailto:mellony.p@berkeley.edu)

If you have a question about your grade on an assignment, email the person who graded it. This should be done within two weeks of receiving your grade.

***Academic Dishonesty:*** Plagiarism, broadly put, is the presentation of another's words, answers, and/or ideas as one's own.<sup>2</sup> This includes the use of artificial intelligence. If you are suspected of academic dishonesty, you will be required to with me to account for the assignment/exam in question. It is grounds not only for automatic failure, but also for administrative disciplinary action at the University level. 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.

## Course Schedule

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**WEEK ONE**  
**August 23 and 25**

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<sup>2</sup> "another's" includes both human and non-human generative sources.

## **Introduction to the Course and Symbolic Interactionism (SI)**

- The course syllabus
  - Sandstrom, et al. *Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality*. Ch. 1.
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### **WEEK TWO**

August 28, 30 and September 1

## **SI and Impression Management (IM)**

- Mead. "The Self, the I, and the Me."
  - Du Bois. "Double Consciousness and the Veil."
  - Anzaldua. "La Conciencia de la Mestiza."
  - O'Brien. "Meaning Is Negotiated through Interaction."
  - Goffman. "Presentation of Self in Everyday Life."
  - Ekman. "Smiles when Lying."
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### **WEEK THREE**

September 4 (no class), 6, and 8

## **IM, Identity Work, and Stigma**

- Albas and Albas. "Aces and Bombers."
  - Tavory. "The Structure of Flirtation."
  - Snow and Anderson. "Identity Work among the Homeless."
  - Vinitzky-Seroussi and Zussman. "High School Reunions."
  - Goffman. *Stigma*, Ch. 1.
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### **WEEK FOUR**

September 11, 13, and 15

## **Stigma and Phenomenology**

- Rosenhan. "Being Sane in Insane Places."
- 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'."
- Schutz. "The Stranger."

Field Study 1 due Sunday

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**WEEK FIVE**  
**September 18, 20, 22**

**Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology**

- Pollner. "Mundane Reason."
- Heasman and Gillespie. "Neurodivergent Intersubjectivity."
- Becker. "Becoming a Marijuana User."
- Garfinkle. "A Conception of and Experiments with Trust as a Condition of Concerted Stable Actions."
- Tannen. "The Pragmatics of Cross-Cultural Communication."

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**WEEK SIX**  
**September 25, 27, and 29**

**Automaticity and Rationalizing Racism**

- Bargh, Chen, and Burrows. "Automaticity of Social Behavior."
- Pashak, et al. "Empathy diminishes prejudice: active perspective-taking, regardless of target and mortality salience, decreases implicit racial bias."
- Wilson. "The Adaptive Unconscious."
- Bonilla-Silva. "The Central Frames of Color-Blind Racism."

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**WEEK SEVEN**  
**October 2, 4, and 6**

**Obedience, Conformity, and Status**

- 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?"
- Gampa and Sawyer. "Transforming neoliberal social psychology into an emancipatory science: a call to abolish the police."
- Asch. "Effect of Group Pressure upon the Modification and Distortion of Judgments."
- Fisk. "Comparing Ourselves to Others."
- Dixon et al. "It's not just 'us' versus 'them:'

Field Study 2 due Sunday

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**WEEK EIGHT**  
**October 9, 11, and 13**

**Discourse/power**

- Piff, et al. "Higher Social Status Predicts Increased Unethical Behavior."
- Moon. *God, Sex, and Politics*. "Introduction."
- O'Brien. "Wrestling the Angel of Contradiction: Queer Christian Identities."

Review on Wednesday

Midterm on Friday

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**WEEK NINE**  
**October 16, 18, and 20**

**Emotion Management Theory (EMT)**

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

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**WEEK TEN**  
**October 23, 25, and 27**

**Doing and Being Done by Emotion**

- Francis. "Humor as Emotion Management."
- Billig. "Humor and Embarrassment."
- Katz. "Pissed off in L.A."
- Katz. "Families and Funny Mirrors."
- Collins. "Emotional Energy and Transient Emotions."

Field Study 3 due Sunday

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**WEEK ELEVEN**  
**October 30, November 1, and 3**

**Empathy/Disempathy**

- Darley and Batson. "From Jerusalem to Jericho."
- Bruneau et al. "Parochial Empathy Predicts Reduced Altruism and Endorsement of Passive Harm."

- Tai. "Biting the Hand That Feeds: A Status-based Model of When and Why Receiving Help Motivates Social Undermining."
- Wang and Tod. "Evaluations of Empathizers Depend on the Target of Empathy."
- Quinn. "Masculinity and Sexual Harassment."

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**WEEK TWELVE**  
**November 6, 8, and 10 (no class)**

**Signal Theory of Emotion and Attachment Theory**

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

Field study 4 due Sunday

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**WEEK THIRTEEN**  
**November 13, 15, and 17**

**Ability/disability, Carework, and Solidarity**

- Mingus. "Access Intimacy, Interdependence, and Disability Justice"  
<https://bit.ly/34e6CDN>
- Rivas. "Invisible Labor: Caring for the Independent Person."
- Romero. "Being the Maid's Daughter."
- Enriquez. "Beyond Status: Psychosocial Barriers to Undocumented Students' Use of Mental Health Services."
- Apesoa-Varano and Berry. "Medication Takeovers."

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**WEEK FOURTEEN**  
**November 20, 22 (no class), and 24 (no class)**

**Solidarity and Collective Effervescence**

- Burson and Godfrey. "Intraminority Solidarity: the Role of Critical Consciousness."
- Knab. "Emotions for Solidarity: the Relations of Moral Outrage and Sympathy with Hierarchy-challenging and Prosocial Hierarchy-maintaining Action Intentions in Support of Refugees."
- Keltner. "Collective Effervescence."
- Draper. "Effervescence and Solidarity in Religious Organizations."



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**WEEK FIFTEEN**  
**November 27, 29, and December 1**

**Collective Effervescence (cont.) and Spiritual Experience**

- Collins. "The Mutual Focus/Emotion Entrainment Model."
- Ehrenreich. "An Epidemic of Melancholy."
- Thich Nhat Hanh. "Being Peace."
- Bourgeault. "Kenosis: the path of self-emptying love."
- Forbes. "Seeking Sanity."
- Amiot and Sukhanova. "Social Identification with Animals."

Field Study 5 due by 11:59pm, Sunday, December 10th.

Final Exam: Friday, December 15th at 11:30am