San José State University
Psychology
PSYCH 254, Social Psychology Seminar, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Christine Ma-Kellams
Office Location: DMH 312
Telephone: 408-924-5642
Email: christine.ma-kellams@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: T 11:45-1 & by appointment
Class Days/Time: T/Th 10:30-11:45
Classroom: HGH 221
Prerequisites: Psych 154 or equivalent
University Graduation Requirement GWAR

Course Format: in person

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on Spartan App Portal http://one.sjsu.edu to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Provides an examination of psychological theory and research related to prejudice and discrimination from the perspectives of both the holders and targets of prejudice. Includes individual and small group exercises to provide experiential learning.

Course Goals

This course will explore the theoretical and practical approaches to the understanding of human behavior within a social context. We will examine the scientific study of social thought and behavior to better understand how
the real or imagined presence of other people shape our own thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Main topics include an overview of the field, the role of the mind in social life, the nature of social interaction, and the application of psychology to social problems.

Class will include lecture, in-class demos, small-group activities, videos, and presentations. This course satisfies SJSU's Graduation Writing Assessment Requirements (GWAR), http://www.sjsu.edu/gradstudies/policy/gwar/index.html.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO): Upon successful completion of the course, students will have developed:

CLO1 -- 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.

CLO2 -- 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.

CLO3 -- 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.

CLO4 -- Application of Psychology -- Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

CLO5 -- Values in Psychology -- Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs): Upon successful completion of the psychology graduate MA requirements:

PLO1 - Advanced Knowledge - Students completing the MA in Psychology program will understand the major theoretical perspectives and research methods across areas of experimental psychology, i.e., Developmental, Social, Cognitive, and Physiological.

PLO2 - Research Methods & Scholarship - Students completing the MA in Psychology program are required to complete a thesis. The thesis will demonstrate:
(a) creative problem-solving in the design, implementation of empirical research.
(b) project management skills in the implementation of empirical research.
(c) advanced competency in the statistical analysis and interpretation of empirical research findings.
(b) the ability to communicate (oral and written) their research findings at a professional level

PLO3 - Career Enhancement - Students completing the MA in Psychology program will achieve career enhancement through placement in a doctoral program or acceptance of a position requiring a master’s in psychology in the public or private sector.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook & Readings

Required readings are listed below and will be posted on Canvas.


Course Requirements and Assignments
Activities
In-class activities are an important part of this class and attending class requires active participation. Activities are meant as a space for you to apply the theories and findings from the psychology of prejudice to the real world.

Attendance
Timely attendance and participation are essential for success in the course. I will do my best to foster an environment where all students feel free to express their ideas. If you miss class, you will likely miss important material that may be covered on the exams, and you will lose points for any participation activities that you miss. You are responsible for all announcements, in-class handouts, lectures, and other materials from class whether you attend class or not. You should try to get missed notes from a classmate.

Course Readings
Readings should be done before each class. Useful discussions follow only when everyone has completed the readings thoroughly and thoughtfully.

Exams: All midterm exams are noncumulative; however, the final exam is cumulative. Prior to each exam, there will be an in-class review session; please prepare ahead of time and bring questions to the review. Exam material will come from lectures, in-class activities, and assigned readings.

Class participation: We will engage in a variety of in-class activities, including demonstrations, group discussions, quick-writes, videos, and interactive games. Attendance and participation in these activities are crucial for doing well in the course.

Research Project & Final Paper: Scientific understanding of prejudice is based on empirical research. As a student of this science, it’s important that you be able to think critically about published research and think creatively about future directions for existing research. To facilitate this learning, you will choose one topic related to social psychology and complete a research project and paper on the topic.

For the research project, you will design and carry out an unobtrusive or archival study on your topic. Students are encouraged to choose a topic related to their thesis and use this project as an opportunity to collect and analyze preliminary data related to that.

The paper will include a thorough review of the existing literature on the topic, your own critical analysis of the research that has been conducted, methods, results, and discussion, including possible future directions and practical applications. The paper should include journal articles or academic books as references, and be in APA style; length should be 12-15 pages.

To allow for feedback and revision, the proposal, data, and results section of your paper will be due at different points throughout the semester so that you can get preliminary feedback and make the necessary revisions.

