

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Psychology
Programme:	Psychology
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Social Psychology
Course Code:	PSY 5220
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Social psychological processes influence how we perceive, judge, remember, and behave toward people. These processes shape, and are shaped by, our social expectations, social roles, social goals, and social interactions. This course is designed to illustrate the relationship between the individual and society and to demonstrate the multiple ways that social psychology can be applied to the individual - society interface in specific topic areas. Students are encouraged to critically reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of various social psychology theories, to consider their research methods and their applications to real life situations.

Prerequisites:

PSY 4205 Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology

Aims and Objectives:

During this course, students will be encouraged to critically reflect on the range and power of the influence people have on the thoughts, feelings, and the behaviours of others. They will also get the chance to develop a detailed awareness of the connections between social psychological theories and their applications and will also be able to critically evaluate these. Furthermore, the course aims at developing students' critical thinking skills in relation to research, as they will be given the opportunity to examine research methods used to understand social attitudes and behaviour. Finally, a major objective of this course is to demonstrate how social psychological research may be applied to real life social problems, such as violence

and intergroup conflict.

Programme Outcomes:

Psychology: 5Ai, 5Aii, 5Biii, 5Ci, 5C.iii, 5Di, 5Dii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Critically evaluate the major theoretical frameworks in which social psychologists have described and explained human behaviour in a social context.
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of the relationship between theoretical perspectives and research methodologies.
- Identify and evaluate key issues, philosophical debates and controversies within social psychology
- Identify and critically evaluate ways in which theories and issues central to social psychology have emerged from, and been applied to, various 'real-life' settings.

Indicative Content:

- Self and Identity
- Attitudes and Attitude
- Change Social Cognition
- Attribution
- Social Influence: Obedience and Conformity
- People in Groups
- Prejudice and Discrimination Intergroup
- Relations and Conflict
- Prosocial Behaviour
- Attraction and Close Relationships
- Applications of Social Psychology to the 'Real World' Social Constructionism

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Formal lectures
- II. Discussions of key ideas

III. Recommended Readings & Websites

IV. Films

Indicative Texts:

Hogg, M. A. & Vaughan, G. M. (2014). *Social Psychology* (7th ed.). Harlow, Prentice Hall.

Myers, D., Abell, J., Kolstad, A., & Sani, F. (2010). *Social Psychology*. London, McGraw-Hill, European Edition.

Journals:

British Journal of Social Psychology

European Journal of Social Psychology

Journal of Applied Social Psychology

Journal of Experimental Social Psychology

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

Journal of Social Psychology

Web Sites:

<http://www.socialpsychology.org/>

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	