

# PSY 250 Social Psychology

3 Credits, CRN: 62052

Online

SUMMER SESSION I, 23 MAY – 1 JULY

**Instructor:** Lisamarie Bensman, Ph.D.

**Email:** [bensman@hawaii.edu](mailto:bensman@hawaii.edu)

**Office Hours:** By email and appointment via Google. Email is an excellent way to get a hold of me; email me anytime. I will respond within 24 hours, except on Saturdays.

**Effective Date:** Summer 2022

## WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career, and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

## OUR COURSE

We exist within a social world. Rarely does a day go by that we fail to interact with at least one other person, and never, according to social psychologists, does a day go by that our thoughts and actions fail to be influenced by others. Social psychology is a discipline that uses scientific methods to understand and explain how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of other human beings. In this course, we will examine critically a wide range of social topics, including group behavior, nonverbal behavior, conformity, interpersonal relationships, aggression, and prejudice, looking not only at social influences but also social perception and social interaction. Through lecture, discussion, and many in-class activities and exercises, we will investigate a number of questions central to social psychology, including: How does our thinking – both conscious and unconscious – drive our behavior?; What leads people sometimes to hurt and sometimes to help one another?; What kindles social conflict?; and How can we transform closed fists into helping hands?

I have been primarily interested in how and why ordinary people do unusual things, things that seem alien to their natures. Why do good people sometimes act evil? Why do smart people sometimes do dumb or irrational things?

Philip Zimbardo

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION

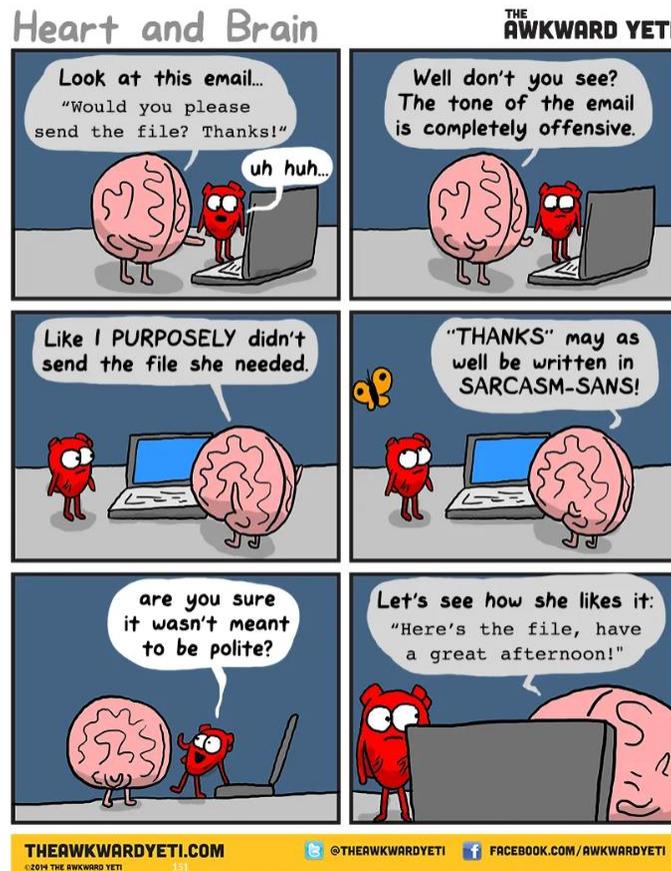
This course will provide students with an understanding of the relationship of social roles on human behaviors and how interpersonal relationships, attribution theories, attitudes, group behaviors, and stereotypes affect human behaviors. (3 hours lecture)

This is an asynchronous distance learning class conducted via the internet using Lulima, the University of Hawai'i's web-based course management system. A web-based course such as this one requires that you have computer literacy skills. **Our course also requires an electronic device, such as a laptop or desktop, that can open Microsoft Office (Word and PowerPoint).** **The course cannot be completed using a smart phone or tablet** (some, but not all of our materials may open on these devices).

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Recognize the study of psychology as a science.
2. Integrate the basic perspectives, concepts, principles, and general information comprising the field of social psychology.
3. Utilize the various social psychology models and concepts in explaining human behavior.



## WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE HALLMARKS

**1. This course uses writing to promote the learning of course materials.**

We will use formal and informal writing, both in class and out, to increase understanding of course material as well as to improve writing skills.

