PSYC3212 – Social Psychology

Unit of Study Code: PSYC3212

Coordinator: Dr Alan Craddock
Office: Room 305 Griffith Taylor
Phone: 9351 3353
E-mail: alan@psych.usyd.edu.au

Other Lecturing Staff
Dr Brian Crabe
Office: Room 414 North Backham Building
Phone: 9351 2481
E-mail: brianc@psych.usyd.edu.au

Dr Fiona White
Office: Room 403 North Backham Building
Phone: 9351 3246
E-mail: fionaw@psych.usyd.edu.au

Ms Pooja Sawrikar
Office: Room 161 Transient Building
Phone: 9351 8590
E-mail: poojas@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
Tutorial sizes: maximum of 20 students per group

Credit Point Value: 4 Credit Points

Qualifying: 8 credit points of Second Year Psychology including PSYC 2113

Assessment:
Classwork:
33.3% (Quiz)
7 June – 11 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; jury decision making, 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.

University of Sydney - Administrative Guidelines & Syllabus, Senior Psychology, 2004 page 31
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.
4. Ability to describe and explain the main theories of how people explain and interpret the behaviour of others.
5. Ability to describe, criticise and evaluate the results of experimental studies concerned with aspects of social cognition.
6. Ability to exemplify human behaviour which is consistent or inconsistent with different theories and hypotheses concerning social cognition.
7. Ability to analyse and categories instances of skilled nonverbal behaviour.
8. Ability to describe and distinguish social skills and social competence.
9. Ability to evaluate evidence with respect to major hypotheses concerning the organisation of social behaviour in social interaction.
10. Ability to describe and critically evaluate the contribution of the social skills model to areas such as work, sport, therapy and mental health.
11. Ability to critically review theory and research in social behaviour across the lifespan.

Evidence of learning:

Assessment will take the form of: (1) an examination which will cover the full range of teaching outcomes (the examination will consist 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
The development of friendships - the breakdown of relationships - reasons for and the process of. Loneliness - definitions, types, causes, prevalence and reducing loneliness.

Antisocial Behaviours
This section acknowledges that not all social behaviour is functional - including an evaluation of competing theories of aggression, discrimination and ostracism; a review of empirical support for these competing theories, and an examination of effective methods to reduce aggression, discrimination and ostracism in the social context.

Applied Social Psychology
1. 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 affect behaviour:
1. Housing: comparisons of three prevalent housing types - detached houses, low rise and high rise units - with respect to social contact, privacy and crime.
2. Cities: the effects of high densities, crowding, noise, cognitive overload and other city stressors on behaviour.
3. Other environments: Work environments (schools, offices), institutional environments (prisons, mental hospitals), and leisure environments (parks).

University of Sydney - Administrative Guidelines & Syllabus, Senior Psychology, 2004 page 32
2. Jury decision making

Advanced 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?

The Self in Social Psychology
Conceptualising personal and social aspects of identity: sources of influence; perspectives on self-as-object; attitudes-towards-self; positive and negative self-schemata; personal self and collective identity. Personal and relational development: adult attachment styles; sex and gender issues; career and relational development processes.

Social Skills
The concept of social skills in human interactions: defining social skills; features of social situations; major areas of social skills with particular attention to leadership and conflict resolution skills, focusing on context and cultural issues.

TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>LECTURES</th>
<th>TUTORIALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Social Relationships:  
|      | 1. Characteristics of friendship  
|      | 2. The development and dissolution of relationships | No tutorial |
| 2    | Social Relationships:  
|      | 4. Overt Aggression | Friendships |
| 3    | 5. Discrimination   
|      | 6. Ostracism | Relationship breakdown |
| 4    | Applied Social Psych (1): 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    | Applied Social Psychology (2): Juries  
|      | 13. Jury decisions  
|      | Advanced Social Cognition:  
|      | 14. Social Cognition and Attribution Theory | Jury decisions |
| 8    | Advanced Social Cognition:  
|      | 15. Applications of Attribution theory I  
|      | 16. Applications of Attribution theory II | Attributing Responsibility |
| 9    | Advanced Social Cognition:  
|      | 17. Social Cognition and Schema Theory  
|      | 18. Applications of Schema Theory | Student Prototypes |

University of Sydney - Administrative Guidelines & Syllabus, Senior Psychology, 2004 page 33
| 10 | The Self in Social Psychology:  
19. The Self in Social Psychology I  
20. The Self in Social Psychology II | Sex-role stereotyping and advertising |
|---|---|---|
| 11 | The Self in Social Psychology:  
21. Relational Development  
22. Life-cycle issues beyond adolescence | Relational Attributions |
| 12 | Social Skills:  
23. General Aspects of Social Skills I  
24. General Aspects of Social Skills II | Dealing with Conflict |
| 13 | Social Skills:  
21. Conflict Resolution Skills I  
22. Conflict Resolution Skills II | QUIZ |

**TEXT**


**REFERENCES**

