PSYC3017 – Social Psychology

Unit of Study outline

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Format of Unit: 2 x 1 hour lectures/week x 13 weeks
1 x 2 hour tutorial/week x 10 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).

Lecture attendance: Required. 80% recommended to pass unit. Audio recordings made of most lecture content and most slides posted online.

Tutorial attendance: Required. 80% recommended to pass unit. Attend your timetabled tutorial. Attendance recorded. Attendance at presentation (Week 13) is mandatory.

Assessment: Classwork*: 40% of total mark of the Unit: Practical Report (Group Work project).
Group mark (20% of report mark):
- Method Section (10% of report mark): due Week 6.
- Results (10% of report mark): due Week 9.
Individual mark (80% of report mark):
- Introduction (40% of report mark) & Discussion (40% of report mark): due Friday May 20th (Week 11).

Class Presentation*: 10% of total mark of the Unit: Presentation of Research Group Work (20 mins) in Week 13 Tutorials

Final Examination*: Original final exam- 50% of total mark of the Unit: 2hr exam (multiple-choice 60% and written-answer questions 40%). We reserve the option of radically changing any replacement exam’s format.

*Completion of these assessments is compulsory to pass this unit. Students who fail to complete any of these components will receive an Absent Fail, regardless of their marks in other assessments.

NB It is very important that you read the general administrative guidelines for the School of Psychology, available on the Current Students page within the School’s website:
It is your responsibility to ensure that you are familiar with, and adhere, to the guidelines- both the School’s one (at the link above), and the course one (to be uploaded on the course’s eLearning website).
Note that students who apply for and are granted either special arrangements or special consideration for examinations in units offered by the Faculty of Science will be expected to sit any replacement assessments in the two weeks immediately following the end of the formal examination period. Later dates for replacement assessments may be considered where the application is supported by appropriate documentation and provided that adequate resources are available to accommodate any later date.

**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: the self, self-conscious emotions, stigma; anti-social behaviours and strategies for their reduction — aggression, racial discrimination, sex discrimination and age discrimination; Existential Psychology — philosophical underpinning, Terror Management Theory, Meaning Maintenance Model; genes and the psychosocial environment — interaction between genes and psychosocial variables, genetic essentialism; evolutionary approach to social psychology; cross cultural and cultural psychology. Tutorials provide first-hand experience of research by involving students in a range of research projects, to be conducted by small groups, on the topics covered in the lectures.

This syllabus provides a short overview of the course. Students will receive a complete course manual in the first week to guide them through all the ins and outs of the course.

**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: Core Knowledge and Understanding of Social Psychology**

During the lecture stream, students will be informed of the core knowledge pertaining to each of the Social Psychology topics outlined in the ‘Unit of Study General Description’, as well as recent trends and developments in these areas, in order to facilitate students’ understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in Social Psychology.

Specific Attributes & how they will be addressed in the course:

- Acquire an understanding of core topics in the discipline (Social Psychology):
  - How it will be assessed in the course: Research Report, Presentation; Final Exam (multiple choice and short-answers).

Student learning outcomes:

(i) To stimulate an interest in the contribution of social psychologists to the understanding of changes in socialisation and group processes (both inter- and intra-group);
(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**

In the tutorial program, students will complete a group research experiment that will form the basis of their research report and their group presentation. During the course of conducting and writing up this experiment, students will apply and evaluate basic research methods in Social Psychology, including research design, data analysis and interpretation, and the appropriate use of technologies.

Specific Attributes & how they will be addressed in the course:

- Describe the basic characteristics of the science of psychology
  - How it will be assessed in the course: Not formally assessed in this course.
• Describe, apply and evaluate the different research methods used by psychologists
  o How it will be assessed in the course: Not formally assessed in this course.
• Demonstrate practical skills in laboratory-based and other psychological research
  o How it will be assessed in the course: Research Report.
• 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
  o How it will be assessed in the course: Research Report.

