

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Psychology 138 – Social Psychology

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Examination of the individual's perception of and reaction to other people and social influences. Topics such as attitude formation, prejudice and discrimination, helping behavior, aggression, conformity, obedience, cooperation and conflict reduction, and group behavior are explored. *Also listed as SOC 138. Not open to students with credit in SOC 138.*

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Scientific methods and research design in social psychology
- 2) Attribution: how we make decisions about the causes of our own and others' behavior
- 3) Social cognition: schemas, biases, stereotypes
- 4) Attitude formation and change
- 5) Ethnocentrism, prejudice, discrimination
- 6) Cooperation and competition
- 7) Hostility, aggression, conflict reduction
- 8) Altruistic and pro-social behavior
- 9) Social influence: conformity, compliance, obedience
- 10) Group decisions, group performance, leadership
- 11) Environmental influences on behavior

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze scientific methods and apply these methods when evaluating social psychological information and concepts.
- 2) Differentiate between biological differences and social/cultural influences on attitudes and behavioral outcomes.
- 3) Compare and contrast between the various definitions and theories of social interaction and social influence.
- 4) Utilize communication concepts for resolving interpersonal issues.
- 5) Apply concepts from attribution theory to explain how a person's situational perceptions influence their behavior and the behavior of others.
- 6) Analyze the factors that increase conformity and delineate those factors that decrease conformity.
- 7) Compare and contrast between the various theories of aggression and explore means to decrease aggressive behavior.
- 8) Analyze the origin of prejudice and hypothesize methods to decrease it.
- 9) Identify and explain the theories of prosocial behavior and list the factors involved in increasing or decreasing helping.
- 10) List and distinguish the factors that contribute to interpersonal attraction, liking and disliking.
- 11) Utilize knowledge of social psychological concepts to explore applied social psychology in health-related fields.
- 12) Evaluate applied social psychological concepts that pertain to the legal system and evaluate their utilization by the legal profession.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Quizzes and exams that measure students' ability to recognize, describe, explain and provide examples of the various topics, information and issues in social psychology.
- 2) Written analysis of controversial issues in which students are required to analyze, interpret and weigh the validity of arguments using research sources.
- 3) Group or individual projects or research papers that require students to solve practical real-world social issues.
- 4) Interactive group activities in which students analyze, discuss and draw conclusions about social issues and concerns.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Group discussion, cooperative learning exercises
- 3) Guest speakers (optional)
- 4) Individual and group projects, structured in-class exercises, demonstrations

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** course material; other course related multimedia.
- 2) **Writing:** reflections of course content; research-based papers and assignments.
- 3) **Other:** quizzes; short assessments.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Aronson, Wilson, Akert, & Sommers (2016). *Social Psychology*. Pearson Publishing.
 - b. Jhangiani, R., & Tarry, H. (2022). *Principles of social psychology* (1st international H5P edition). BCcampus. <https://opentextbc.ca/socialpsychology/>
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze how social psychologists use the scientific method to study human behavior.
- 2) Apply the major theories, concepts, and empirical findings in social psychology to contemporary issues.
- 3) Evaluate how the social situation influences individual behavior and group processes.
- 4) Create an intervention that integrates social psychology principles to address real-world issues in your community.