

A: Division: ACADEMIC DATE: February 1994

B: Department: Social Sciences New Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of Course  
information form: X

DATED: October 1975

C: Psychology 330 D: An Introduction to Social Psychology E: 3  
Subject & Course No. Descriptive Title Semester Credit

F: Calendar Description:

This course provides an introduction to the study of how people think, feel and behave in social contexts, focussing on the problems and methods of social psychology at three levels: individual behaviour, interpersonal behaviour and group behaviour. Examples of the topics include: interpersonal attraction, perceptions of self and others, aggression, conformity, obedience, prejudice, and pro-social behaviour.

Summary of Revision:  
(Enter date & section)

Feb. 1994:

F, G, M, N, O, P, R

G: Type of Instruction: Hours Per Week/

Lecture	<u>4</u>	Hrs.
Laboratory	_____	Hrs.
Seminar	_____	Hrs.
Clinical Experience	_____	Hrs.
Field Experience	_____	Hrs.
Practicum	_____	Hrs.
Shop	_____	Hrs.
Studio	_____	Hrs.
Student Directed Learning	_____	Hrs.
Other	_____	Hrs.

TOTAL 4 HOURS

H: Course Prerequisites:  
PSYC 200

I: Course Corequisites  
NIL

J: Course for which this course is  
a pre-requisite

NIL

K: Maximum Class Size:  
35

M: Transfer Credit:

Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
Granted X

Specify Course Equivalents or  
Unassigned Credit as Appropriate

UBC = PSYC 203 (3)

SFU = PSYC 260 (3)

U Vic. = 1.5 Credits at 200 level

OTHER:

L: College Credit Transfer X

College Credit Non-Transfer \_\_\_\_\_

*Barthelme D. Brewster*  
COURSE DESIGNERS

*Elizabeth Peerless*  
DIRECTOR/CHAIRPERSON

*P. H. Ogers*  
DIVISIONAL DEAN

*P. H. Ogers*  
REGISTRAR

**N: Textbooks and materials to be Purchased by Students**

textbook such as one of the following:

Alcock, J.E., Carment, D.W., & Sadava, S.W. (1994). A Textbook of Social Psychology (3rd ed.). Scarborough, Ontario:Prentice-Hall.

Baron, R.A., & Byrne, D. (1994). Social Psychology:Understanding Human Interaction (7th ed.). Boston, MA:Allyn and Bacon.

Brehm, S.S., & Kassin, S.M. (1993). Social Psychology (2nd ed.). Boston, MA:Houghton Mifflin.

Text will be updated periodically.

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**Complete Form with Entries Under the Following Headings:**

O. Course Objectives; P. Course Content; Q. Method of Instruction;

R. Course Evaluation

**O. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Describe historical research in social psychology.
2. Identify the main features of the experimental method as used in contemporary social psychological research.
3. Identify the main features of the correlational method as used in contemporary social psychological research.
4. Identify the basic research findings in communication (eg., non-verbal, bilingualism, telecommunication).
5. Explain the processes involved in causal attribution.
6. Describe the process of self-perception and the perception of others.
7. Identify the main sources of error in social cognition.
8. Define attitude and describe the measurement of attitudes.
9. Explain the relationship between attitudes and behaviour.
10. Describe methods of persuasion.
11. Describe the theories of attitude change.
12. Identify the primary sources of prejudice.
13. Describe methods of reducing conflict.
14. Describe the main factors related to establishing friendships.

0. COURSE OBJECTIVES - cont'd

15. Describe the processes involved in evaluating strangers.
16. Identify the major theories used to explain close relationships.
17. Describe the processes involved in maintaining relationships and ending relationships.
18. Describe the situational factors that affect conformity, compliance, and obedience.
19. Identify the factors that predict helping behaviour.
20. Describe the theories of altruism and helping behaviour.
21. Describe the processes that lead to conflict and aggression.
22. Describe the social dynamics of aggression.
23. Describe the theories of aggression.
24. Identify the psychological consequences of being a group member.
25. Describe the interaction between situational factors and personality traits.
26. Identify the role of the physical environment in influencing social behaviour.
27. Describe the application of social psychology to the legal system.
28. Describe the application of social psychology to physical and mental health.
29. Describe the major applications of social psychology to the work place and other social contexts (e.g., politics, advertising).

## P. COURSE CONTENT

1. Introduction to Historical Research on Social Psychology
2. Scientific Method in Social Psychology
3. Perception of Self and Others
4. Social Cognition
5. Attitudes and Behaviour
6. Prejudice and Discrimination
7. Interpersonal Attraction
8. Close Relationships
9. Social Influence
10. Pro-social Behaviour
11. Aggression
12. Group Processes
13. Personality and Social Behaviour
14. Physical Environmental Impacts
15. Applied Social Psychology

## Q. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

This course will employ a number of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives and will include some of the following:

lectures  
 audio visual materials  
 small group discussions  
 computer simulation exercises  
 classroom demonstrations

## R. COURSE EVALUATION

The instructor will present a written course outline with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester. Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy and will be based on some of the following:

1. Multiple choice, short answer, or essay exams.
2. A term project or paper.
3. An individual or group presentation.

An example of one possible evaluation scheme is as follows:

Literature review paper	15%
Oral or video presentation	10%
2 midterm exams	50%
Final exam	<u>25%</u>
	100%