Social Psychology

PSYC 154

Spring 2026   Section 04   In Person   3 Unit(s)   01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026   Modified 01/15/2026

👤 Contact Information

Instructor: Jason X. Ventura

Office Location: Dudley Moorhead Hall 352

Telephone: (408) 924-5625

Email: jason.ventura@sjsu.edu

Students can also contact me through the Canvas Learning Management system

- **NOTE:** When contacting me by email, please put "PSYC 154 sect. 01" in the subject line.
- Replies within 48 hours (except Sundays).
- If I do not reply within the specified 48 hours, kindly, resend email.

Student Drop-In Hours (i.e., office hours)

- Tuesdays: 10:30-11:30 AM (in-person & online)
- Wednesdays: 12:30-1:30 PM (online only)
    - Students DO NOT need to schedule an appointment during these days and time; just show up.
    - I will take students on a "first come; first serve" basis.
    - Outside of scheduled student drop-in hours will require an appointment.

- Class Days/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays / 3:00 - 4:15 PM

Classroom: Dudley Moorhead Hall 356

🖥 Course Description and Requisites

Theories, problems and issues in the study of human social behavior.

Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

Letter Graded

✱ Classroom Protocols

Please practice the following guidelines to help the class run more smoothly as well as to limit the number of distractions that occur.

1. Please TURN OFF all cell phones and DO NOT TEXT during class time. If you receive an important call/text during class, please step outside of the classroom should you need to respond.

2. LAPTOPS ARE FOR NOTETAKING PURPOSES ONLY!

   - Please remove all head/earphones during class.
   - During class time, do not listen to music, browse the web, check your "snaps," Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, the latest TikTok challenge...etc.

3. If you arrive late, please come in as quietly as you can.

4. If you have to leave early, please do so quietly and sit next to the door so you don't distract other people.

5. Please refrain from speaking while the instructor is talking or when other students are asking questions, so everyone can hear and learn effectively.

6. Please be respectful of other people's experiences and comments even though you might not agree with what they are saying. Remember...they are not YOU!

   ➢ I hope these class discussions can be a safe place where all students feel comfortable to share their own thoughts, experiences, and beliefs without being judged by others.

   ➢ As educated adults, we should be able to engage in thoughtful debate and discussion with one another without any fear of personal attacks/judgments from others.

▤ Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the Psychology BA degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the Psychology BA degree are:

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
2. Research Methods in Psychology. Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.
3. Critical Thinking Skills. Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
4. Applications of Psychology. Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

Values in Psychology. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

◎ Course Goals

Students will come to this class expecting to find a broad range of topics regarding the fascinating world of social psychology. What makes this class all the more interesting is when students are informed on daily news and events that occur each day. It is encouraged for students to read daily news reports from their preferred news source.

If students do not have a specified daily news source the instructor recommends BBC (global), The New York Times (national), and San Jose Mercury News (local). Keeping on top of daily events will enhance students' learning by applying social psychological theories based on real world events. This translates into a better understanding of knowledge presented in class.

[The New York Times is available free for San Jose State students and employees. Find out how to get access! Click/tap on this link. (https://library.sjsu.edu/nyt-online)](https://library.sjsu.edu/nyt-online)

📊 Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. To provide a basic understanding of how social psychologists think about and study human behavior;
2. To provide the tools to understand and critically examine psychological research;
3. To provide an introduction to a general survey of many of the theories and principles that underlie social psychology;
4. To encourage reflection about the application of social psychological research and how it might be used to solve real-world problems and even help understand situations we encounter in everyday life.
5. Express and apply social psychological theory effectively in written and oral communication

📘 Course Materials

Textbook

Delamater, J.D, Meyers, D.J. & Collett, J.L. (2018). *Social psychology (8th edition).* Taylor and Francis Group.

A free digital copy will be posted on our Canvas course page.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

- Regular access to a computer (with Internet connection), and possession of a word processor program (MS Word, Pages, or Googledocs).
- **Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft Office Mobile are available at no cost to SJSU students.** Visit Microsoft Office 365 Portal. Students can access the Office 365 Portal with your SJSU Email address

and SJSUOne Password as long as you are an enrolled student. [Click on this link for details.](https://ischool.sjsu.edu/post/microsoft-office) [(https://ischool.sjsu.edu/post/microsoft-office)](https://ischool.sjsu.edu/post/microsoft-office)

- Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop or tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable Wi-Fi during tests. If students are unable to have reliable Wi-Fi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible or at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative. See [Learn Anywhere (https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php)](https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php) website for current Wi-Fi options on campus.