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, spread sheet, 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
During the tutorial program, students will be taught to respect and use critical and creative thinking, sceptical
inquiry, and to apply knowledge of the scientific method in thinking about problems related to behaviour and
mental processes. Critical thinking skills in Social Psychology will be assessed in the Research Report;
specifically, in the Introduction, where students will be required to evaluate their research question and
 critique the literature in the field to date; and in the Discussion, where students will be required to critique
their experiment (i.e., discuss the strengths and weakness of the experiment and how it could be improved
through future research).

Specific Attributes & how they will be addressed in the course:
• Apply knowledge of the scientific method in thinking about problems related to behaviour and
  mental processes
  o How it will be assessed in the course: Research Report.
• Question claims that arise from myth, stereotype, pseudoscience or untested assumptions
  o How it will be assessed in the course: Not formally assessed in this course.
• Recognise and defend against the major fallacies of human thinking
  o How it will be assessed in the course: Not formally assessed in this course.

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
In the tutorial program, students will be given a series of mini-lectures that detail: the value of empirical
evidence; the importance of acting ethically and professionally in accordance with the ’APA Code of Ethics’
when conducting research; and conducting research that addresses the complexity of sociocultural and
international diversity.

Specific Attributes & how they will be addressed in the course:
• Evaluate psychologists’ behaviour in psychological research and other professional contexts in
  relation to the Australian Psychological Society “Code of Ethics” and the complementary “Ethical
Guidelines”, as well as the Australian “National Practice Standards for the Mental Health
Workforce”
  o How it will be assessed in the course: Not formally assessed in this course.
• Use information in an ethical manner (e.g., acknowledge and respect work and intellectual
  property rights of others through appropriate citations in oral and written communication)
  o How it will be assessed in the course: Not formally assessed in this course.
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
In the tutorial program, students will be given a series of mini-lectures that aim to inform students about how to communicate effectively in different contexts, with an emphasis on written communication (i.e., research reports using APA formatting) and oral communications (i.e., a group presentation).

Specific Attributes & how they will be addressed in the course:
- Write a standard research report using American Psychological Association (APA) structure and formatting conventions
  - How it will be assessed in the course: Research Report.
- Demonstrate effective oral communication skills in various formats (e.g., debate, group discussion, presentation) and for various purposes
  - How it will be assessed in the course: Class Presentation.

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
During the lecture stream, students will be taught how to: apply knowledge of Social Psychology to society, and (where appropriate) to specific contexts, such as the workplace (e.g., affirmative action, and workplace bullying); and to apply Social Psychological knowledge of legislative frameworks (i.e. in the context of age, race, and sex discrimination legislation).

Specific Attributes & how they will be addressed in the course:
- Apply knowledge of legislative frameworks (including privacy, human rights)
  - How it will be assessed in the course: Final Exam (multiple choice and short-answers).
- Apply knowledge of consumer and carer participation in psychological care
  - How it will be assessed in the course: Not formally assessed in this course.
- Apply knowledge of psychology, society and the workplace/influencing systems
  - How it will be assessed in the course: Final Exam (multiple choice and short-answers).
- Describe major areas of applied psychology (e.g., clinical, organisational)
  - How it will be assessed in the course: Not formally assessed in this course.
- Demonstrate a capacity for independent learning to sustain personal and professional development in the changing world of the science and practice of psychology
  - How it will be assessed in the course: Not formally assessed in this course.

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 or short essay 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 15 minute talk (+ 5 minutes of questions).
# 2016 Lecture Timetable

