San José State University  
Psychology Department  
Psychology 154, Social Psychology, Section 2, Spring 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s): Jason X. Ventura  
Email: jason.ventura@sjsu.edu  
Canvas Learning Management system  
Available by Zoom appointments

NOTE: When contacting me by email, please put “PSYC 154; sect. 2” in the subject line. Replies within 48 hours (except Sundays). If I do not reply, kindly, resend email.

Office Hours (via Zoom): Students do not need to schedule an appointment for office hours; just show up. I will take students on a “first come; first serve” basis. Outside of scheduled office hours will require an appointment.

Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
**Available by appointment

Class Days/Time: See course schedule for class sessions  
Classroom: Class sessions will be conducted through Zoom  
Prerequisites: PSYC 1

Course Description

This course is designed to give you a broad overview of classic and contemporary theory and research in Social Psychology. Social psychologists are primarily interested in the scientific study of how people think about, influence, and relate to one another. How our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by our social environment and by the people with whom we interact.

Class sessions will include lectures, in-class activities, including small group discussions, and video clips.

Course Format

This course will follow a hybrid format using both a combination of in-class lecture delivery and also accompanied by online delivery of instructional material which will entail reading the chapters from the prescribed text, reading supplemental material provided by your instructor, viewing recordings of PowerPoint slide lectures and videos online (e.g., YouTube clips). By way of preparing for online readiness, we will meet in person (through Zoom) on specified dates, and on those days, each new chapter will be covered. For
purposes of clarity, the course schedule gives detailed information of the material that will be covered. Hence this course seeks to provide you with an exciting educational experience through online techniques.

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/people/firstname.lastname and/or on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. Students are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on Spartan App Portal http://one.sjsu.edu (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see Canvas Student Resources page (http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources)

**Course Goals**

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 are informed on daily news and events that occur each day. It is encouraged for students to read daily news reports from their preferred news 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 by applying social psychological theories based on real world events. This translates into a better understanding of knowledge presented in 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 a 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 encounter in everyday life.
5. Express and apply social psychological theory effectively in written and oral communication

**Program Learning Outcomes**

1. **Knowledge Base of Psychology**
   Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

2. **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. Critical Thinking Skills
   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. Applications of Psychology
   Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

5. 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


The only required (Smart)book cannot be purchased on Amazon or other sites; it is not a physical book.

IMPORTANT: You MUST purchase the e-book with Connect for assignments. (Smart)book cannot be purchased on Amazon or other sites; it is not a physical book. Available at Spartan Bookstore or to McGraw-Hill’s Connect site. Follow the link to purchase and then set up a login account with your chosen PW and Login.

McGraw Hill tech support: 1(800) 331-5094

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

- Regular access to a computer (with Internet connection), and possession of a word processor program (MS Word, Pages, or Googledocs)
Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. **SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students.** Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible or at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative. See Learn Anywhere website for current Wi-Fi options on campus.

**Library Liaison**

The SJSU library has a librarian who specializes in psychology (and other social sciences), and this librarian can serve as a very valuable resource for helping you to develop research ideas and locating appropriate research materials. The library also has an abundance of resources for doing psychology research:

Psychology Librarian:
Christa Bailey
christa.bailey@sjsu.edu
408-808-2422
http://libguides.sjsu.edu/psychology

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

**Stanford Prison Experiment assignment** Assessment of CLOs 2, 3, 4, and 5

In this writing assignment, students will watch a documentary and respond to assignment prompts on one of social psychology’s controversial experiments. Further details will be provided during class session and Canvas (see course schedule for assignment introduction). **The Stanford Prison Experiment assignment is worth 20 points.**

**Perceiving Persons assignment** Assessment of CLOs 2, 3, 4, and 5

In this writing assignment, students will use this assignment to examine their mental processes in impression formation. Further details will be provided during class session and Canvas (see course schedule for assignment introduction). **Perceiving persons assignment is worth 20 points.**

**Social Media Analysis (presentation)** Assessment of CLOs 2, 4, and 5

**GROUP PROJECT AND 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 be assigned into groups (by the instructor) based on choice of social media site. **The social media analysis presentation is worth 30 points.**

**Five extra credit points** will be given to groups that submit a recording of their video; **ten extra credit points** will be given to groups that present during our class session (see course schedule for assignment introduction AND presentation date).

**CONNECT Homework Assignments** Assessment of CLOs 1, 2, 3 and 5
Students must complete 7 total homework assignments over the course of the semester. None within the first two weeks of the course. Assignments will be assigned for each chapter we begin and CONNECT assignments will be due before midnight on the scheduled due date (see course schedule OR instructor will make an announcement in class). There are no “re-dos” if you miss the deadline. Once the assignment’s deadline is passed you may not complete the homework assignment. CONNECT assignments are 25 points each (10 points for SmartBook assignments; 15 points for homework assignments; total of 175 points).

**IMPORTANT NOTES FOR ASSIGNMENTS:**

Writing assignments that do not meet the minimum page count will result in zero points.

This policy is implemented due to high volume of grading. Before I read a single word on assignments, I check the page count. If your assignment does not meet the minimum page requirement, I will not read it, and move on to the next student.

How is “on time” defined in this course? Assignments are due before midnight on their specified date. A digital copy must be uploaded onto Canvas before midnight. Students will receive a “LATE” notice if their assignment is turned in past the specified time. The instructor will implement a five-minute grace period.

If the criteria listed above are not met your assignment is considered late (see policy for late assignments).

**All writing assignments must be written in APA style. Instructor will dock points to papers that are not written in this style.**

**High percentages on Turn-It-In will have an effect on student’s grade. Paraphrase rather than quote.**

**I WILL ACCEPT LATE PAPERS!** However, late papers will result in half points, and if paper does not meet requirements, you will lose more points. Students will have one week to turn in late assignments. Late papers will not receive any comments or feedback.

If your paper is not submitted after a week from the due date, it will result in zero points. It is in your best interest to turn assignments in on time.

Communication is key! I understand “things happen” and if an incident should arise, I must have an email in my inbox 12 hours before the due date (i.e. 12:00 pm). I will take your e-mail into consideration when evaluating assignments.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Final Examination or Evaluation

Thursday, May 20 from 7:15 – 9:30 am The final exam will be cumulative and worth 50 points.
“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perceiving persons assignment</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>(7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford Prison experiment assignment</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>(7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media analysis presentation</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONNECT assignments (25 points each)</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>(59%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>(17%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total possible points: 295**

Grading Scale:

- **A plus**: 288+
- **A**: 287 to 273
- **A minus**: 272 to 265
- **B plus**: 264 to 259
- **B**: 258 to 244
- **B minus**: 243 to 235
- **C plus**: 234 to 229
- **C**: 228 to 214
- **C minus**: 213 to 206
- **D plus**: 205 to 200
- **D**: 199 to 185
- **D minus**: 184 to 176
- **F less than 175**

Classroom Protocol

Please practice the following guidelines during our Zoom class meetings/discussions.

**ZOOM CLASS MEETINGS/DISCUSSIONS**

- Please do not talk when your instructor or other students are speaking. Please “mute” your microphone when your instructor is talking and/or when other students are asking questions.

- Students are ENCOURAGED (but not required) to turn on their video camera during Zoom class meetings. Turning on your video camera allows your instructor and classmates to see you and helps to simulate more of an “in-person” experience. BUT, again, you are NOT REQUIRED to turn on your video camera during these meetings if you choose not to or feel uncomfortable about doing so.

- Please be respectful of other people’s experiences, comments, thoughts, opinions, etc. even if you might not agree with what they are saying.

- I hope these class discussions can be a “safe” place where all students feel comfortable to share their own thoughts, experiences, and beliefs without being “judged” by others.
• As educated adults, we should be able to engage in thoughtful debate and discussion with one another without any fear of personal attacks/judgments from others.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

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 section. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes; information available with this link: Late Drop Policy.

Monday, February 8th: Last day to drop courses without an entry on student's permanent record.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at 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.”
  o It is suggested that the syllabus 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.
  o 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.”

• Recording Zoom Classes: This course or portions of this course (i.e., lectures, discussions, student presentations) will be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be
shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please speak with the instructor about possible accommodations (e.g., temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording).

- **Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission**

➢ Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12-7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

**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/.

**Student misconduct regarding academic dishonesty (a.k.a. “cheating”) will result in failure of the class** (University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf; Academic Sanction 4.14)

**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, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. 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.

