

COURSE OUTLINE

PSY 204
Course Number

Social Psychology
Course Title

3
Credits

3/week
Class or
Lecture
Hours

0/week
Laboratory
Work Hours

0/week
Laboratory, Shop,
Studio or Clinic
Experience

0/week
Work
Experience
Hours

15 weeks
Semester
Length

Not Applicable
Performance on an Examination/Demonstration

Not Applicable
Telecourse

Required Materials:

Social Psychology, E. Aronson, T.D. Wilson, & R.M. Akert, 4th Edition, 2004, Prentice-Hall
Accompanying Website: www.prenhall.com/aronson

Catalog Description: Studies the behavior of the individual as it is affected by social factors and social context. This course explores the way in which people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the real or imagined presence of other people. Topics covered include how people form friendships and love relationships, interpersonal communications, conflict resolution, attitude formation and persuasion, the causes of prejudices and strategies for prejudice reduction, conformity, and group dynamics.

Prerequisites: PSY 101

Co-requisites: None

Latest Revision: Fall 2004

I. GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

To explain social psychology as a field of study concerned with interpersonal behavior. The course examines the individual in a group in terms of motivation and perception. Two questions are analyzed: 1. How does the group influence the individual? 2. How does the individual influence the group?

To review the scientific method as it relates to social psychological inquiry.

To examine the influence of situational factors on individual perception and behavior. To explain the role of construals, i.e., people's interpretations, in how they experience their lives.

To investigate the nature of the individual as he/she conforms or fails to conform to the demands of the group.

To explore several theoretical viewpoints concerning the origins of aggression and violence.

To explore the factors influencing the development of prejudice, racism, and sexism.

To illustrate and emphasize the factors which encourage pro-social behavior defined as voluntary, beneficial actions towards other people.

To examine the collective behavior of the crowd. How do peaceful crowds become violent mobs? Why do people join mass movements?

II. MAJOR TEACHING METHODS AND AIDS

The major teaching method designed for this course is the lecture/discussion combination. This design is to be supplemented by movies related to topics covered.

Films:

The Human Face: Emotions, Identities, and Masks

31 minutes, color, 1995

The Human Voice: Exploring Vocal Paralanguage,

30 minutes, color, 1993

A World of Gestures, color, 28 minutes, 1991.

Quiet Rage: The Stanford Prison Experiment

II. METHOD OF EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated and graded on the basis of essay and/or objective examinations covering the units as designated by the Instructor. The objective examinations may consist of multiple-choice items, fill-ins,

matchings, and/or short answers. Classroom participation, term papers or written projects will be at the discretion of the Instructor.

SPECIAL NOTE

The Psychology Cluster strongly encourages all instructors of this course to select assignments that will contribute to the development of writing skills in their students. There must be at least one writing component (e.g., essay test, term paper, etc.) contributing to the student's final grade.

In order to minimally pass the course, the student must complete all assignments and attain at least a final average grade of 60% (the minimal passing score as determined by the College is "D").

IV. TOPICAL OUTLINE

<u>TIME FRAME</u>	<u>CHAPTERS</u> <u>TOPICS</u>
Weeks 1, 2 3, 4	Ch. 1 Introduction to Social Psychology Ch. 2 Methodology: The Process of Doing Research Ch. 3 Social Cognition. How we think about the social world.

Specific Objectives

The student will be able to:

Define and discuss the scientific method as it applies to social psychological inquiry.

Examine psychological abstracts and evaluate research performed in a variety of social areas.

Examine and discuss the scientific methods employed in the study of human behavior from the standpoint of social psychology.

TEST I (Week 4)

<u>TIME FRAME</u>	<u>CHAPTERS</u> <u>TOPICS</u>
Weeks 5, 6 & 7	Ch. 4 Social Perception: How we come to understand others Ch. 5 Self understanding: How do we come to know ourselves? Ch. 6 Self Justification and the need to maintain self-esteem.

Describe attribution theory and discuss the implications of the research. Describe self-perception, perception of others, and the psychosocial influences on each.

Describe the theory of cognitive dissonance and analyze the dissonance research.

TEST II (week 7)

<u>TIME FRAME</u>	<u>CHAPTERS</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>
Weeks 8, 9,10,11	Ch. 10. Interpersonal Attraction: From First Impressions to Close Relationship Ch. 11. Prosocial Behavior: Why Do People Help? Ch. 7. Attitudes and Attitude Change C. 13. Prejudice: Causes and Cures	

Specific Objectives:

The student will be able to:

Examine the need for affiliation and the relationship between affiliation and anxiety.

Describe the nature of interpersonal conflicts, their causes, and strategies utilized to overcome such conflicts.

Explain the process of communication and the importance of feedback.

Describe the factors relevant to friendship formation.

Describe the factors relevant to pro-social behavior and discuss the factors that contribute to pro-social behavior.

Examine and discuss the factors related to attitude formation and attitude change.

Examine and discuss the factors influencing the development of prejudice.

Define attitudes, prejudice, discrimination, racism and sexism, and the concepts of institutional racism and sexism.

Evaluate society's role in perpetuating all these "isms."

Discuss the research on prejudice reduction

TEST III (week 11)

<u>TIME FRAME</u>	<u>CHAPTERS</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>
Weeks 12, 13 14, 15	Ch. 8 Conformity: Influencing Behavior Ch. 9 Group Processes Ch. 12 Aggression: Why We Hurt Other People Module I: Social Psychology and Health	

Specific Objectives:

The student will be able to:

Define conformity and compliance and discuss reasons for conformity and non-conformity.

Define and discuss the concept of de-individuation, and show how de-individuation may influence people's behavior.

State the various reasons for joining certain groups in society and discuss problems underlying the structure of group operations.

Describe the phenomenon of groupthink and discuss the factors that contribute to groupthink.

Explain the factors that mitigate the chances for groupthink to occur.

Discuss the theories and research related to aggression in human behavior.

Describe the frustration-aggression hypothesis.

Discuss the psychological factors related to health behaviors and stress-related illness.

Discuss the role of optimism and perceived control in maintaining health and the healing process.

TEST IV (week 15)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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