**2. This course provides interaction between teacher and students while students do assigned writing.** In effect, I will act as an expert and you will act as an apprentice in a community of writers. Types of interaction will vary but all will focus on helping you improve in your writing.

*At least one student-teacher conference on a writing assignment is required in writing intensive courses.*

**3. Writing contributes significantly to each student's course grade. Writing assignments must make up at least 40% of each student's course grade.**

**4. This course requires students to do a substantial amount of writing—a minimum of 4000 words, or about 16 pages.** This may include informal writing. In-class drafts are not counted toward the 4000-word minimum.

**5. To allow for meaningful professor-student interaction on each student's writing, the class is restricted to 20 students.**

## **COURSE TASKS.**

Because this course is conducted via the internet, our class communication, assignments, and textbook are all online and available via Lualima. <https://lualima.hawaii.edu/portal> Lualima is WCC's online course management system (you might already be familiar with it from previous classes). On Lualima, you will find our syllabus, class announcements, discussion boards, our gradebook, and unit folders that include links to our assignments as well as our class lectures/PowerPoints. Access to Lualima requires your regular UH school username and password. **Throughout the semester, I recommend checking Lualima and your UH email once a day.**

You are responsible for keeping up in this class: your diligence in logging in regularly to Lualima and engaging with our content in a timely fashion is essential to your success. **Except when using a free pass, no late work is accepted in this class without written verification of extenuating medical or legal circumstances** (please see our late work policy in the 'Additional Information' section of this syllabus).



We have much to learn this semester and you'll demonstrate all the knowledge and skills you've acquired using a variety of different formats. As you will see, you will be submitting more work for this class than you likely do for most of your face-to-face courses. Since this is an

asynchronous online course, I need to be able to measure how well you are keeping up with the materials; these assignments allow me to gauge how well you are keeping up with and understanding the course material.

Reading Checks:	6 x 10 points = 60 points
Quiz Questions:	6 x 20 points = 120 points
Unit Activities:	6 x 30 points = 180 points
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>360 points</b>

**Our assignments follow a uniform structure.** We spend roughly 5 days on each unit. Midway through the unit, both the reading check and quiz question assignment are due. I recommend completing the reading check first, as this assignment helps “get your feet wet” regarding the chapter content. Then write your quiz questions to deepen your understanding of core chapter concepts. At the end of the unit, the final assignment (the unit activity) is due. This assignment gauges your mastery of the unit material. All assignments may be submitted early, but no assignments are accepted late (excepting cases of qualified, documented emergencies—please see our late work policy in the ‘Additional Information’ section of this syllabus).

**Our class works on a mastery system.** This means that it’s more important that you get concepts eventually than to get them right away (although, it’s still awesome if you do get them right away). To this end, our class assignments and policies are all set up for you to succeed, provided you continue to put in the work. Success is obtainable even if you struggle initially or experience difficulties throughout the semester. Each unit is set up with assignments of increasing difficulty and credit, so that the first assignment—when you’re likely the most unsure on our content—is the least complex and worth the least amount of credit. As your knowledge grows throughout the unit, so too does the complexity of and credit for our assignments. As a final feature of our mastery system, we will cover 7 units over the semester but only your highest 6 scores in each assignment category count. This means you don’t have to worry if an assignment doesn’t go your way as you can replace that score with another score from that category. Counting only the 6 highest scores also means that when life inevitably gets in the way and makes it difficult for you to complete your work, you can simply make that an assignment that you don’t submit (in other words, you can miss one assignment in each assignment category with no penalty).



**Reading Checks (10 points each, highest 6 scores count, 60 points total)**

For each chapter, you will complete a brief reading check through Laulima wherein you answer 10 questions about the assigned chapter and supplemental unit PP (a.k.a. our class lecture, which is available on Laulima in the unit folder). The reading checks are open-book, open -notes but

should be entirely your own work. **These reading checks work on the mastery system, so you can take them as many times as you would like until the assignment deadline.** The computer will record your highest score, so there's no harm in trying a quiz multiple times. Question format includes multiple choice and true/false questions. Feel free to have the reading check open as you are reading the chapters/PP. Fill in your answers as you move through the content. Each reading check is worth 10 points. There are 7 reading checks throughout the semester and your highest 6 scores count, so you can skip one check without any negative impact on your final grade. No need to tell me which check you're skipping; just don't do it. Reading checks are due midway through each unit. Reading checks may be submitted early, but not late. Late reading checks are not accepted (unless using a free pass).



