



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	PSYC
Course Number:	108
Descriptive Title:	Social Psychology
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Psychology and Human Development
Course Disciplines:	Psychology
Catalog Description:	This course focuses on the scientific study of the psychological processes that occur in and between groups. Emphasis is on individual behavior rather than on group behavior as a whole. Topics include social cognition; social perception; attitudes; prejudice and discrimination; social and group influence; interpersonal attraction and intimate relationships; aggression; and prosocial behavior. Gender and sociocultural issues are also examined.
Prerequisite:	Psychology C1000 or Psychology C1000H with a minimum grade of C
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for ENGL C1000 or equivalent
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Prior to July 1992
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	prior to fall 1992
General Education: ECC	Area 2C - Social and Behavioral Science
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area D - Social Sciences

	Term:	
	Other:	
	IGETC:	Area 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
	Term:	
	Other:	
	CalGETC:	
	Term:	
	Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Logic of the Scientific Method On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to explain and evaluate historical and contemporary perspectives on social psychology. SLO #2 Fundamental Principles On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to explain, differentiate, and critique the major theoretical perspectives and topics in social psychology (e.g., attribution, conformity, deindividuation, aggression). SLO #3 Everyday Application On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to apply fundamental social psychological principles in their efforts to understand everyday life experiences (individual/group differences; attitude, belief, and value formation; interpersonal interactions).	
Course Objectives:	1. Differentiate among psychology, social psychology, and sociology. 2. Examine and discuss historical and contemporary perspectives on social psychology. 3. Describe research methods used in social psychology, with an emphasis on examining how the scientific method is used in social psychology. 4. Identify, describe, and evaluate basic concepts and ideas in social cognition, including schemas, heuristics, and the relationship between affect and cognition. 5. Identify, describe, and evaluate basic concepts and ideas in social perception, including attribution, impression formation, and nonverbal communication.	

	6. Examine social psychological research on the self and discuss concepts related to the self such as self-esteem, self-presentation, and social comparison. 7. Discuss the components and formation of attitudes and apply this knowledge to examine important attitudinal concepts such as the relationship between attitudes and behavior, persuasion, and cognitive dissonance. 8. Describe and evaluate social psychological research on stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. 9. Differentiate between the basic types of social influence - conformity, compliance, and obedience - and discuss and assess social psychological research in these three areas. 10. Discuss the concept of "group," describe the basic types of group influence (e.g., social loafing, deindividuation, groupthink), and relate these types of group influence to your own experiences. 11. Appraise social psychological research on the nature, causes, and control of aggression. 12. Assess social psychological research on interpersonal attraction and intimate relationships and relate these findings to your own experiences with other people. 13. Appraise social psychological research on prosocial behavior and formulate ideas on how this research could be applied to increasing prosocial behavior in our society. 14. Describe how social psychological principles can be applied to such areas as law, health, and work. 15. Explain how knowledge of gender/sex and cultural differences and similarities can provide a broader understanding of basic social psychological concepts.
Major Topics:	I. Introduction to the Field of Social Psychology (3 hours, lecture) A. Definitions B. Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Social Psychology

C. Gender and Sociocultural Considerations

II. Research Methods in Social Psychology (3 hours, lecture)

A. The Scientific Method

B. Correlational Research

C. Experimental Research

D. Other Research Methods

III. Social Cognition (4.5 hours, lecture)

A. Schemas

B. Heuristics

C. Errors in Social Cognition

D. Affect and Cognition

IV. Social Perception (4.5 hours, lecture)

A. Attribution

B. Impression Formation and Impression Management

V. The Self (3 hours, lecture)

A. Self-Presentation

B. Self-Knowledge

C. Self-Esteem

D. Social Comparison

VI. Attitudes (6 hours, lecture)

A. Attitudinal Components

B. Attitude Formation

C. The Relationship Between Attitudes and Behavior

D. Persuasion

E. Cognitive Dissonance

VII. Prejudice and Discrimination (4.5 hours, lecture)

A. The Nature and Origins of Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination

B. Countering the Effects of Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination

VIII. Social Influence (4.5 hours, lecture)

A. Conformity

B. Compliance

C. Obedience

IX. Group Influence (4.5 hours, lecture)

A. The Nature of Groups

B. Social Facilitation

C. Social Loafing

D. Deindividuation

E. Group Polarization

X. Aggression (4.5 hours, lecture)

A. The Nature of Aggression

B. The Causes of Aggression

C. Prevention and Control of Aggression

XI. Interpersonal Attraction and Intimate Relationships (4.5 hours, lecture)

A. The Determinants of Attraction

B. Intimate Relationships

1. Family Relationships

2. Friendships

3. Romantic Relationships

4. Sexual Relationships

XII. Prosocial Behavior (4.5 hours, lecture)

A. Motives for Helping Behavior

B. External and Internal Influences on Helping Behavior

C. Bystander Effect

	D. Increasing Prosocial Behavior XIII. Applied Social Psychology (3 hours, lecture) A. Overview B. Social Psychology and the Legal System C. Social Psychology and Health D. Social Psychology and Work
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Think of a person who has persuaded you. This can be a person in your daily life who persuaded you; a person who has sold you a product or idea; a politician; or another example of your choice. Analyze this instance of persuasion in terms of the four elements discussed in class and in your text (Who? What? By what means? To whom?). Describe each element in a minimum of one paragraph. Finally, answer this question: Which element contributed most to persuading you? Explain why this element contributed most. Your answer should be at least one paragraph in length.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	This project requires you to break a group/social norm several times. Observe and record your own reactions as well as the reactions of others. In a two- to three-page typed paper, identify the norm that was broken, describe the reactions you observed, and analyze and explain all reactions in relation to the social psychological research on conformity. Finally, describe and evaluate the research methodology used.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	We have discussed several different theorists' views on love and the types of love. In a two-page paper, develop your own classification system of the different types of love. Identify and describe each type of love. Compare each of your types of love to a type described in lecture and/or the text.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Completion, Essay Exams, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Objective Exam, Reading Reports, Term or Other Papers, True/False, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	

Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Thomas E. Heinzen and Wind Goodfriend. Social Psychology. Sage, 2021. David Myers, Jean Twenge. Exploring Social Psychology. 9th ed. McGraw Hill, 2021.
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	Prerequisite
Category:	sequential
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	Psychology C1000 or Psychology C1000H
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	Psychology 108 expands on some of the basic principles that are presented in Psychology 101 and 101H such as psychological perspectives, learning and emotion. PSYC C1000 - Identify early schools of thought in psychology and contrast them to contemporary subfields in psychology. PSYC C1000 - Outline the steps of the scientific method, identify common research methods, and discuss ethical considerations of psychological research. PSYC C1000 - Describe the different functions of the neural and hormonal systems, emphasizing the functions of brain structures. PSYC C1000 - Define learning and compare and contrast classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and observational learning. PSYC C1000 - Describe the forces that motivate human behavior, such as instincts, drives, and needs. PSYC C1000 - Identify and evaluate the major theories of emotion with an emphasis on behavioral, physiological, and cognitive components. PSYC C1000 - Analyze the impact of situational forces on human thought processes and behavior. PSYC C1000H - Identify early schools of thought in psychology and contrast them to contemporary subfields in psychology. PSYC C1000H - Outline the steps of the scientific method, identify common research methods, and discuss ethical considerations of psychological research. PSYC C1000H - Describe the different functions of the neural and hormonal systems, emphasizing the functions of brain structures.

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Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for ENGL C1000
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing projects, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills. Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	M. Watanabe
Date:	09/01/1973
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Amy Himsel
Date:	09/20/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	12/16/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026

