The scientific study of the effects of social influences on human behavior and mental processes. Topics include interpersonal perception, attitudes and attitude change, conflict and cooperation, aggression, social cognition, prosocial behavior, gender roles and cultural norms, as well as applications of social psychological principles to social settings and social problems.
PSYC G260 - Social Psychology

A. Transfers to UC
Degree Applicable
   AA Degree Applicable
   AA-T Degree Applicable
   GWC AA - Area D Social, Political, and Economic Institutions
   Area D Social, Political, and Economic Institutions

PROGRAM LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOME(S) Supported by this course:

Understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.

Use reasoning to recognize, develop, defend, and criticize arguments related to conclusions about psychological issues.

Identify appropriate applications of psychology in solving problems, such as the origin and treatment of abnormal behavior, pursuit and effect of healthy lifestyles, psychology-based interventions in clinical, educational community, and other settings.

COURSE LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) Supported by this course:

1. Describe how scientific methods can be used to gain understanding of social psychological phenomena.
2. Identify social influences on attitude formation and change.
3. Analyze and evaluate the theoretical perspectives and research methods used to gain an understanding of human behavior in a psychosocial context.
4. Research and examine the major scientific studies which form the basis for current theories of social psychology.
5. Apply basic theoretical perspectives and outcomes from social psychological research to real world problems and issues.
6. Describe the roles of individual differences and sociocultural factors in basic concepts and theories in social psychology.
7. Identify and explain the biological and cultural influences on social behavior.
8. Describe and apply models of intervention designed to address social problems centered on gender, ethnic, racial, or cultural differences, and those based on disability.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Analyze and evaluate the theoretical perspectives and research methods used to gain an understanding of human behavior in a psychosocial context.
2. Research and examine the major scientific studies which form the basis for current theories of social psychology.
3. Apply basic theoretical perspectives and outcomes from social psychological research to real world problems and issues.
4. Describe the roles of individual differences and sociocultural factors in basic concepts and theories in social psychology.
5. Identify social influences on attitude formation and change.
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7. Describe and apply models of intervention designed to address social problems centered on gender, ethnic, racial, or cultural differences, and those based on disability.

8. Describe how scientific methods can be used to gain understanding of social psychological phenomena.

COURSE CONTENT:

LECTURE CONTENT:

1) The social psychological perspective
   a. History of social psychology
   b. Understanding social psychology

2) Methods for social psychological research; ethical considerations
   a. The research process
   b. Correlational research methods
   c. The experiment
   d. Basic and applied research
   e. Ethical considerations in social psychological

3) Person-situation interaction
   a. Managing self in different social contexts
   b. Social context and personality influences

4) Self-concept
   a. Describing the self and self-concept
   b. Social influences on self-knowledge
   c. Self-enhancement and self-esteem
   d. Cultural perspectives and the self
   e. Social identity theory

5) Aggression
   a. Defining aggression
   b. Biological, social, cultural, personal, and situational causes of aggression
   c. Frustration and aggression
   d. Violence in relationships
   e. Prevention and control of aggression: perspectives and strategies

6) Prejudice (and stigma) and stereotypes
   a. Defining the concepts of stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination
   b. The origins of stereotypes
   c. Prejudice and discrimination: understanding the difference
   d. Changing stereotypes and reducing prejudice and discrimination

7) Pro-social behavior
   a. Motives for prosocial behavior
   b. Altruism and bystander behavior
   c. External and internal influences on helping behavior
   d. Long-term commitment on helping behavior
   e. Situational factors influencing helpful behavior

8) Interpersonal relationships, including attraction, liking, loving
   a. The social nature of human beings
   b. Benefits of affiliation on mental health
   c. Internal and external factors of attraction
   d. Evolutionary and cultural influences
   e. Identifying the different types of relationships
   f. Self-disclosure
   g. Conflict resolution in relationships
9) Attitudes, attitude formation, and attitude change
   a. Attitude Formation
   b. The effect of persuasion and resistance
   c. Cognitive dissonance
   d. Social influence techniques
   e. Behavior-attitude linkages
   f. Persuasion

10) Group processes
   a. Compliance, conformity, and obedience
   b. Group function and interactions
   c. Decision-making in groups
   d. Fairness and cooperation in groups
   e. Conflict and conflict resolution
   f. Deindividuation
   g. Social loafing
   h. Groupthink
   i. Leadership

11) Gender roles
   a. Gender identity
   b. Historical perspective of gender roles in social psychology
   c. Social and cultural influences to the role of gender

12) Multiculturalism and cultural norms
   a. Social identity in multicultural environments
   b. How multicultural differences impact group dynamics
   c. Identifying societal norms in a multicultural society

13) Interpersonal perception and social cognition (e.g., attribution theory)
   a. Schemas and heuristics: organizing and using social information
   b. Theories of attribution
   c. Fundamental attribution error
   d. Judgments and biases
   e. Self-fulfilling prophecy effect

14) Social emotion
   a. Types of social emotion: empathy, embarrassment, and guilt
   b. Behavioral and genetic influences on social emotion
   c. Contagion

15) Social and physical environments
   a. Understanding the social and physical environments
   b. The influence of the physical environment on social patterns
   c. Crowding

16) Applied social psychology
   a. Social Psychology and the legal system
   b. Social Psychology and health
   c. Social Psychology and the work environment

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

A. Lecture:
B. Tutoring – noncredit:
C. Other simultaneous interactive: Class Discussions
   Collaborative Group Work
   Group Discussions
Chat discussions
D. Other passive medium: Computer-aided Presentation
   Demonstrations
   Internet Research
   Reading Assignments
E. WWW – Simultaneous Interaction:
F. Online:

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES:

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading Assignments

1. Assigned readings from the Text and ancillary readings
2. Syllabus
3. Discussion assignments

Out-of-class Assignments

Out-of-class Assignments
1. Observation Projects

Writing Assignments

Writing Assignments
1. Papers, reports
2. Discussion assignments
3. Short answer essay quiz questions

METHODS OF STUDENT EVALUATION:

Midterm Exam
Final Exam
Short Quizzes
Written Assignments
Essay Examinations
Objective Examinations
Report
Projects (ind/group)
Problem Solving Exercises
Oral Presentations

Demonstration of Critical Thinking:

1. Objective quizzes will measure understanding of textbook and ancillary course topics
2. Critical thinking essay questions
3. Students will read and critically analyze social psychological research reports.
4. Assignments involving critical analysis of principles and theories of social psychology will be made.
Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration:

Students will write reports and longer papers critically analyzing social psychological principles and theories.

Students will evaluate the appropriateness of social psychological applications to social problems.

TEXTS, READINGS, AND RESOURCES:

TextBooks:

LIBRARY:

Adequate library resources include: Print Materials
Non-Print Materials
Online Materials

Comments:

Attachments:

Attached Files