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dr Ilan Dar-Nimrod</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prof Fiona White</td>
<td>Anti-social behaviours: Aggression and violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Prof Fiona White</td>
<td>Aggression/Violence Reduction strategies</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prof Fiona White</td>
<td>Antisocial behaviours: Sexual discrimination</td>
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<td>Antisocial behaviours: Age discrimination and its reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Prof Fiona White</td>
<td>Sexual discrimination reduction strategies</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Prof Fiona White</td>
<td>Anti-social behaviours - Racial discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Prof Fiona White</td>
<td>Racial discrimination reduction strategies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prof Fiona White</td>
<td>Anti-social behaviours – Age discrimination and reduction strategies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr Stefano Verrelli</td>
<td>Antisocial behaviours: Sexual Minority Discrimination and Reduction Strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dr Ilan Dar-Nimrod</td>
<td>Existential Approach to Social Psychology</td>
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<td>Dr Ilan Dar-Nimrod</td>
<td>Psychology of Religion I</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dr Ilan Dar-Nimrod</td>
<td>Psychology of Religion II</td>
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<td>Dr Ilan Dar-Nimrod</td>
<td>Cultural and Cross-Cultural Psychology I</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dr Ilan Dar-Nimrod</td>
<td>Cultural and Cross-Cultural Psychology II</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dr Ilan Dar-Nimrod</td>
<td>Evolutionary approaches to Social Psychology</td>
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<td>Dr Ilan Dar-Nimrod</td>
<td>Genes and the Psychosocial Environment I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dr Ilan Dar-Nimrod</td>
<td>Genes and the Psychosocial Environment II</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Dr Karen Gosalkorale</td>
<td>What is the Self?</td>
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<td>Dr Karen Gosalkorale</td>
<td>Self Knowledge</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Dr Karen Gosalkorale</td>
<td>Self enhancement I</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Dr Karen Gosalkorale</td>
<td>Self enhancement II</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Dr Karen Gosalkorale</td>
<td>Self verification</td>
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<td>Dr Karen Gosalkorale</td>
<td>Self esteem I</td>
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<td>Dr Karen Gosalkorale</td>
<td>Self esteem II</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Dr Karen Gosalkorale</td>
<td>The Self and stigma</td>
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<td>Dr Karen Gosalkorale</td>
<td>Self conscious emotions</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Dr Karen Gosalkorale</td>
<td>No classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>STUVAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>EXAM PERIOD</td>
<td>No classes</td>
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*Please note: These lecture topics are subject to change.

Lectures are held on Tuesday 10am and Wednesday 12pm in Bosch Lecture Theatre 4

**Recommended Readings**

There is no textbook for this course. At a third year level, we would prefer you to read articles as opposed to secondary texts. Moreover, many of the topics presented in lectures will be discussed in far more detail than presented textbooks—you would not be able to pass the course by reading the textbook alone. The lecturers will inform you if there are any required readings for the course—these will be placed in the library.

**Out of Class Prescribed Student Workload:**

Library research for the report; weekly group meetings to complete assessment components (including: writing the Method & Results; devising hypotheses for data analysis; devising and practicing the presentation, etc); preparation/readings for tutorials and lectures.
## PSYC3017 Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What?</th>
<th>When?</th>
<th>Closing date / feedback returned</th>
<th>% Assessment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classwork: Practical Report</td>
<td>Group mark: Method Section (10% of report mark)</td>
<td>Marks returned in the tutorial in Week 7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Due: Week 6, <strong>BEFORE</strong> your tutorial Assignment to be emailed to your tutor</td>
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<td>Group mark: Results Section (10% of report mark)</td>
<td>Marks returned in the tutorial in Week 10</td>
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<td>Due: Week 9, <strong>BEFORE</strong> your tutorial Assignment to be emailed to your tutor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Individual mark:</td>
<td>Closing date: Tuesday, June 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;*</td>
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<td>Introduction (40% of report mark)</td>
<td>*NB – this is the last possible date for submission of the assignment with or without extensions</td>
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<td>Discussion (40% of report mark)</td>
<td>Marks will be returned after this date</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Online Friday 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>Week 13 (30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; of May – 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; of June) in tutorials – you must attend your allocated tutorial</td>
<td>Marks returned June 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>During exam period at the end of semester</td>
<td>University Final Results Release Date</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>Compulsory</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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### Late penalties

You will receive a penalty of 2% of the maximum value of the Research Report assignment (e.g. 2 marks / 100) for each day (or part thereof) it is late, up to the closing date of the assignment, after which no more submissions will be accepted.

### Assuring the Academic Integrity of PSYC3017

All written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin similarity detecting software in this unit (the Method & Results will be evaluated on Turnitin as part of the final report submission). If we suspect your assignment has been written by someone else, we reserve the right to ask you to explain and defend the work you have submitted as your own, in person.