Library Liaison

The SJSU library has a librarian who specializes in psychology (and other social sciences), and this librarian can serve as a very valuable resource for helping you to develop research ideas and locating appropriate research materials. The library also has an abundance of resources for doing psychology research:

Psychology Librarian:

Christa Bailey

christa.bailey@sjsu.edu

408-808-2422

http://libguides.sjsu.edu/psychology

≔ Course Requirements and Assignments

 "Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus."

Your grade in the course will be based on the following:

Examinations (50 pts each. 3 exams = 150 pts total) Assessment of CLOs 1, 2, 4, and 5

There will be three open note exams, and they will consist of 30 multiple choice questions and 2 short answer questions. Exams will be designed to measure your knowledge and understanding of the material discussed in lecture as well as your textbook. **Each multiple choice question will be worth 1 point and the essay questions will be worth 10 points each. Each exam will be worth a total of 50 points.** The final exam will be cumulative. Due to the fact that exams are open note, study guides will not be provided.

Exams will be taken on the Canvas Learning Management System (under "Quizzes") during our scheduled class time.

- LECTURE NOTES AND POWERPOINT SLIDES ARE NOT POSTED ON-LINE.
    - If you miss lecture for any reason, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to get the lecture notes from one of your classmates. I will not email or copy any lectures for students.
- Exams will be based on lecture material and assigned readings.
- On exam days, students are expected to log into Canvas at the beginning of our course. **Students that do not start exams within the first ten minutes will automatically receive a ten-point deduction**. In other words, all students begin the exam at the same time. The instructor will monitor activity on Canvas.
- No extensions or make-up exams will be given except in cases of reasonable and documented academic reasons, emergencies, serious illness, or similar seriously disruptive events. If such a circumstance should arise, **please contact instructor twelve hours before the scheduled exam.**
- If students contact instructor within the 12-hour window, <u>a ten-point deduction</u> will be implemented on the make-up exam. **Students will have five days to make up exams.**
- **Students that do not contact the instructor before the exam will not receive credit.**

ASSIGNMENTS

GROUP ASSIGNMENT: <u>Social Problem assignment</u> - Assessment of CLOs 1, 2,and 4

Students will work with groupmates on a social problem. The purpose of this assignment is to research social problems and use trusted news sources, social psychological theories, and research, to analyze and provide solutions. **The Social Problem assignment is worth 50 points.**

Students will also present their findings to the class. The Social Problem oral presentation assignment is worth 30 points.

GROUP ASSIGNMENT - <u>Social Media Analysis Assignment: Group presentation and assignment</u> - Assessment of CLOs 1, 2, 4, and 5

GROUP PRESENTATION: In this presentation, students address how social media both perpetuates prejudice and can be used to combat prejudice. The goal of the activity is for students to consider whether social media has increased, decreased, or has no overall effect on stereotypic beliefs and prejudicial attitudes. Students will be assigned into groups (by the instructor) based on choice of social media site. There will be a Q & A session for group members after their presentation. Presentation dates will be randomly selected. **The social media analysis presentation is worth 30 points.**

GROUP ASSIGNMENT: As a group, students will present findings to the class. This assignment is designed to provide social psychological support to students' analysis in their presentation. Requirements for this assignment will be posted on Canvas at a later date. **The social media analysis assignment is worth 25 points.**

DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENTS – Assessment of CLOs 2, 4, and 5

The "Discussion" assignments will be used to apply social psychological theories and lecture material within a real-world setting. The discussion topic will reflect current events and/or social psychological discussions. **There will be three discussion assignments and they will be worth 25 points each.**

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments that do not meet the minimum page count will result in zero points.

The above policy is implemented due to high volume of grading. Before I read a single word on assignments, I check the page count. If your assignment does not meet the minimum page requirement, I will not read it, and move on to the next student. TITLE AND REFERENCE PAGE ARE NOT PART OF THE PAGE COUNT.

How is "on time" defined in this course? Assignment due dates and times are specified on course schedule. Students will receive a "LATE" notice if their assignment is turned in past the specified time. **The instructor will implement a ten-minute grace period.**

If the criteria listed above are not met your assignment is considered late (see policy for late assignments).

**All writing assignments must be written in APA style. Instructor will dock points to papers that are not written in this style.

**High percentages on Turn-It-In will have an effect on student's grade. Paraphrase rather than quote.

I WILL ACCEPT LATE ASSIGNMENTS! However, late assignments will result in half points, and if it does not meet requirements, you will lose more points. **Students will have one week to turn in late assignments.** Late assignments will not receive any comments or feedback.

