



CURRICULUM GUIDE: OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code	PSYC 260	Course Title	Social Psychology			
Credit Value	3	Department	Social Sciences			
No. of weeks	14	Hrs. per week	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Tutorial</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>	<i>Total</i>
			3	0	0	3
Course Description	This course introduces theories, research findings, and research methods as well as issues and problems encountered in the study of people as social beings. It addresses the scientific investigation of human cognition and behaviour in social contexts by examining topics such as self-concept, altruism, interpersonal attraction, aggression, attribution theories, attitude formation and attitude change, leadership, and social influence processes (e.g., conformity, compliance, and obedience).					
Prerequisite(s)	ENGL 100, PSYC 102					
Initial Articulation Targets	<i>UBC</i>	<i>SFU</i>	<i>UVic</i>	<i>UNBC</i>	<i>TRU</i>	
	PSYC 308A (3)	PSYC 260 (3)	PSYC 231 (1.5)	PSYC 207 (3)	PSYC 2220 (3)	
	For updated information on the transferability of this course, please consult the BC Transfer Guide, www.bctransferguide.ca					
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand different modes of verbal and non-verbal communications in various social situations. • Understand several attribution theories (e.g., Kelley's attribution model) and their applications in different social situations. • Understand the role of cognitive dissonance in changing attitude, cognition and behaviour in social contexts. • Understand the intricate interactions among numerous factors contributing to the development of interpersonal attraction. • Understand various mechanisms (e.g., conformity, compliance and obedience) directly or indirectly involved in temporary or permanent changes in cognition and behaviour. • Understand different types of aggression and its numerous biological, psychological and social determinants. • Understand the intricate group dynamics (e.g., scapegoating, social loafing, leadership, and self-monitoring). • Understand factors contributing to the formation and change of attitudes, as well as the intricate relationship between attitudes and cognition and behaviour. • Understand various facets of self-constructs (e.g., self-concept, self-esteem, and self-efficacy). 					



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the psycho-social determinants of pro-social behaviour. 	
Content	<p>Core topics – all of the following will be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal and non-verbal communication Attribution theories Cognitive dissonance mechanisms Social and gender identities Interpersonal attraction Conformity Obedience Aggression Group dynamics Attitude (formation and change) The Self Stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination Prosocial behaviour <p>Additional topics may also be covered, at the discretion of the instructor.</p>	
Methods of Instruction	Lectures, small group activities, discussion groups, seminars, oral presentations, computer simulations, video, guest lectures.	
Required Textbook(s)	<p>The following textbook(s) is/are required, or approved equivalent(s).</p> <p>Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., Akert, R. M., & Fehr, B. (2021). <i>Social Psychology</i>. Seventh Canadian Edition. https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/jdhdoq</p> <p>Jhangiani, R. & H. Tarry. (2014). <i>Principles of Social Psychology – 1st International Edition</i>. Victoria, B.C.: BCCampus. https://opentextbc.ca/socialpsychology/</p>	
Required Equipment and Technology	<p>Students are required to have a computer with internet access.</p> <p>The following resources are provided by the College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office 365 Student email 	
Homework Hours	At minimum, students can expect one hour of homework for every hour of instructional time.	
Evaluation	<i>Component</i>	<i>% Value</i>
	In-class participation	5-10%
	Term paper	15-25%
	Midterm examination 1	15-25%
	Midterm examination 2	15-25%
Final examination	25-30%	
Completion Requirements	The minimum grade to pass this course is D (50%). Unless otherwise stated, a minimum grade of C- (55%) is required for this course to fulfil a prerequisite.	



Course Designer(s)	Bahman Najarian, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, Alexander College	Consultant(s), if applicable	Kevin Hamilton, Ph.D., (Chair) Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Dean's Approval	Barbara Moon, Ph.D. Dean of Arts and Sciences, Alexander College	Dean's Approval Date	September 27, 2006
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	September 27, 2006	First Term Offered	Winter 2013
Last Review Date	February 14, 2023	Next Review Date	February 14, 2028
Revision History	August 2015-Small adjustments, adding to content, updating online resources, instructional materials, assessment ranges, consultations. Jan 2020 – minor edits, evaluation given as ranges, text and recommended reading updated July 2022 – minor edits, adjust evaluation ranges to meet max final grade, add open access resources, adjust articulation table to match current BC transfer guide, by Wendy Comeau January 2, 2025 – English prerequisite increased to ENGL 100, effective Winter 2025		