



**EFFECTIVE: JANUARY, 2008**  
**CURRICULUM GUIDELINES**

**A:** Division: **EDUCATION** **JANUARY 2008**

**B:** Department / Program Area: **PSYCHOLOGY** **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
 Revision  New Course

If Revision, Section(s) Revised: **C**  
 Date of Previous Revision: **September 2004**  
 Date of Current Revision: **September 2007**

**C:** **PSYC 3330 (formerly PSYC 2330)** **D:** **AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY** **E:** **3**

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits						
<p><b>F:</b> 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.</p>								
<p><b>G:</b> Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings</p> <p>Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:</p> <p><b>Lecture</b></p> <p>Number of Contact Hours: (per week /semester for each descriptor)</p> <p><b>Lecture: 4 hrs per week / semester</b></p> <p>Number of Weeks per Semester: <b>15</b></p>	<p><b>H:</b> Course Prerequisites:</p> <p><b>PSYC 1200</b></p>							
	<p><b>I:</b> Course Corequisites:</p> <p><b>NONE</b></p>							
	<p><b>J:</b> Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite</p> <p><b>NONE</b></p>							
	<p><b>K:</b> Maximum Class Size:</p> <p><b>35</b></p>							
<p><b>L:</b> PLEASE INDICATE:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Non-Credit</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>College Credit Non-Transfer</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>College Credit Transfer:</td> </tr> </table> <p>SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (<a href="http://www.bctransferguide.bc.ca">www.bctransferguide.bc.ca</a>)</p>			<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Credit	<input type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Non-Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Transfer:
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**M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:**

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 correlation method as used in contemporary social psychological research.
4. Explain the processes involved in causal attribution.
5. Describe the process of self-perception and the perception of others.
6. Identify the main sources of error in social cognition.
7. Define attitude and describe the measurement of attitudes.
8. Explain the relationship between attitudes and behaviour.
9. Describe methods of persuasion.
10. Describe the theories of attitude change.
11. Identify the primary sources of prejudice.
12. Describe methods of reducing conflict.
13. Describe the main factors related to establishing friendships.
14. Describe the processes involved in evaluating strangers.
15. Identify the major theories used to explain close relationships
16. Describe the processes involved in maintaining relationships and ending relationships.
17. Describe the situational factors that affect conformity, compliance, and obedience.
18. Identify the factors that predict helping behaviour.
19. Describe the theories of altruism and helping behaviour.
20. Describe the processes that lead to conflict and aggression.
21. Describe the social dynamics of aggression.
22. Describe the theories of aggression.
23. Identify the psychological consequences of being a group member.
24. Describe the interaction between situational factors and personality traits.
25. Identify the role of the physical environment in influencing social behaviour.
26. Describe the application of social psychology to the legal system.
27. Describe the application of social psychology to physical and mental health.

**N: 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

**O: Methods 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

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:**

A textbook such as one of the following:

Alcock, J.E., Carment, D.W., & Sadava, S.W. (2001). A Textbook of Social Psychology (5th Ed.). Scarborough, Ontario: Prentice-Hall

Brehm, S.S., & Kassir, S.M. (1999). Social Psychology (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin

Text will be updated periodically.

**Q: Means of Assessment:**

Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. Evaluation will be based on course objectives and will include some of the following:

- 1) Multiple choice, short answer, or essay exams
- 2) Term project or paper
- 3) Individual or group presentation

The instructor will present a written course outline with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester.

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%

**R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR**

No. Given that this course involves theoretical and empirical analyses of social psychology, it is unlikely to be open for PLAR except as a credit transfer from another institution.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Course Designer(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean / Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar