



## PSY 2300

**Division:** Social and Behavioral Science

**Department:** Social Sciences

**Course:** PSY 2300

**Title:** Introduction to Social Psychology

**Catalog Description:**

This course is a survey of the effects of social influences on the basic psychological processes of individuals. The course considers individuals in the context of their culture and society, the development of attitudes, and the impact of the group on individual behavior.

**General Education Requirements:** N/A

**Semesters Offered:** Fall

**Credit/Time Requirement:** Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

**Clock/Hour Requirements:** 0

**Offered for Non-Credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** PSY 1010 or SOC 1010 or concurrent enrollment of these courses

**Corequisites:** N/A

**Justification:**

This course may be used to fulfill lower division credit requirements for psychology, sociology, and social work majors. It is transferable as lower division credit to all institutions in the state of Utah. Several institutions will articulate this course to fulfill upper division requirements. Students transferring to four year schools as psychology majors will be able to count this course toward their major course requirements.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- know the major theories in social psychology
- know the different methods used in conducting scientific research in the social and behavioral sciences
- examine classic and contemporary research in the field of social psychology
- demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles, procedures, terms, and concepts of social psychology
- realize the impact that groups and culture have on individual behavior
- recognize the consequences and causes of bias, discrimination, prosocial and antisocial behavior, and attraction.

**Content:**

This course will draw from the following topics:

- Introducing Social Psychology
- Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research
- Social Cognition: How We Think About the Social World
- Social Perception: How We Come to Understand Other People
- Self-Knowledge: How We Come to Understand Ourselves
- The Need to Justify Our Actions
- Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings
- Conformity: Influencing Behavior
- Group Processes: Influence in Social Groups
- Interpersonal Attraction: From First Impressions to Close Relationships
- Prosocial Behavior: Why Do People Help?
- Aggression: Why We Hurt Other People
- Prejudice: Causes and Cures
- Making a Difference with Social Psychology: Attaining a Sustainable Future
- Social Psychology and Health
- Social Psychology and the Law

### **General Education Outcomes:**

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students will be required to not only read the text in a manner that demonstrates comprehension, but they will also be required to read ancillary materials that further demonstrate the main concepts of social psychology. They will be asked to demonstrate a critical understanding of these readings in their tests and assignments.

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

Students will learn how behavioral principles have been used throughout the history of man to shape his behaviors and attitudes. They will also experience first-hand how their historical behaviors were shaped by their environment, circumstances and culture. Through extra readings, writing assignments, and experimentation students will see how a person's culture and history influence their individual choices. This level of insight will be evaluated in writing assignments that will be returned to students with comments for potential improvements.

8) Apply ethical reasoning to a variety of contexts.

As part of class, students will read classic studies and experiments, and discuss the ethics of each. They will evaluate what makes research ethical, and some of the implications of current ethical standards imposed by research bodies today. Students will include these judgments in papers, presentations, and discussions.

### **Key Performance Indicators:**

- Tests: 40% of final grade
- Application Papers: 20% of final grade
- Reading Discussion Points: 12% of final grade
- Psychology in the Media: 12% of final grade

- Spontaneous Assignments: 6% of final grade

Percentages are approximate.

**Representative Text and/or Supplies:**

- Elliot Aronson, Timothy D. Wilson, and Robin M. Abert, *Social Psychology*, current edition, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall Publishers.
- Coats & Feldman, *Classic and Contemporary Reading in Social Psychology*, current edition, Prentice Hall.

**Optimum Class Size:** 30

**Maximum Class Size:** 40

**Signatures:**

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Social Sciences Department:

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Kerry Hansen, D.A., Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Social and Behavioral Science Division:

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Sue Dalley, M.S., Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

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Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

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Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)