If your assignment is not submitted after a week from the due date, it will result in zero points.

Communication is key!

I understand "things happen," and if an incident should arise, please send an email 12 hours before the due date and time. I will take your e-mail into consideration when evaluating assignments.

Final Examination or Evaluation

... The final exam will be cumulative and worth 50 points.

"Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment."

Generative AI policy

Generative artificial intelligence tools—software that creates new text, images, computer code, audio, video, and other content—have become widely available. Well-known examples include ChatGPT for text and DALL•E for images. This policy governs all such tools, including those released during our semester together.

You may use generative AI tools on assignments in this course when I explicitly permit you to do so. Otherwise, you should refrain from using such tools.

If you do use generative AI tools on assignments in this class, you must properly document and credit the tools themselves. Cite the tool you used, following the pattern for computer software given in the specified style guide. Additionally, please include a brief description of how you used the tool. If you choose to use generative AI tools, please remember that they are typically trained on limited datasets that may be out of date. Additionally, generative AI datasets are trained on pre-existing material, including copyrighted material; therefore, relying on a generative AI tool may result in plagiarism or copyright violations.

[How to cite ChatGPT (https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt)](https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt)

Finally, keep in mind that the goal of generative AI tools is to produce content that seems to have been produced by a human, not to produce accurate or reliable content; therefore, relying on a generative AI tool may result in your submission of inaccurate content. **It is your responsibility—not the tool's—to assure the quality, integrity, and accuracy of work you submit in any college course.** As specified elsewhere in the syllabus, this course may require electronic submission of essays, papers, or other written projects through the originality assessment service Turnitin. Turnitin will also attempt to detect AI-generated text.

If you use generative AI tools to complete assignments in this course, in ways that I have not explicitly authorized, I will apply the San Jose State University Code of Academic Integrity as appropriate to your specific case. In addition, you must be wary of unintentional plagiarism or fabrication of data. **Please act with integrity, for the sake of both your personal character and your academic record.**

✔ Grading Information

Your final course grade will be based on the following assignments & grading scale:

Exams (50 pts each): 150 total points

Social Problem assignment: 50 points

Social problem assignment (oral presentation): 30 points

Social Media Analysis presentation: 30 points

Social Media Analysis group assign: 25 points

Discussion assignment (25 points each): 75 total points

Total possible points: 360

Grading Scale:

A plus 351+	A 350 - 333	A minus 332 - 323
B plus 322 - 315	B 314 - 297	B minus 296 - 287
C plus 286 - 279	C 278 - 261	C minus 260 - 251
D plus 250 - 243	D 242 - 225	D minus 224 - 215
F less than 214		

🏛 University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (PDF) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the Syllabus Information (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

📅 Course Schedule

PSYC 154 (sect.1): Social Psychology, Fall 2025, TENTATIVE Course Schedule

***The instructor reserves the right to change the date for exams, activities, and papers.

Students will be informed IN CLASS of any changes before they are made.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Class Meetings, Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines	Class notes and reading assignments
0	1/22	Introduction of course and instructor	Read all of Chapter 1: "Introduction to Social Psychology"
1	1/27	What fascinates you about society? and "What is social psychology?"	Chapter 1
1	1/29	"What is social psychology?" and begin "Research Methods"	Read all of chapter 2: "Research Methods in Social Psychology"
2	2/3	Introduce "Social Problems" assignment Research methods	Chapter 2
2	2/5	ATTENDANCE MANDATORY Self Concept Introduce "Social Problems" groups - GROUP WORK: Groups will meet to discuss which social problem they intend to research.	Chapter 2

Week	Date	Class Meetings, Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines	Class notes and reading assignments
3	2/10	Self-Concept	Read all of chapter 4: "Self and Self-Presentation"
3	2/12	Self-Concept	Chapter 4
4	2/17	Self-Concept	Chapter 4
4	2/19	**Review Day**	Catch-up on reading assignments to prepare for exam #1
5	2/24	EXAM #1	

Week	Date	Class Meetings, Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines	Class notes and reading assignments
5	2/26	State of the class 10:30-11:10: "Social Perception & Cognition" 11:15-11:45: "Social Problems" presentations ASSIGNMENT DUE (before midnight): Social problems assignment (written)	Chapter 6: "Social Perception & Cognition:" • "Introduction" • "Impression Formation" • "Bias and Error in Attribution"
6	3/3	10:30-11:10: "Social Perception & Cognition" 11:15-11:45: "Social Problems" presentations	Chapter 6: "Social Perception & Cognition" • "Introduction" • "Impression Formation" • "Bias and Error in Attribution"
6	3/5	10:30-11:10: "Social Perception & Cognition" 11:15-11:45: "Social Problems" presentations	Chapter 6: "Social Perception & Cognition" • "Introduction" • "Impression Formation" • "Bias and Error in Attribution"

