COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: Psychology

FHEQ Level: 3

Course Title: Foundations in Social Psychology

Course Code: PSY 3105

Course Leader: Dr Ira Konstantinou

Student Engagement Hours: 120 Lectures: 45

Seminar / Tutorials:

Independent / Guided Learning: 75

Semester: Spring

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

This course is designed to expose students to the discipline known as Social Psychology, the scientific study of how people come to understand individuals, groups, and themselves as social entities. 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. Although it may seem that social psychologists merely study "the obvious" (e.g., attractive people are more liked than unattractive people), the field has made a significant impact both theoretically (e.g., theories about the formation of stereotypes and prejudice) and practically (e.g., how organizations can make better decisions). Through a series of lectures, videos and class discussions, this course will examines the influence people have on each other's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

There are four major objectives of this course:

- 1. To show the range and power of the influence people have on the thoughts, feelings, and the behaviours of others;
- 2. To present and to evaluate the major theories of social psychology;
- 3. To examine research methods used to understand social attitudes and behavior;

4. To discuss how social psychological research may be applied to social problems, such as violence and intergroup conflict.

Programme Outcomes:

3A.i, 3B.i, 3C.i, 3D.i

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop an understanding of key approaches to the study of social psychology.
- Develop an understanding of the diverse theoretical positions within the discipline such as in the areas of attitudes and persuasions, conformity, obedience, prejudice, aggression and altruism.
- Develop an understanding of the evolution of social psychological theories and research.
- Appreciate the connections between social psychology concepts and their applications in experimentation and "real life" situations.
- Establish an awareness of the cultural and societal influences on social psychology theory and the practice of psychology.
- Become familiar with appropriate journals and research and research methodologies.

Indicative Content:

- Social Psychology Research
- Classical & Unethical Experiments
- The Self
- Social Perception
- Attitudes & Behaviour
- Culture & Social Influence
- Conformity & Obedience
- Persuasion
- Aggression
- Attraction & Intimacy
- Helping & Altruism
- People in Groups
- Intergroup Relations & Conflict
- Understanding Prejudice
- Applying Social Psychology to the 'Real World'

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

Course material will be presented in the following ways:

- (i) Formal lectures with PowerPoint and additional handouts
- (ii) Group discussions on relevant material
- (iii) Videos/films accompanied by discussion
- (iv) Recommended readings and web sites

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text:

Myers. D., Abell, J., Kolstad, A., and Sani, F., (2010) <u>Social Psychology</u>, London, McGraw-Hill, European Edition

Journals:

British Journal of Social Psychology (BPS journal) European Journal of Social Psychology (EASP-sponsored journal) Journal of Applied Social Psychology Journal of Personality and Social Psychology (APA journal) Journal of Social Psychology

Web Sites

http://www.socialpsychology.org/social.htm

Please Note:	The cor	re and the	reference	texts	will b	e reviewed	at the	time	of	designing	the	semester	syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or	Nature of Change	Date Approved &	Change
Minor	_	Approval Body (School	Actioned by
Change?		or LTPC)	Academic
			Registry