San José State University
Psychology Department
Psych. 154, Social Psychology, Section 04, Fall 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Jason X. Ventura
Office Location: Clark Building
Telephone: (408) 924-5625
Email: jason.ventura@sjsu.edu
NOTE: When contacting me by email, please put “PSYC 154; MW” in the subject line

Office Hours: M-Th; 9:30-10:30 or by appointment
Class Days/Time: Monday and Wednesdays/10:30-11:45
Classroom: Clark Building 117
Prerequisites: Introductory Psychology (Psych 1 or equivalent)

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging (Optional)
Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description
This introduction to social psychology will provide an overview of many of the fascinating topics that social psychologists study, including attitudes, aggression, altruism, attraction, authority, attachment, advertising, anonymity, and attributions, as well as some topics that start with other letters of the alphabet, such as conformity, persuasion, stereotypes, gender roles, prejudice, cognitive biases, and peace.

Learning Outcomes
Students will come to this class expecting to find a broad range of topics regarding the fascinating world of social psychology. What makes this class all the more interesting is when students keep up on the daily news and the fascinating events that occur each and every day. It is encouraged for the students to read daily news reports from their preferred new source. If students do not have a specified daily news source, the instructor recommends BBC (global),
The New York Times (National), and San Jose Mercury News (local). Keeping on top of daily events will enhance students’ learning, and will be able to apply social psychological theories based on real world events. Your textbook comes alive into the real world which translates into a better understanding of the knowledge presented in class. This goes the other way around as we will discuss what is happening in the world and discuss it in our classroom. This is an interesting, and exciting, time to live with the future advances of technology (e.g. social media) and do not forget, most importantly, we will all be in the same classroom when we will elect a new president, and as you should know by now, we have a candidate who may become the first female president in American history, and another who rising to fame based on what he has done in business and television. What an exciting time to be a part of a social psychology class!

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. To provide a basic understanding of how social psychologists think about and study human behavior;

2. To provide the tools to understand and critically examine psychological research;

3. To provide an introduction to and general survey of many of the theories and principles that underlie social psychology;

4. To encourage reflection about the application of social psychological research and how it might be used to solve real-world problems and even help understand situations we actually encounter in everyday life.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)
Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements…

1. PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology – Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

2. PLO2 – Research Methods in Psychology – Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.

3. PLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology – Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

4. PLO4 – Application of Psychology – Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

5. PLO5 – Values in Psychology – Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.
Required Texts/Readings

Textbook
Kassin, Saul; Fein, Steven; Markus, Hazel Rose (2011) *Social Psychology, 8th Edition*. Cengage Learning

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

Examinations (50 pts each. 3 exams = 150 pts total)

There will be 3 in-class exams and they will consist of 30 multiple choice questions and 2 short answer essay questions. Exams will be designed to measure your knowledge and understanding of the material discussed in lecture as well as your textbook. Each multiple choice question will be worth 1 point and the essay questions will be worth 10 points each. So each exam will be worth a total of 50 points. The final exam will not be cumulative and will be based only on the material covered after Exam 2.

You will need a SCANTRON 882E, a #2 pencil, and a good eraser for each exam. No bluebook is necessary.

ALL PAPERS MUST BE WRITTEN IN APA FORMAT! Instructor will dock points to papers that are not written in this style.

To provide a basic understanding of how social psychologists think about and study human behavior:

Journal article assignment

Students will choose a scholarly journal from the American Psychological Association (instructor will demonstrate in class) on a topic that interests the students. Students will read and print the article, and answer the following questions based on the requirements available on Canvas.

Utilizing tools in order to understand and critically examine psychological research:

Self-portraits assignments

Students will take at least 10 pictures that represent who you think you are; a self-portrait. A three to four-page essay explaining how your respective pictures reflect your self-concept, self-control and self-presentation.
To provide an introduction to and general survey of many of the theories and principles that underlie social psychology:

**Perceiving Persons assignment**

Requirements for this assignment will be presented in class.