Presentation: Students are required to present on the findings from their final research project. This will include presenting on the background literature (i.e., including peer-reviewed articles on the topic), methods, results, and a discussion of the implications for this line of research. Specific instructions for this assignment will be passed out in class.

****ALL written assignments need to use 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins.

Final Examination or Evaluation
The final exam will be on the time scheduled by the SJSU final exam schedule.
Grading Information

Grading

Assignment Grade Due Date

Activities/Assignments:
Research Project Proposal 10 pts
Data collection 10 pts
Data analysis/draft of results 10 pts

Exams:
Midterm #1 40 pts
Midterm #2 40 pts
Final Exam 40 pts

Research Project:
Final Paper Paper 75 pts
Research Presentation 10 pts

Determination of Grades

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**Classroom Protocol**

*Late assignments*
An assignment turned in after the due date (and time) will receive a 10% penalty per day late. If you do not show up for the exam, you will receive a zero on it. There are no exceptions to this rule except for emergencies with official documentation (e.g., doctor’s note). Note the deadlines in the class syllabus and plan accordingly.

*Electronics*
Cell phones, mp3 players, and all other electronic devices should be turned off in class. Texting or answering calls during class is not acceptable. If electronic devices are visible during an exam, you will receive a zero on the exam.

Laptops are strongly discouraged: Social media is bad for your happiness (studies show) and addictive (so is email). Please consider the limitations of “multi-tasking” and make an informed choice when deciding to bring computers to class.

*Academic Honesty*
You are held to the highest standard of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. You may never use the ideas or work of another person without proper citation (i.e. noting the name and source according to APA style). The work you turn in for all assignments should always be your own. I am interested in your original ideas, as well as your ability to properly cite others’ ideas. Keep in mind that plagiarism does not necessarily have to be intentional to be serious. When in doubt, cite!

*Contact*
I check my email on a daily basis Monday-Friday and should respond to most queries within 24 hours. Please feel free to approach me before/after class, or make an appointment for office hours.

*Accessibility*
Any student needing academic adjustments or accommodations should talk with me by the end of the second week of the term. University Policies (Required)

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at [http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/”](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/”). Make sure to visit this page, review and be familiar with these university policies and resources.

In the following pages, you will find an outline of the topics and readings we will be covering. Please note that the syllabus may be updated during the semester to reflect changes in course readings, shifts in lecture topics, etc. You will be notified each time a change takes place.

**DATES, TOPICS, AND READINGS**

*Week 1: 1/23*
Social Psychology as a Science


Recommended reading: Ch 1.3

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Week 2 1/28-30
Social Cognition


Recommended reading: Ch. 2

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Week 3 2/4-6
Emotion & Motivation


Recommended reading: Ch. 3

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Week 4 2/11-13 (FINAL PAPER PROPOSAL DUE 2/13)
The Self


Recommended reading: Ch. 4

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Week 5 2/18-20
Attitudes (Conscious & Unconscious)


Recommended reading: Ch. 5

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Week 6 2/25-27 REVIEW & MIDTERM #1

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Week 7 3/3-5
Close Relationships

McNulty, J. K., Olson, M. A., Meltzer, A. L., & Shaffer, M. J. (2013). Though they may be unaware, newlyweds implicitly know whether their marriage will be satisfying. Science, 342(6162), 1119-1120.

Recommended reading: Ch. 8
Week 8 3/10-12 (DATA COLLECTION DUE 3/12)
Aggression


Recommended reading: Ch. 10

Week 9 3/17-19
Intergroup Relations


Recommended reading: Ch. 12

Week 10 3/24-26 REVIEW & MIDTERM #2

Week 11 3/31-3/2 SPRING BREAK

Week 12 4/7-9 (DATA ANALYSES/RESULTS DUE 4/9)
Morality


Week 13 4/14-16
Culture


Week 14 4/21-23 (FINAL PAPER DUE 4/23)
Judgment & Decision-Making


Week 15 4/28-30
Social Neuroscience


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Week 16  5/5-7 (PRESENTATIONS DUE 5/5)
Presentations & REVIEW
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Week 17  FINAL EXAM FRI 5/15 9:45 AM