PSYC3212 – Social Psychology

Unit of Study Code: PSYC3212

Coordinator: Dr Brian Crabbe
Office: Room 657 Mungo MacCallum
Phone: 9351 4236
E-mail: brianr@psych.usyd.edu.au

Other Teaching Staff: Dr Michael Walker
Room 473 Main Quad South
Phone: 9351 2199
E-mail: michaelw@psych.usyd.edu.au

Format of Unit: 2 x 1 hour lectures/week x 13 weeks
1 x 1 hour tutorial/week x 12 weeks

Credit Point Value: 4 Credit Points

Qualifying: 12 credit points of Second Year Psychology including PSYC 21113

Assessment: Classwork:
33.3% (Quiz)
29 May – 1 June (week 13)

Examination:
66.6% multiple choice questions and short answers

Evaluation of teaching and learning: Date: Week 13
Type: Questionnaire

Unit of study general description:

PSYC3212 continues the coverage of topics in Social Psychology begun in PSYC2113. The unit is divided into topic areas, where the emphasis is on evaluating theories and the relevant evidence. Topics areas include social relationships, social motivation (in particular, aggression), effects of the physical environment on social behaviour, social cognition, social competence and social development through the lifespan. Tutorials provide first hand experience of research by involving students in a range of research projects on the topics covered in the lectures. The tutorials also provide an opportunity for discussion of issues associated with these topics.

Teaching outcomes:

(1) To be able to describe and evaluate theories and research studies on the development of relationships, the breakdown of relationships and loneliness.
(2) To be able to describe and evaluate definitions, theories and research studies on aggression, violence portrayed in the media, and controlling and preventing aggression.
(3) To be able to describe and evaluate research on, and to develop an awareness and understanding of, the effects of the physical environment on behaviour as well as of behaviour on the physical environment, particularly with respect to housing, city, work, institutional and leisure environments.
Ability to describe and explain the main theories of how people explain and interpret the behaviour of others.

Ability to describe, criticise and evaluate the results of experimental studies concerned with aspects of social cognition.

Ability to exemplify human behaviour which is consistent or inconsistent with different theories and hypotheses concerning social cognition.

Ability to analyse and categories instances of skilled nonverbal behaviour.

Ability to describe and distinguish social skills and social competence.

Ability to evaluate evidence with respect to major hypotheses concerning the organisation of social behaviour in social interaction.

Ability to describe and critically evaluate the contribution of the social skills model to areas such as work, sport, therapy and mental health.

Evidence of learning:

Assessment will take the form of: (1) a written examination which will cover the full range of teaching outcomes (the examination will be in the form of multiple-choice and short answer questions), and (2) a class quiz which will employ multiple-choice and short-answer questions and which will be primarily concerned with the content of the tutorial programme.

SYLLABUS

Social Relationships
1. Social relationships
The development of friendships - the interpersonal marketplace, self disclosure. The breakdown of relationships - reasons for and the process of. Loneliness - definitions, types, causes, prevalence and reducing loneliness.

Aggression
2. Aggression.
Definitions of aggression. Theories of aggression - instinct (Freud, Lorenz, Sociobiologists), externally elicited drive (frustration, aversive conditions), social learning (social models, punishment, association). The impact of violence in the media. The prevention and control of aggression.

Environmental Effects
3. The physical environment and social behaviour.
Environmental Psychology: the study of the reciprocal relationship between behaviour and the physical environment. How aspects of the physical environment may effect behaviour:
3.1 Housing: comparisons of three prevalent housing types - detached houses, low rise and high rise units - with respect to social contact, privacy and crime.
3.2 Cities: the effects of high densities, crowding, noise, cognitive overload and other city stressors on behaviour.
3.3 Other environments: Work environments (schools, offices), institutional environments (prisons, mental hospitals), and leisure environments (parks).

Social Cognition
Person perception: schema theory; impression formation; the relationship of affect to person perception. Attribution theory: analysing language for perceived cause; correspondence of events and the formation of inferences; regularities in choosing among multiple causes; bias in attributions. Heuristics in cognitions about people: intuition and reasoning; using base-rate information; illusory correlation; construct accessibility; induction - errors, popularity, myths; visual salience. Stereotypes: relationship to prejudice; self concept; ageism, sexism, ethnocentrism. Attitudes: attitude-behaviour consistency; attitudes, opinions and beliefs; attitudes, feelings and evaluations; changing attitudes - causes and effects; self perception - a special case?

Social Skills
The distinction between competency and skill; development of social skills in childhood and adult life; social skill and its association with mental health; evaluation of social skills training programs in the areas of work, sport and therapeutic interventions; the concept of social skill in human interactions; synchrony in social behaviour; the interpretation of nonverbal signals in understanding the other.
### TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>LECTURES</th>
<th>TUTORIALS</th>
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| 1    | Social Relationships:  
1. Characteristics of friendship  
2. The development of relationships | No meeting |
| 2    | Social Relationships:  
3. The development of relationships  
4. Dissolving relationships/Loneliness | Friendships |
| 3    | Social Motivation:  
5. Aggression  
6. Aggression | Relationship breakdown |
| 4    | Environmental Psychology:  
7. Definitions and Methods  
8. Housing environments | Aggression |
| 5    | Environmental Psychology:  
9. Housing environments  
10. Cities | Children in high rise dwellings |
| 6    | Environmental Psychology:  
11. Cities  
12. Offices, Parks and Prisons | Adaptation to city living |
| 7    | Environmental Psychology:  
13. Offices, Parks and Prisons  
**** Social Cognition:  
14. Social Perception | Post occupancy evaluations |
| 8    | Social Cognition:  
7. Social Cognition  
8. Social Cognition | Social cognition I |
| 9    | Social Cognition:  
9. Attribution Theory  
18. Impact of Affect | Social cognition II |
| 10   | Social Cognition:  
10. Knowledge of Others  
20. Applications of Theory | Social cognition III |
| 11   | Social Skill:  
21. Nature of Social Skill  
22. Development of Social Skill | Social Skills I |
| 12   | 23. Social Skills & Health  
24. Social Skills Training | Social Skills II |
| 13   | Social Skill:  
21. Social Synchrony  
22. Nonverbal Communication | QUIZ |

### TEXT


### REFERENCES
