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:
35% of total mark, a 2,500 word practical report
Due Date: Friday May 21st

10% of total, a class presentation of research (20 mins)
Due Date: Week 13.

5% of total, based on assigned readings in preparation for
class presentations
Due Date: Available from week 7.

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

TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE POLICY:
ALL pieces of students’ written assignments are to be submitted on-line to ensure that
plagiarism detection software can be implemented.

Evaluation of teaching and learning:
Date: Week 13
Type: ITL Questionnaire
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 (such as aggression, violence and discrimination) and their reduction social cognition, the self, attitudes, and social stigma. 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.

Graduate Attributes and Student Learning Outcomes for Social Psychology

This course is structured around the graduate attributes associated with the scientist-practitioner model, the basis for the training of psychologists in Australia and internationally. Graduate Attributes are the generic skills, abilities and qualities that students should acquire during their university experience and the School of Psychology is committed to providing an environment to promote these skills. In addition, this unit of study will provide students with generalised and transferable skills that will also be useful in careers outside psychology.

The following graduate attributes and student learning outcomes will be developed through lectures, tutorial and assessment activities in particular. They will be assessed primarily in the laboratory report, presentation, and in the final examination.

1: Knowledge and Understanding of Social Psychology

Display basic knowledge and understanding the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in Social Psychology

Student learning outcomes:

(i) To stimulate an interest in the contribution of social psychologists to the understanding of changes in socialization, group processes (both inter and intra group), and interpersonal processes (viz. helping behaviour and interpersonal affiliation and attraction);
(ii) Ability to describe, explain and evaluate research studies examining a core area of social psychology.
(iii) Ability to chart the progression of theories in major areas in Social Psychology.

2: Research Methods in Social Psychology

Understand, apply and evaluate basic research methods in Social Psychology, including research design, data analysis and interpretation, and the appropriate use of technologies.

Student learning outcomes:

(i) To develop a critical understanding of the major methods of research in this area.
(ii) To critically assess the major theories and research findings in these areas.
(iii) To interpret statistical analyses.
(iv) Use basic web-search, word-processing, database, email, spreadsheet, and data analysis programs.
(v) Design and conduct basic studies to address psychological questions: frame research questions; undertake literature searches; critically analyse theoretical and empirical studies; formulate testable hypotheses; operationalise variables; choose an appropriate methodology; make valid and reliable measurements; analyse data and interpret results; and write research reports.
3: Critical Thinking Skills in Social Psychology
Respect and use critical and creative thinking, sceptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to thought and behaviour.

**Student learning outcomes:**

(i) Demonstrate an attitude of critical thinking that includes persistence, open-mindedness, and intellectual engagement.
(ii) Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation.
(iii) Evaluate issues and behaviour using different theoretical and methodological approaches.
(iv) Use reasoning and evidence to recognise, develop, defend, and criticise arguments and persuasive appeals.

4: Values in Social Psychology
Value empirical evidence; act ethically and professionally; and understand the complexity of sociocultural and international diversity.

**Student learning outcomes:**

(i) Recognise and respect social, cultural, linguistic, spiritual and gender diversity.
(ii) Use information in an ethical manner (e.g., acknowledge and respect the work and intellectual property rights of others through appropriate citations in oral and written communication)
(iii) Be able to recognise and promote ethical practice in research.
(v) Promote evidence-based approaches to understanding behaviour.

5: Communication Skills in Social Psychology
Communicate effectively in a variety of formats and in a variety of contexts

**Student learning outcomes:**

(i) Write a standard research report using American Psychological Association (APA) structure and formatting conventions.
(ii) Demonstrate effective oral communication skills in various formats (e.g., group presentation) and for various purposes.
(iv) Collaborate effectively, demonstrating an ability to: work with groups to complete projects within reasonable timeframes; manage conflicts appropriately and ethically.

6: Learning and the Application of Social Psychology
Understand and apply psychological principles to personal and social issues.

**Student learning outcomes:**

(i) To develop an awareness of the applications of the theories and research findings in Social Psychology.
(ii) Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings to solve problems in everyday life and in society.
(iii) Understand major areas of applied Social 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.

7. School of Psychology Plagiarism Policy information for Students

Plagiarism is **NOT** permitted.

(i) Are you sure you know what plagiarism is?

Please refer to the University policy on plagiarism:


(ii) The School of Psychology will penalise all submitted work that is plagiarised.

(iii) The School of Psychology is using software to detect all forms of plagiarism.

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PLAGIARISM

More than 50% plagiarised

Unit Coordinator ensures that the student receives no marks for submitted work and requests a resubmission for a mark of zero

Less than 50% plagiarised

Tutor/marker ignores plagiarised section(s) and marks remainder of submitted work, plus 10% penalty
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SYLLABUS

**Antisocial Behaviours**
Defining aggression and critically evaluating relevant theoretical frameworks underpinning this construct. Discussing the social application of aggression via the concept of violence; the impact of media portrayals of violence; the reduction and prevention of violence. Defining discrimination as the behavioural component of prejudice; identifying various forms of discrimination (age, sex, racial); evaluating the effectiveness of state and Federal legislative Acts; and being introduced to various strategies and interventions to effectively reduce discrimination.

**Stigma**
Defining stigma, consequences of being stigmatised, stereotype threat

**The Self**

**Emotion**
Self-conscious emotions, happiness, subjective well-being, optimism, nostalgia.

**Social Relationships**
1. Ostracism (the act of being excluded and ignored); model of ostracism, ostracism in the real world, ostracism in the laboratory.
2. Interpersonal attraction: internal and external determinants of attraction, arousal, love
TIMETABLE

Social Psychology Lectures

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RECOMMENDED TEXT

Please note: it is not necessary to buy the textbook. At a third year level, we would prefer you to refer to articles as opposed to secondary texts. However, the textbook may help you to understand or revise key terms and concepts (note that most Social Psychology textbooks will have information on all of the topics in the lectures, not just the recommended text).

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY LIBRARY

The University of Sydney Library is a distributed system of libraries with a collection of over 5 million items. Fisher Library has the most resources relevant to Psychology and is located on Eastern Avenue, Camperdown Campus.

http://sydney.edu.au/library

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Psychology Guide
Includes links to Psychology databases, internet resources, information on tests and more.
http://libguides.library.usyd.edu.au/psychology

Psychology material in high demand
Reserve (located on Level 2 of Fisher Library) is a 2 hour loan collection of required and recommended items on Psychology reading lists. Reading list material can be searched by unit of study or lecturer via the catalogue:

http://opac.library.usyd.edu.au/search/r