PSYC3017 –
Social Psychology

Unit of Study Code: PSYC3017

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

Credit Point Value: 6 Credit Points

Prerequisites:
Intermediate Psychology units including
PSYC (2013 or 2113) plus one other Intermediate Psychology Unit
from PSYC (2011 or 2111), PSYC (2012 or 2112), PSYC (2014 or
2114).

Assessment:
Classwork:
40% of total mark, a 2,500 word practical report
Due Date: Friday May 26

10% of total, a class presentation of research (20 mins)

Examination:
50% of total, multiple choice questions (0.75) and short answers
(0.25)

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

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Unit of study general description:

PSYC3017 continues the coverage of topics in Social Psychology begun in PSYC1001 and PSYC2013. The unit is divided into topic areas, where the emphasis is on evaluating theories and the relevant evidence. Topics areas include social relationships, antisocial behaviours, applied social psychology (effects of the physical environment on social behaviour; jury decision making), social cognition, leadership, and cross cultural psychology. 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.
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 describe and explain leadership.
8. Ability to describe and critically evaluate the contribution of theories and studies associated with cross cultural psychology.

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); (2) a research report which will focus on the skills of designing, conducting, analysing data, and reporting results in a standard journal paper format; (3) an oral presentation of research by the research group, which will assess the ability to communicate background, research design and results in a 20 minute talk.

SYLLABUS

Leadership
Contemporary trait, style and contingency theories and models of leadership, and their application in a range of work settings.

Antisocial Behaviours
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.
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:
   (a) Housing: comparisons of three prevalent housing types - detached houses, low rise and high rise units - with respect to social contact, privacy and crime.
   (b) Cities: the effects of high densities, crowding, noise, cognitive overload and other city stressors on behaviour.
   (c) Other environments: Work environments (schools, offices), institutional environments (prisons, mental hospitals), and leisure environments (parks).
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?

Social Relationships
The development of friendships - the breakdown of relationships - reasons for and the process of. Loneliness - definitions, types, causes, prevalence and reducing loneliness.
## Social Psychology Lectures

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## TEXT


## REFERENCES


University of Sydney - Administrative Guidelines & Syllabus, Senior Psychology, 2006 page 31