### **Quiz Questions (20 points each, highest 6 scores count, 120 points total)**

To deepen your knowledge of our class content, you'll WRITE five quiz questions for each unit. The questions should come from all of our reading material for that unit (both textbook and PowerPoints). The instructions for each assignment will note how many questions should come from each source. Question format is up to you (multiple choice and true/false are great go-to options). Provide the question, the answer options, the correct answer, and indicate where you found this information. For example:

1. Donny is really excited to do a fitness challenge hosted by UFC gym. Five other people are doing the challenge. Donny wins the challenge and is asked to do another fitness challenge. This time he learns that he will be going up against 30 other people. Donny declines participating. What Donny is experiencing is referred to as:
  - A. Anxiety
  - B. The n-effect
  - C. The frog pond effect
  - D. Conformity

Answer: B (found in chapter 13 on page 221)

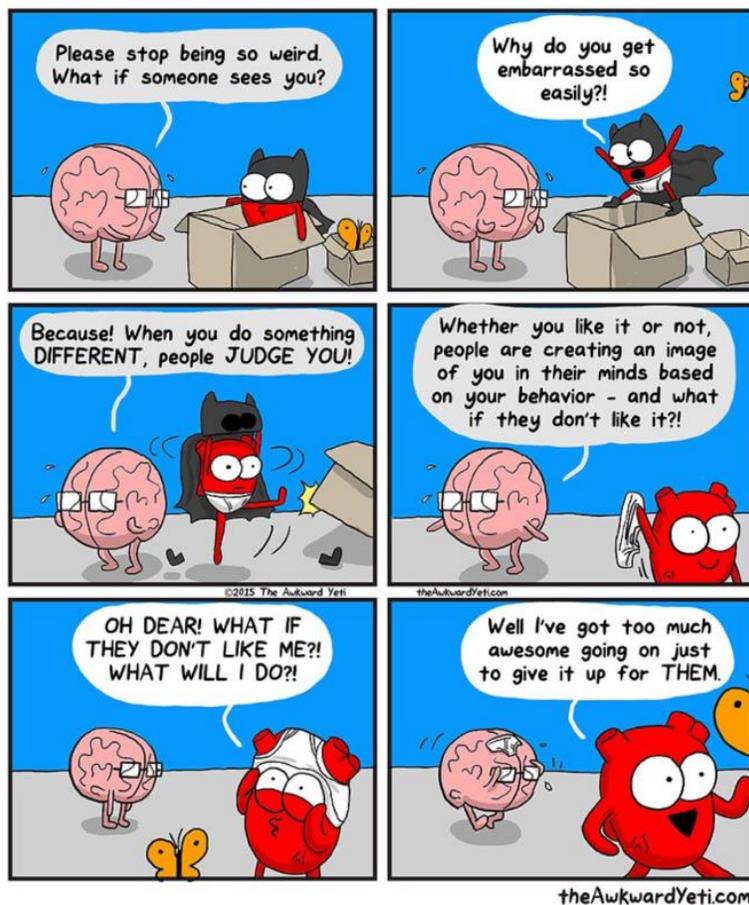
The questions that you write will go into a question bank for next semester's students to answer, so please be thoughtful and clear. Also, feel free to write in your own voice (i.e. formal/stiff/academic writing isn't necessary, unless you'd like to use it). This includes the use of Pidgin (please note somewhere that you're writing in Pidgin). If you choose this option,

you'll be allowing future semesters of students the chance to answer quiz questions in Standard English or Hawaiian Pidgin, per their choosing.

While there is no set length for these questions, typically the five questions average about 1.5 pages. By completing 6 assignments, you'll write 9 pages towards the required writing minimum for WI classes.

Questions are submitted to the 'Quiz Questions' tab on Lualima. Together these five questions are worth 20 points (please see the quiz question rubric for a breakdown of how credit is earned), with partial credit available.

There are 7 quiz question assignments throughout the semester and your highest 6 scores count, so you can skip one quiz question assignment without any negative impact on your final grade. No need to tell me which quiz question assignment you're skipping; just don't do it. Quiz questions are due midway through each unit. They may be submitted early (if the unit's quiz question assignment is up, go for it), but not late. Late quiz questions are not accepted (unless using a free pass).



