

Social Psychology

PSYC 154

Winter 2026 Section 80 Fully Online 3 Unit(s) 12/22/2025 to 01/16/2026 Modified 12/10/2025

Contact Information

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Office Hours

Wednesday, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Zoom: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/4995957645>

Or by appointment - Please email me with your availabilities to set up a time

Course Information

This course will be asynchronous. All instruction will be provided via Canvas.

Course Description and Requisites

Theories, problems and issues in the study of human social behavior.

Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

Letter Graded

Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the Psychology BA degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the Psychology BA degree are:

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

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

Course Materials

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).
- **Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft Office Mobile are available at no cost to SJSU students.** Visit Microsoft Office 365 Portal. Students can access the Office 365 Portal with your SJSU Email address and SJSUOne Password as long as you are an enrolled student. [Click on this link for details. \(https://ischool.sjsu.edu/post/microsoft-office\)](https://ischool.sjsu.edu/post/microsoft-office)
- 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 \(https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php) 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>

Together: The Science of Social Psychology

A free digital copy will be posted on our Canvas course page.

<https://nobaproject.com/textbooks/together-the-science-of-social-psychology>

Course Requirements and Assignments

Access to course content: The course schedule below details what days the course modules – including assignments and required readings – will be made available on Bb (i.e., the "open" date) and when the assignments are due (i.e., "due" date;

also see table above). **The modules will be available by 12:01AM PST on the "open date" and the discussion for each module will close by 11:59PM PST on the "close date" AKA "due date."** These times are known as "module periods." All assignments are due by the end of a module period/due date! *Once a module period ends, you will no longer be able to access the assignment.*

Personal introduction post (2%): The main purpose of this assignment is to provide all of us with an opportunity to get to know one another – which is important in an online course. The second purpose is to ensure that everyone knows how to use the Discussion Board.

I ask each student to introduce themselves in the designated Discussion Board at the beginning of the course. I will post a personal introduction as well. I encourage you to respond to one another's introductions and to find something in common with others in the class. **You should complete this assignment by the end of the second day of the course – Tuesday, December 23rd (11:59PM PST).**

Common Sense Quiz (4%): You will be shown 10 statements and will be asked to report whether you think them to be true or false. You can take this quiz before reading the chapter content - your score will not matter for your grade. It will be important that you look at the answers which will be provided after you submit the quiz in order to write your first discussion post. You can even retake the quiz as many times as you want. As long as you complete the quiz by the due date, you will get credit for it. The quiz will be available on Blackboard. **You should complete this assignment by Tuesday, December 23rd (11:59PM PST).**

Online Discussions (54%): For each module, you will be asked to post your contribution to

the topics in the designated Discussion Board. This assignment includes TWO parts, the **original post** (5 points each), and the **reply** (2 points each).

Your contribution to the topic should be clear, complete, and accurate, following the below rubric. I **strongly recommend that you carefully compose your answers on a word processing program**. Before posting your answers, check them for spelling and grammatical errors, save them, and then copy and paste them to the Discussion Board. You will be able to view other classmates' threads only after you have posted your thread. Also, once you have posted your thread **you will not be able to delete or edit your own thread**, and you cannot post anonymously. These options are set to ensure fairness.

Discussion due dates	
Module	Due date
M1	December 23
M2	January 2nd
M5	January 6th
M6	January 9th
M7	January 13th
M8	January 15th

1) Original post – 5 points.

You will find a discussion board prompt in the “Discussion” section in Bb for each of the modules you will be asked to discuss. These discussion board prompts give you specific questions to think about in relation to readings, lectures, videos, or activities for that module. See the below rubric for grading.

Discussion Rubric: Original Post

	2 points	1 point	0 points
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Demonstrating knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terminology is used correctly, demonstrating understanding - Contains essential ideas presented in the module - Zero or very few misspellings and grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some vocabulary is used correctly and some is not - Contains some or most key information - Occasional misspellings and grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terminology used incorrectly - Little sense of which information is of most importance - Frequent misspellings and grammatical errors
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organized, cohesive analysis that applies ideas from the module - Uses facts from the modules, and few opinions are identified as such - Adequate support for ideas is provided by mentioning the source - Adequate length of 3-5 sentences - Zero or very few misspellings and grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis is fairly organized, but lacks complete cohesion - Generally distinguishes facts from opinions - Support provided for some ideas and not others - Does not meet length of 3-5 sentences - Occasional misspellings and grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jumps randomly from one aspect of an issue to another - Opinions stated as facts - Struggles to provide ideas or support for ideas - Does not meet length of 3-5 sentences - Frequent misspellings and grammatical errors
Overall considerations	<p>n/a</p> <p>(Only 1 point available)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion is thought-provoking, comprehensible, and can further the conversation about the module topic in some way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion is non-existent, or irrelevant, incoherent, or otherwise unanswerable

	Best possible: 5 points		
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2) Responses to classmates' discussion questions – 2 points each.

This assignment also requires that you read the threads and answers posted by your classmates. Within your chosen module, respond to at least **two** of your classmates posts. These replies should be about 2-4 sentences. In your replies to other students' you can:

1. Suggest ways in which an idea could be more clearly expressed.
2. Expand on or clarify a point made in the write-up/readings/media in order to address their question.
3. Offer arguments to support a position relevant to a question asked.
4. Identify passages where you think the writer understood a concept differently than you.
5. Agree or disagree with points or positions made in other students' replies to the same post.

If you are disagreeing with the views of another student, **please be constructive and**

respectful. You may criticize a position but not the author. State precisely the point you disagree with (making sure you have not misinterpreted the writer's position). Offer reasons why you think their view is incorrect and support your position by citing the course materials or other sources. See the rubric for more guidelines:

Discussion Rubric: Replies

	Best possible: 2 points	1 point	0 points
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Interaction with others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiates dialogue with thoughtful and reflective comments and/or questions - Replies to others are clear, responsive, and indicate level of understanding - If disagreeing, done so respectfully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attends to the discussion but contributes little new knowledge or ideas - Replies to others are clear - If disagreeing, done so respectfully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comments are unconstructive toward furthering the discussion - Replies to others are unclear or promote misunderstanding - Makes a personal attack or uses some inappropriate language
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Makes clear the argument, thought, or question being raised - Uses course content or related information to express thorough ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accepts ideas of others without much thought - Fails to entirely cite sources of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Makes irrelevant or distracting statements - Relies solely on personal anecdote or opinion - Length of reply is inadequate (i.e., 1 sentence)
Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zero or very few misspellings and grammatical errors - Clear, correct use of terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Few misspellings and grammatical errors - Some unclear or unnecessary language and terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frequent misspellings and grammatical errors - Terminology used incorrectly

Exams (40%):

The exams are found under the “Learning modules” section on Blackboard. They are each worth 20%. You will have a limited amount of time to complete each exam once you begin, and you can only attempt each exam once. But, once you feel prepared for the exam (i.e., once you have completed all

the relevant modules), you can take it. There is no specific date/time that you need to sit for the exam, other than before the close date.

Exam 1 covers modules 1-5, and Exam 2 covers modules 6-9. Each exam has 20 questions (15 multiple choice and 5 short answer) that come from the textbook, readings, videos, and lecture. You will have 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete each exam. If you require accommodations for extra time through SASC, please ensure that you arrange this with them ASAP so that they can notify me.

Exam 1: Opens on January 9th at 12:00am and closes at 11:59pm

Exam 2: Opens on January at 12:00am and closes at 11:59pm

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS:

Pay close attention to the deadlines presented on the syllabus concerning

module period close dates and assignment due date. **You cannot make up an assignment.**

✓ Grading Information

Breakdown

Criteria

GRADING CALCULATION:

The final grade will be calculated out of 100 points, as a combination of scores for the following assignments. The points system can easily be converted to percentage points to calculate your final grade.

Assignment	Points Possible	Breakdown	Due date*
Introductory post	2	Graded only for completion	12/23/25
Background knowledge quiz	4	Graded only for completion	12/23/25

Discussion board posts	54	6 original posts – 5 pts each	See below
		12 responses to classmates – 2 pts each	
Exams	40	Exam 1 – 20 pts	01/8/26
		Exam 2 – 20 pts	01/16/26
TOTAL POSSIBLE	100		

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<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 the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
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When	Topic	Notes				
		Schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Changes will be announced via Canvas messaging.				
		Open date (12:01AM)	Module/ Assignment	Slides (Access on Canvas)	Readings/media (Access on Bb)	Close/due date (11:59PM)
		Mon, Dec 22	Intro post (2 pts)	n/a	n/a	Tues, Dec 23
		Mon, Dec 22	Common sense quiz (4 pts)	n/a	n/a	Tues, Dec 23
		Mon, Dec 22	Module 1: Introduction to Social Psychology Discussion posts	Module 1 slides	Chapter 1: An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology (<i>textbook</i>) How to read a journal article in social psychology (<i>article</i>) What is behavioral economics? (<i>video, 4 min</i>) Behavioral genetics: Why should I care? (<i>video, 3 min</i>) Chemistry of love (<i>video, 3 min</i>)	Tues, Dec 23
		Mon, Dec 22	Module 2: Research Methods - Discussion posts	Module 2 slides	Research Methods in Social Psychology (<i>textbook</i>) Optional: Statiktoks	Fri, Jan 2
		Mon, Dec 22	Module 3: The Social Self	Module 3 slides	The KKK won't let me play (<i>article</i>) Roy Baumeister – What is self-awareness? (<i>video, 8 min</i>)	Tues, Jan 6

When	Topic	Notes				
		Mon, Dec 22	Module 4: Perceiving Persons	Module 4 slides	Ringelman effect: Social loafing (video, 3 min)	Tues, Jan 6
					The Pygmalion Effect (video, 5 min)	
					Dateline: Lying (video, 12min)	
					Optional: Priming & the Office	
		Mon, Dec 22	Module 5: Discrimination Discussion posts	Module 5 slides	Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping (textbook)	Tues, Jan 6
			IAT: Fad or fabulous? (article)			
			Intergroup Anxiety (video, 5 min)			
			Kimberlé Crenshaw TED Talk (video, 19min)			
			A conversation with Asian Americans on race (video, 7 min)			
			IAT Test : Use this link to take the IAT before completing the discussion post			
Thurs, January 8	Exam 1 (20 pts)	n/a	n/a	Thurs, January 8		

When	Topic	Notes				
		Thurs, January 8	Module 6: Conformity	Module 6 slides	Conformity and Obedience (textbook)	Fri, Jan 9
			Discussion posts		Asch experiment (video, 2 min)	
					The Influence you Have (podcast, 50 min)	
		Thurs, Jan 8	Module 7: Group processes	Module 7 slides	The Psychology of Groups (textbook)	Tues, Jan 13
			Discussion posts		Mob Mentality (podcast, 60 min)	
		Thurs, Jan 8	Module 8: Helping	Module 8 slides	The Bystander Effect is complicated TED Talk (video, 16 min)	Thurs, Jan 15
			Discussion posts		Swedish hero recounts nabbing Stanford rapist (news story - Content warning: Some discussion of sexual violence)	
					The talk to Captain John Jonas (video, 4 min)	
		Thurs, Jan 8	Module 9: Aggression	Module 9 slides	Aggression and Violence (textbook)	Thurs, Jan 15
					A little acceptance goes a long way: Applying social impact theory to the rejection-aggression link (article)	
					Banduras bobo doll experiment (video, 4 min)	
		Fri, Jan 16	Exam 2 (20 pts)	n/a	n/a	Fri, Jan 16