PSYC 340 – SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

A. **TITLE:** Social Psychology

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** PSYC 340

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, and ACTIVITY:** Three hours lecture per week.

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A scientific examination of how thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the perceived or real presence of other people (i.e., an examination of the nature and causes of individual behavior and thought in social situations). Core areas of examination include social cognition (e.g., heuristics, schemas, priming, and affect), social perception (e.g., emotion, attribution, and impression formation/management), social influence (e.g., conformity, compliance, obedience, and prosocial behavior), attitudes (including prejudice, discrimination, and stereotypes), and the self (e.g., self-concept, social comparison, stereotype threat, ego control, and ego depletion). Three hours lecture per week.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**

A. Pre-requisite: Introductory Psychology (PSYC 101) AND Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 101) OR Permission of Instructor.

B. Co-requisites: Research Methods (SSCI 370) recommended

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):** By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

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<th>Course Objective</th>
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| A. Describe the brief history of social psychology within a culturally relevant context. | 1. Communication  
2. Crit. Thinking |
| B. Explain and compare a variety of research methods used to examine social psychological phenomena. | 1. Communication  
2. Crit. Thinking  
3. Prof. Competence |
| C. Demonstrate an understanding of Social Psychology through written and oral means in one (or more) the | 1. Communication  
2. Critical Thinking |
following areas:
   a. Social Cognition
   b. Social Perception
   c. Social Influence
   d. Attitudes
   e. The Self
   f. Prosocial Behavior

| D. Apply one of the areas of Social Psychology (see item C) to a project in which a thorough understanding of the content in demonstrated. | 1. Communication
2. Critical Thinking
3. Prof. Competence
4. Inter/Intrapersonal skills |
| E. Critically analyze and interpret research findings relevant to Social Psychology, and identify cultural, gender, and historical differences that influence thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. | 2. Critical Thinking
3. Prof. Competence |

K. TEXTS:


L. REFERENCES: additional references to be determined by the instructor.


M. **EQUIPMENT**: Technology enhanced classroom

N. **GRADING METHOD**: A-F

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS**:
   
   • Exams/quizzes
   • Assignments
   • Project(s)/paper(s)
   • Discussion/participation

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE**:

   I. Introduction to Social Psychology
      a. The scientific study of how the real or imagined presence of others influences peoples’ thoughts, feelings, and behaviors
II. Research Methods in Social Psychology  
a. Research methods  
b. Evaluation of research  
   i. Validity  
   ii. Reliability  

III. Social Cognition  
a. Heuristics,  
b. Schemas  
c. Priming  
d. affect  

IV. Attitudes  
a. Evaluations of people, objects, and ideas  
b. Explicit and implicit attitudes  
c. Stereotypes and prejudice  

V. Social Perception  
a. Impression formation/management  
b. Emotion  
c. Attribution  
d. Fundamental Attribution Error  

VI. The Self  
a. Self-concept  
b. Social comparison  
c. Stereotype threat  
d. Ego control and depletion  

VII. Social Influence  
a. Conformity  
b. Compliance  
c. Obedience  
d. Persuasion  

VIII. Additional Topics May include:  
a. Relationships  
b. Groups  
c. Aggression  
d. Prosocial behavior  
e. Diffusion of responsibility  
f. Steps involved in helping others  

C. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None.