Week	Date	Class Meetings, Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines	Class notes and reading assignments
7	3/10	10:30-11:10: "Attitudes" 11:15-11:45: "Social Problems" presentations	Chapter 7: "Attitudes" - "Introduction" - "Attitude Organization" - "The Relationship Between Attitudes & Behavior"
7	3/12	10:30-11:10: Introduce social media analysis presentation and group assignment. Continue "Attitudes" lecture 11:15-11:45: Last day of "Social Problems" presentations ASSIGNMENT DUE (before midnight): Social problems presentation slides.	Chapter 7: "Attitudes" - "Introduction" - "Attitude Organization" - "The Relationship Between Attitudes & Behavior"
8	3/17	Continue "Attitudes" lecture ASSIGNMENT DUE (before midnight): Submit selection for the social media analysis assignment	Chapter 7: "Attitudes" - "Introduction" - "Attitude Organization" - "The Relationship Between Attitudes & Behavior"

Week	Date	Class Meetings, Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines	Class notes and reading assignments
8	3/19	ATTENDANCE MANDATORY State of the class Begin "Prejudice" lecture. Social media analysis groups will be introduced, and meet, during the last part of class. • GROUP WORK: Groups will meet to brainstorm questions for their presentation. Each group must receive approval from the instructor. Once the questions have been approved begin working on the presentation. Each group will upload a copy of their questions onto Canvas.	Chapter 6: "Social Perception & Cognition" • "Person Schemas and Group Stereotypes" + Chapter 13: "Understanding Groups" • "Sources of Intergroup Conflict" • "Persistence in Intergroup Conflict" • "Resolving Intergroup Conflict"
9	3/24	"Prejudice" Social media groups will meet.	Chapter 6: "Social Perception & Cognition" • "Person Schemas and Group Stereotypes" + Chapter 13: "Understanding Groups" • "Sources of Intergroup Conflict" • "Persistence in Intergroup Conflict" • "Resolving Intergroup Conflict"

Week	Date	Class Meetings, Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines	Class notes and reading assignments
9	3/26	Continue "Prejudice" Social media groups will meet.	Chapter 6: "Social Perception & Cognition" • "Person Schemas and Group Stereotypes" + Chapter 13: "Understanding Groups" • "Sources of Intergroup Conflict" • "Persistence in Intergroup Conflict" • "Resolving Intergroup Conflict"
10	3/31	NO CLASS MEETING -- SPRING BREAK	Read all of Chapter 9: "Social Influence & Persuasion"
10	4/2	NO CLASS MEETING -- SPRING BREAK	Chapter 9

Week	Date	Class Meetings, Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines	Class notes and reading assignments
11	4/7	Continue "Conformity and Obedience" Social media groups will meet.	Chapter 9
11	4/9	Social media presentation day ASSIGNMENT DUE (before midnight): Social Media Analysis GROUP ASSIGNMENT	
12	4/14	Social media presentation day	
12	4/16	Social media presentation day ASSIGNMENT DUE (before midnight):: Social Media Analysis PRESENTATIONS	Catch-up on reading assignments to prepare for exam #2
13	4/21	Review Day	
13	4/23	EXAM #2	

Week	Date	Class Meetings, Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines	Class notes and reading assignments
14	4/28	TBD	Chapter 11: "Aggression" • "Introduction" • "Characteristics of Targets That Influence Aggression" • "Situational Impacts on Aggression"
14	4/30	NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY	
15	5/5	Introduce "Discussion Assignment" and begin "Aggression" lecture.	Chapter 11: "Aggression" • "Introduction" • "Characteristics of Targets That Influence Aggression" • "Situational Impacts on Aggression"

Week	Date	Class Meetings, Topics, Readings, Assignments, & Deadlines	Class notes and reading assignments
15	5/7	LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION "Helping." Review for final exam ASSIGNMENT DUE: Discussion assignment	Chapter 10: "Altruism and Prosocial Behavior" "Characteristics of the Needy that Fosters Helping," "Situational Influences," "Seeking and Receiving Help," "Other Forms of Prosocial Behavior."
Final Exam		Thu, May 14 1:00-3:00 PM The final exam will be cumulative.	