To encourage reflection about the application of social psychological research and how it might be used to solve real-world problems and even help understand situations we actually encounter in everyday life:

**Social Media analysis presentation**

In this presentation students address how social media both perpetuates prejudice and can be used to combat prejudice. The goal of the activity is for students to consider whether social media has increased, decreased, or has no overall effect on stereotypic beliefs and prejudicial attitudes.

Students will select a social media site (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and individually access websites, or apps, to find posts that either reflect negative stereotypes and/or prejudiced attitudes or posts that take a social justice perspective on the topic (e.g., the site suggests ways to combat these attitudes and beliefs). Students will be assigned into groups, by the instructor, based on the choice of their social media site.

**Social Media analysis presentation essay**

As a group, students will present findings to the class, as an individual the students will write a 3-4 page (max.) paper answering questions the instructor will provide on requirements page (requirements for this paper and the presentation will be posted on Canvas at a later date).

**In-class writing (3 five-point papers)**

Three times during the semester, you will be asked to write about your own opinions, beliefs, values, and reflections about topics, videos, current events (at the instructor’s discretion) relevant to the issues of social psychology (perceiving persons, persuasive arguments, prejudice, discrimination, equality, and/or inequality). Students are required to write these papers based on what you think the implications are of each of these topics for people in general and for society as a whole.

**Class participation (15 pts total)** Because this is in part an experiential class, attendance and participation are crucial. You cannot participate if you do not come to class. Many classroom activities and discussions will supplement the reading and students are responsible for all material, assignments, and explanations given in class, even if they were absent.
THE INSTRUCTOR WILL MAKE EXTRA CREDIT AVAILABLE

NOTE that University policy F69-24 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

Your final course grade will be based on the following assignments & grading scale:

- Exams (50 pts each) 150 (56%)
- Social Media Analysis presentation 30 (11%)
- Social Media Analysis individual assign. 20 (7%)
- Self Portrait assignment 15 (6%)
- Perceiving persons assignment 15 (6%)
- In-class writing (3 five point papers) 15 (6%)
- Participation 15 (6%)
- Journal article assignment 10 (4%)

Grading Scale:

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Total possible points: 270

Classroom Protocol

Please practice the following guidelines to help the class run more smoothly as well as to limit the amount of distractions that occur.

1. Please **TURN OFF** all cell phones & **DO NOT TEXT** during class time. If you receive an important call/text during class, please step outside of the classroom should you need to respond.

2. Please **REMOVE** all head/ear phones during class. **DO NOT LISTEN TO MUSIC, SURF THE WEB, CHECK YOUR FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TWITTER, ETC.** during class time.
3. If you arrive late, please come in as quietly as you can and sit in the back of the room.

4. If you have to leave early, please do so quietly and sit next to the door so you don’t distract other people.

5. Don’t talk when your instructor is speaking or when other students are asking questions.

6. Please be respectful of other people’s experiences and comments even though you might not agree with what they are saying.

USE OF LAPTOPS IN THE CLASSROOM

Laptops are permitted in the classroom for **NOTE-TAKING PURPOSES ONLY**. If you use a laptop to take notes, please sit at the back or on the sides of the classroom so that your screen will not be a distraction to the rest of the students in the class.

Use of laptops for any other purposes (e.g., non-class related activities like emailing friends or surfing the web) will not be permitted. Students not abiding by these guidelines will be asked to turn off their laptop and will not be allowed to bring it into the classroom in the future.

University Policies

**General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student**

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90–5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html). In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

**Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/).
Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
  - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable
effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

Student Technology Resources (Optional)

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections (Optional)

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

SJSU Writing Center (Optional)

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU
SJSU Counseling Services (Optional)

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
Psyc 154/ Social Psychology, Fall 2016, Tentative Course Schedule

***The instructor reserves the right to change the date for exams, activities, and papers. Students will be informed IN CLASS of any changes before they are made.

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