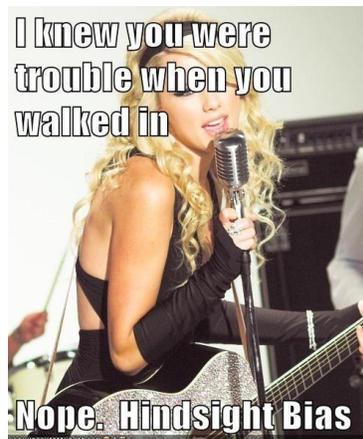
**Unit Activities (30 points each, highest 6 scores count, 180 points total)**

For each unit, you will complete an in-depth activity designed to showcase your personal understanding of the unit's key topics. Activities vary unit to unit, but all activities will draw on

the textbook and posted supplemental PP (i.e. our class lecture) content for that unit. Additionally, as this is a SOCIAL psychology class, all activities will deal with observing social behavior, so do plan your time wisely. Details on each individual activity complete with grading rubrics are available on our Lualaba in the unit folders. Regardless of the specific activity, your submission should make use of the information from the textbook, supplemental PP, and any posted materials, be thoughtful and thorough, and when responding to a discussion post, build on the responses of fellow students. There are 7 unit activities throughout the semester and your highest 6 scores count, so you can skip one activity without any negative impact on your final grade. No need to tell me which activity you're skipping; just don't do it. Activities are due on the final day of the unit. They may be submitted early, but not late. Late activities are not accepted (unless using a free pass).

While activity length varies based on the chosen activity, typically activities average about 2 pages. By completing 6 assignments, you'll write 12 pages towards the required writing minimum for WI classes.

**Another requirement of WI classes is that students meet individually with instructors to discuss their writing.** To this end, you and I will meet individually via video chat to discuss your writing. This conference can take place anytime from our second unit of the semester through our fifth unit of the semester. When you are ready to have your conference, please email me to set up a time. During the conference, we'll go through an assignment (quiz question or unit activity) that you are in the process of completing. **This conference is required to earn a passing grade in our course.**



### **Late Work/Assignment Policies**

Late assignments are not accepted, excepted in cases of serious documented emergencies with written verification of the extenuating medical, legal, or other qualifying circumstances. The determination of a qualified emergency is made by me; please contact me as soon as you experience or anticipate a problem.

There are two exceptions to this 'no late work' policy, free passes and mulligans.

1. Free passes: Each student gets two free passes to turn in an assignment late. Each free pass buys an extra week (7 days) after the assignment due date to submit said assignment. To use a free pass, simply email me your work by the late pass deadline.

- Mulligans: Each student gets two mulligans. A mulligan allows a student to revise and resubmit a previously submitted assignment. For example, if you miss the mark on a unit activity, you could revise your work and resubmit. Mulligans can be used within one week (7 days) of the graded assignment being returned. To use a mulligan, simply email me your revised work by the Mulligan deadline.

### Extra Credit

At this point, three extra credit assignments are anticipated for the semester. All three are available now and due 29 May.

- Syllabus quiz. Taken on Laulima. Worth up to 3 points.
- Introduce yourself to the class using Laulima's discussion board. Worth up to 2 points.
- Meet and Greet with instructor. With online classes, it can be easy to feel you're all alone in your learning process, but you're not. I'm in it with you so let's get to know one another. Sign up for a quick, 10-minute one-on-one introduction with me. Worth 7 points.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

Please do NOT wait until the last day to do your work because all kinds of problems can happen. This is online course reality. If you experience problems near the deadline and miss course work, your grade will be recorded as a zero.

## COURSE CONTENT

### Schedule (tentative and subject to change):

Dates	Topic	Assignment Due
23 – 29 May	Social Psychology as a Science	Fri. 27 May: Reading Check & Quiz Questions
		Sun. 29 May: Activity
30 May – 4 June	Self & Others	Wed. 1 June: Reading Check & Quiz Questions
		Sat. 4 June: Activity
5 – 9 June	Groups & Groups Processes	Tues. 7 June: Reading Check & Quiz Questions
		Thurs. 9 June: Activity
10 – 15 June	Emotions	Mon. 13 June: Reading Check & Quiz Questions
		Wed. 15 June: Activity
16 – 20 June	Social Influence	Sat. 18 June: Reading Check & Quiz Questions
		Mon. 20 June: Activity
21 – 26 June	Conflict	Thurs. 23 June: Reading Check & Quiz Questions
		Sun. 26 June: Activity <b>By the end of this unit, have your WI conference with me</b>
27 June – 1 July	Positive Relationships	Wed. 29 June: Reading Check & Quiz Questions
		Fri. 1 July: Activity

Assigned work is due by 11.59 p.m. on the date it is listed. Late work is not accepted, excepting documented, qualified emergencies (as determined by me, see course policy) and use of free passes.

## ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

You're spending your valuable time and money on this course, so let's make sure that you are on course for success. Using this grade tracker sheet, you can always be aware of your grade in our course. Simply fill in your scores as you earn them.

**Grade Tracker:**

Reading Checks

Social Psych as a Science =	_____/10 points	
Self & Others =	_____/10 points	
Groups & Group Processes =	_____/10 points	
Emotions =	_____/10 points	<b>Highest 6 of 7 Scores = ____/60 points</b>
Social Influence=	_____/10 points	
Conflict =	_____/10 points	
Positive Relationships =	_____/10 points	

Quiz Questions

Social Psych as a Science =	_____/20 points	
Self & Others =	_____/20 points	
Groups & Group Processes =	_____/20 points	
Emotions =	_____/20 points	<b>Highest 6 of 7 Scores = ____/120 points</b>
Social Influence=	_____/20 points	
Conflict =	_____/20 points	
Positive Relationships =	_____/20 points	

Unit Activities

Social Psych as a Science =	_____/30 points	
Self & Others =	_____/30 points	
Groups & Group Processes =	_____/30 points	
Emotions =	_____/30 points	<b>Highest 6 of 7 Scores = ____/180 points</b>
Social Influence=	_____/30 points	
Conflict =	_____/30 points	
Positive Relationships =	_____/30 points	

**Total Points = \_\_\_\_/360 points**  
 \*Add only the scores in this right, bolded column

**Extra credit earned: \_\_\_\_\_ points**

**Your total points + extra credit then determines the final course grade that you have earned for PSY 100:**

- A = 360.0 – 324 points [percentage of 90 – 100%]
- B = 323.9 – 288 points [percentage of 80 – 89.9%]
- C = 287.9 – 252 points [percentage of 70 – 79.9%]
- D = 251.9 – 216 points [percentage of 60 – 69.9%]
- F = Below 216 points [percentage of 0 – 59.9%]

To figure out your grade at any point during the semester, total up all the points you've earned up until thus far and use this formula:

$$(\text{Points earned} \div \text{Points possible thus far}) \times 100 = \text{Current grade}$$

For example, say it's mid-semester and you've earned 171 points thus far and there have been 200 points available. You would take  $171 \div 200$ , which equals .855 and then multiple .855 by 100, which equals 85.5%. Using the above grade breakdown, we'd see that a percentage of 85.5 means that your current grade would be a 'B'.

## LEARNING RESOURCES

Our required materials for the course:

We are using an OER (Open Education Resource) for this class, which means that our textbook is free! Biswas-Denier, R., & Diener, E. (Eds.). (2016). *Together: The Science of Social Psychology*. Retrieved from <https://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=0100da6c-9753-42cf-a1f3-c1e94dde7eb3&contributor=&keyword=&subject=Psychology>

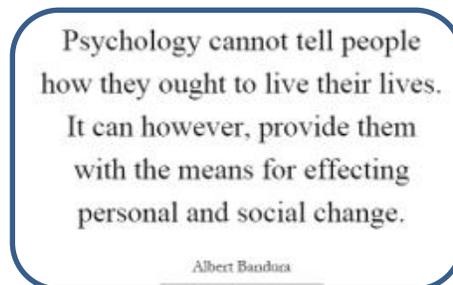
A .pdf copy of the text is available on Laulima under 'Resources' (if you'd like to print it, I recommend going to TRiO). If you'd like to read the text online, you can use the following link: <https://nobaproject.com/textbooks/together-the-science-of-social-psychology>

If you'd prefer a hard, bound copy of the textbook, it is available for PURCHASE from Noba (or again, print it for FREE in TRiO).

Along with our textbook, our posted lectures and additional course materials are available on Laulima.