**SJSU Peer Connections**

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

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 Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services

SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services invites “all students to come into Counseling and Psychological Services, located at the Student Wellness Center, room 300B, for any support needed.” 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 (sect.2): Social Psychology, Spring 2021, 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.***

Highlighted text: Class meetings  
Red text: Writing assignments/presentation  
Black text: Connect assignments

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Meetings, Topics, Readings, Assignments, &amp; Deadlines</th>
<th>Class notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 1/28  | CLASS MEETING 9:00 - 10:15 am  
Introduction of course and instructor, read all of Chapter 1                                                            |                              |
| 2    | 2/2   | CLASS MEETING 9:00 - 10:15 am  
What is social psychology?                                                                                             |                              |
| 2    | 2/4   | CLASS MEETING 9:00 - 10:15 am  
What is social psychology?                                                                                             |                              |
| 3    | 2/9   | Work on chapter 2: “The Self in a Social World” Connect assignment                                                       |                              |
| 3    | 2/11  | Work on chapter 2: “The Self in a Social World” Connect assignment                                                       |                              |
| 4    | 2/16  | Work on chapter 2: “The Self in a Social World” Connect assignment                                                       |                              |
| 4    | 2/18  | ASSIGNMENT DUE: Chapter 2: “The Self in a Social World” Connect assign  
Assignment due before midnight                                            |                              |
| 5    | 2/23  | CLASS MEETING 9:00 - 10:15 am  
Lecture and discussion - Chapter 2: “The Self in a Social World”  
Introduce “Perceiving Persons” assignment                                |                              |
| 5    | 2/25  | Work on chapter 3: “Social Beliefs and Judgments” Connect assignment  
Work on “Perceiving Persons” assignment                                   |                              |
| 6    | 3/2   | Work on chapter 3: “Social Beliefs and Judgments” Connect assignment  
Work on “Perceiving Persons” assignment                                   |                              |
| 6    | 3/4   | ASSIGNMENT DUE: Chapter 3: “Social Beliefs and Judgments” Connect assignment  
Work on “Perceiving Persons” assignment                                   | Assignment due before midnight |
| 7    | 3/9   | CLASS MEETING 9:00 - 10:15 am  
Lecture and discussion - Chapter 3: “Social Beliefs and Judgments”  
Introduce “Stanford Prison Experiment” paper  
Work on “Perceiving Persons” assignment                                   |                              |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Class Meetings, Topics, Readings, Assignments, &amp; Deadlines</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>Work on chapter 4: “Behavior and Attitudes” Connect assignment Work on “Stanford Prison Experiment” writing assignment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENT DUE: Chapter 4: “Behavior and Attitudes” Connect assignment Work on “Stanford Prison Experiment” writing assignment</td>
<td>Assignment due before midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/23</td>
<td>CLASS MEETING 9:00 - 10:15 am Lecture and discussion - Chapter 4: “Behavior and Attitudes” Introduce Media Analysis assignment presentation Work on chapter 9: “Prejudice” Connect assignment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENT DUE: “Stanford Prison Experiment” writing assignment</td>
<td>Assignment due before midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>Work on chapter 9: “Prejudice” Connect assignment</td>
<td>Assignment due before midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENT DUE: Chapter 9: “Prejudice” Connect assignment</td>
<td>Assignment due before midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>CLASS MEETING 9:00 - 10:15 am Lecture and discussion - Chapter 9: “Prejudice” Introduce Media Analysis groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>Work on chapter 6 “Conformity and Obedience” Work on Media Analysis presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/20</td>
<td>Work on chapter 6 “Conformity and Obedience” Work on Media Analysis presentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/22</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENT DUE: Chapter 6: “Conformity and Obedience” Connect assignment</td>
<td>Assignment due before midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>CLASS MEETING 9:00 - 10:15 am Media analysis presentations, lecture and discussion - Chapter 6: “Conformity and Obedience” ASSIGNMENT DUE: Media Analysis assignment presentation</td>
<td>Assignment due before midnight or before start of meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>Work on “Aggression” and “Helping”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>Work on “Aggression” and “Helping”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Work on “Aggression” and “Helping”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 16   | 5/11  | **CLASS MEETING 9:00 - 10:15 am**  
Lecture and discussion – Chapter 10 “Aggression”                                                                         |             |
| 16   | 5/13  | **LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION**  
CLASS MEETING 9:00 - 10:15 am  
Lecture and discussion – Chapter 12: “Helping”  
ASSIGNMENTS DUE: Chapter 10 “Aggression” and Chapter 12: “Helping”  
Discuss final exam. Assignments due before midnight. |             |
| Final Exam | 5/20 | **Thursday, May 20th**  
7:15-9:30 am  
Worth 50 points; cumulative                                           |             |