Course Description

Social psychology is the study of how our thoughts, feelings and behaviors are influenced by our social environment. The goal of this course is to familiarize students with theory and research in social psychology and to apply this knowledge toward understanding yourself and other people as social beings.

Course Textbook


Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the history of social psychology and the major contributors to the field.
2. Compare and contrast how sociology, personality psychology, and social psychology attempt to understand and predict human behavior.
3. Understand the research methods used in social psychology.
4. Discuss and define the characteristics of our perception of the social world and other people.
5. Describe the nature of the self and explain how the social environment influences our understanding of ourselves.
6. Understand the origins and nature of attitudes and how they can be changed.
7. Understand the nature of conformity and obedience.
8. Describe the characteristics of interpersonal attraction.
9. Describe and explain Prosocial behavior and altruism.
10. Understand the nature of aggression and destructive behaviors.
11. Describe and explain prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

The course is divided into eight units. The purpose of the course unit is to create an integrative body of knowledge. Each course unit contains the following activities designed to enhance your understanding of the subject matter.

1. The Unit Lesson highlights, summarizes, and alerts students to areas of importance within selected readings.
2. The Unit Learning Objectives will help students identify how learning will be demonstrated, supported and evaluated.
3. Key Terms are provided to direct attention to important subject content.
4. The Required and Supplemental Reading Assignments may include textbook readings, supplemental books, professional journals, and Internet sites.
5. Information and specifications regarding Discussion Board questions are provided in the Course Policies section.
6. Students are required to take Unit Assessments at the completion of each unit. These questions reflect all of the material covered in each unit.
Unit Assignment

Final Paper

Your assignment is to choose a socio-psychological phenomenon that you find interesting (e.g., ingroup bias) and review at least 2 theories that have been proposed to explain this phenomenon.

Your paper should be organized in the following way:

1. Description of the phenomenon
   a. Provide specific examples/studies

2. Description of Theory 1
   a. Provide empirical evidence for this theory

3. Description of Theory 2
   a. Provide empirical evidence for this theory

4. Comparison and contrast of the two theories
   a. How are the two theories different?
   b. Do they apply to all situations or are there specific conditions when each of the theories explains the phenomenon?
   c. Are these two completely separate theories or can they be integrated into a single, unified theoretical framework?

Do not quote! Explain the theories in your own words.

You should have at least 5 professional sources references in your paper.

Your paper should be 4-5 pages in length and it should be written in the APA style. Provide correct citations for all sources that you use. Do not use websites as sources.

Submit your Final Paper using the link in Unit VIII.

Submitting Course Papers/Projects

Once you have completed your papers/projects, submit your completed papers/projects by uploading through the Assignment tab in each unit. Do not e-mail your paper directly to your professor. By using the Assignment tab, your record will automatically be updated to indicate you have submitted your papers/projects and the assignment will be provided to your professor for grading. Instructions for submitting your assignment can be found under the Assignment tab in each unit.

APA Guidelines

Waldorf College requires that students use the APA style for papers and projects. Therefore, the APA rules for formatting, quoting, paraphrasing, citing, and listing of sources are to be followed. Information about using APA style can be found in APA Style Help in the Course Menu. This area provides links to internet sites, tutorials, and guides that provide comprehensive information on APA formatting, including examples and sample papers.

Communication Forums

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.
Ask the Professor

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

Student Break Room

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board (8 @ 1%)</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Assessments (8 @ 9%)</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Course Schedule/Checklist *(please print)*

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.
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<tr>
<th>Unit I</th>
<th>Introduction to Social Psychology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review:</td>
<td>□ Unit Study Guide</td>
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</table>
| Read: | □ Chapter 1: Introducing Social Psychology  
□ Chapter 2: Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research  
□ Presentations: See Study Guide  
□ Videos: See Study Guide |
| Discuss: | □ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)  
□ Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) |
| Submit: | □ Assessment by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) |
| Notes/Goals: | |

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<tr>
<th>Unit II</th>
<th>Social Cognition and Social Perception</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review:</td>
<td>□ Unit Study Guide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Read: | □ Chapter 3: Social Cognition: How We Think about the Social World  
□ Chapter 4: Social Perception: How We Come to Understand Other People  
□ Presentations: See Study Guide  
□ Videos: See Study Guide |
| Discuss: | □ Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)  
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<th>Unit III</th>
<th>Understanding Self and Our Actions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review:</strong></td>
<td>Unit Study Guide</td>
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| **Read:** | Chapter 5: The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context  
| | Chapter 6: The Costs and Benefits of Dissonance Reduction  
| | Website: See Study Guide  
| | Presentations: See Study Guide  
| | Videos: See Study Guide |
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<th>Unit IV</th>
<th>Attitudes and Conformity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review:</strong></td>
<td>Unit Study Guide</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| **Read:** | Chapter 7: Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings  
| | Chapter 8: Conformity: Influencing Behavior  
| | Presentations: See Study Guide  
| | Videos: See Study Guide |
| **Discuss:** | Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)  
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**Notes/Goals:**
# Course Schedule

## Unit V
**Groups and Attaining a Sustainable Future**

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] **Chapter 9**: Group Processes: Influence in Social Groups
- [ ] **SPA-1**: Making a Difference with Social Psychology: Attaining a Sustainable Future
- [ ] **Presentations**: See Study Guide

**Discuss:**
- [ ] **Discussion Board Response**: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
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**Submit:**
- [ ] **Assessment** by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)

### Notes/Goals:

## Unit VI
**Attraction and Helping Behaviors**

**Review:**
- [ ] Unit Study Guide

**Read:**
- [ ] **Chapter 10**: Interpersonal Attraction: From First Impressions to Close Relationships
- [ ] **Chapter 11**: Pro-social Behavior: Why Do People Help?
- [ ] **Presentations**: See Study Guide
- [ ] **Videos**: See Study Guide

**Discuss:**
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<tr>
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<th>Aggression and Prejudice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review:</td>
<td>✅ Unit Study Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
<td>✅ Chapter 12: Aggression: Why Do We Hurt Other People? Can We Prevent It?</td>
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<tr>
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<td>✅ Chapter 13: Prejudice: Causes and Cures</td>
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<th>Unit VIII</th>
<th>Application of Social Psychology to Health and Law</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review:</td>
<td>✅ Unit Study Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
<td>✅ SPA-2: Social Psychology and Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>✅ SPA-3: Social Psychology and the Law</td>
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<td>✅ Presentations: See Study Guide</td>
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