### Recommended Reading Resources:

American Psychological Association. (2002). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (5th ed.)*. Washington DC: Author. (In Reference Section of WCC Library or at Reference Librarian's desk. Call number: BF76.7.P83 2001)



### Campus Resources:

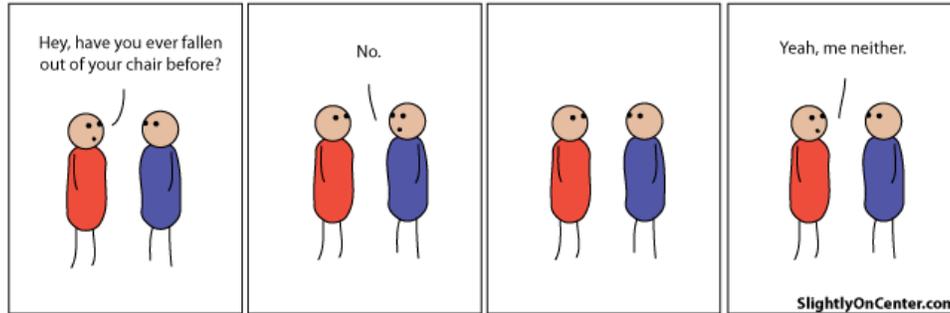
At WCC, we care deeply about your success. To help you thrive, we have the following services:

TRiO: Tutoring and resource center for low-income, first-generation, and/or students with disabilities.

Additional tutoring options: Free online, on-demand [tutoring](#) is also available for all students. Sign in to [MyUH.hawaii.edu](https://myuh.hawaii.edu) for access to [Tutor.com](#).

WCC Librarians: Our [librarians](#) are amazing and can help with oh so much.

[Ka Piko](#) is WCC's academic support hub and contains even more tutor help as well as other services.

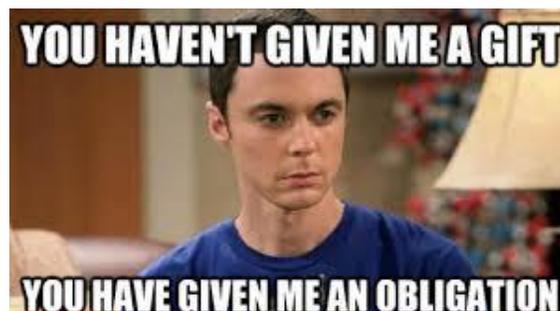


### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I am here to help you succeed in this course. Please don't hesitate to email me or stop by my office if you have any questions, concerns, or problems. At any point in the semester, if you have concerns about our class that you would prefer not to discuss with me, the Social Sciences department chair, Dr. Christian Palmer ([ctpalmer@hawaii.edu](mailto:ctpalmer@hawaii.edu)), is available as a resource. An alternative contact for any concerns is [wccaa@hawaii.edu](mailto:wccaa@hawaii.edu).

In order to keep class fair for everyone, we will adhere strongly to the following course policies:

1. **Plagiarism/Cheating:** I take both plagiarism and cheating very seriously. If I believe you have plagiarized (intentionally or unintentionally) or cheated, you will earn a zero for that assignment, no exceptions. A second instance of either will result in failure of the course (i.e. two instances of plagiarism, two instances of cheating or an instance of plagiarism and an instance of cheating).
2. **Late work policy:** Beyond the usage of free passes, late assignments are not accepted, excepted in cases of serious documented emergencies with written verification of the extenuating medical, legal, or other qualifying circumstances. The determination of a qualified emergency is made by me; please contact me as soon as you experience or anticipate a problem.
3. **I strongly uphold the University of Hawai'i's non-discrimination policy in my class. Any discriminatory acts or language on the basis of race, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sexual orientation will NOT be tolerated. We will maintain our online classroom as a safe environment for all.**



## DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Roy Inouye can be reached at 235-7453, [royinouye@hawaii.edu](mailto:royinouye@hawaii.edu), or you may stop by Hale Kako‘o 106 for more information.

## SEX DISCRIMINATION & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RESOURCES (TITLE IX)

Windward Community College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, WCC has staff and resources to support and assist you. To report an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence, as well as receive information and support, please contact one of the following:

Desrae Kahale, Mental Health Counselor & Confidential Resource  
Phone: (808) 235-7393  
Email: [dkahale3@hawaii.edu](mailto:dkahale3@hawaii.edu)  
Office: Hale Kāko‘o 101

Karla K. Silva-Park, Title IX Coordinator  
Phone: (808) 235-7468  
Email: [karlas@hawaii.edu](mailto:karlas@hawaii.edu)  
Office: Hale ‘Ākoakoa 220

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, the University’s Title IX resources and the University’s Policy, Interim EP 1.204, go to [manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/](http://manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/)

## ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are unable to contact me or experience any issues with class that you’d prefer not to discuss with me, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

Location: Alaka‘i 121  
Phone: 808-235-7422  
Email: [wccaa@hawaii.edu](mailto:wccaa@hawaii.edu)



IF THERE IS ANY PROBLEM,  
PLEASE **LettuCE** KNOW