

SSB '02

**Course Description:**

This course will provide an overview of the major theories and concepts related to the study of human behavior and social interactions in the field of social psychology. Through active participation and the use of discussion, videos, lectures, reflective exercises, student presentations, and readings, students will explore social psychology theories regarding class and cultural influences, social attitudes, group identification and dynamics, intra-group relations and interpersonal relationships.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To gain knowledge of the historical development of social psychology.
2. To demonstrate familiarity and understanding of the major theories, terms, definitions, and people of special note in the field of social psychology.
3. To develop an understanding and appreciation of the scientific method and its application in the field of social psychology.
4. To develop a scholarly approach to exploring the prevalent issues and challenges in the field of social psychology.
5. To develop critical thinking skills from a social psychological perspective in evaluating behavior emotions, thoughts and social interactions.

**Course Approach:**

A Chaminade classroom often holds individuals of different cultural and social backgrounds, learning styles and educational interests. Therefore, a variety of teaching and learning styles will be used including:

- Lecture/ Discussion Format
- Textbook Reading
- Audio-Visual Materials
- Class Presentations
- Reflective Exercises

**The Student Will:**

1. Attend all lectures and contact the Instructor if unable to attend any lectures, or part of any lecture; students are responsible for missed information.
2. Participate in class discussions and activities, read assigned chapters before class.
3. Adopt the mind-set of an active researcher, remaining open and objective while determining the validity and reliability of information encountered during the course.
4. Take six quizzes and one final exam based on class lectures, text and materials.
5. Complete two Reflective Exercises relating to the information covered in course work.
6. Complete a pre-approved research paper and present the findings/outcome to the class.

**Course Requirements:**

**Points**

**Grading System**

Attendance and Participation.....	40	180 - 200	A
Class Quizzes.....	30	160 - 179	B
Reflective Exercises.....	20	140 - 159	C
Final Exam.....	50	120 - 139	D
Research Paper.....	40	Below 120	F
Presentations.....	20		

It is the students' responsibility to check in for attendance if arriving late for class.

Please turn off all pagers and cell phones while in class.

*It is important in an interactive class for students to come to class fully prepared and ready to actively participate in class discussions and activities.*

## Reflective Exercises:

### **Reflective Exercise 1.**

Pick a social phenomenon and display it visually, (photos, drawings, video, magazine pictures and clippings, etc. are all acceptable). Set up a series of 5 to 6 sections or shots from least to most obvious or recognizable so that each piece adds to comprehension of what you are presenting. (See if you can stump the class).

### **Reflective Exercise 2.**

Observe a social phenomenon that is new to you and which poses no real or perceived threat to your well-being. Write a 1 to 2-page description of the event. (Class will try to guess the event by how you have described it). **Suggestion:** look into events that appeal to a particular culture, age, gender, economic, social group or other area that is of unique interest to you.

i.e. Bon Dance, ethnic celebrations, religious activities, marriage ceremony, birth, etc.

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## Research Paper:

The research paper should be typed, 1 ½ spaced, and a minimum of four full main body pages with a bibliography and cover page. It should have an *introductory* and *summary/closing statement*. Please include at least 2 quotes and 3 citations from professional resources, and at least one graph, chart, or illustration. It must be done in an unbiased manner and the topic is to be approved by the instructor prior to writing the paper.

### Research Paper Components:

The paper will contain four sections.

#### **1. Historical Overview:**

This section contains the Intro statement and a brief look at the phenomenon you researched via other previous and/or related research to your topic area. This can be done by "stack" research, class text and materials, journal and Internet resources. (BE sure that your Internet source is empirical, not chat rooms or layperson opinions).

#### **2. Methodology:**

This section reports the parameters and approach to your active research. This will be covered in class.

#### **3. Results:**

This section reports the results of your research in complete and objective terms. Data should be reported in percentages, when applicable.

#### **4. Summary and Implications:**

This section contains the closing statement, which summarizes the basic findings and significant areas of your research. It is also the section where the researcher states opinion of what the results of the research "means" and the implications it may hold for future research. Some researchers also include a Recommendations statement, if applicable.

Be prepared to openly and objectively discuss each section of the text weekly. All classes will consist of open dialogue concerning issues presented in the text or relevant to the topic of discussion. This may include working in groups on assigned projects or presenting reflective exercises as well as general class participation.

COURSE TIMELINE.

WEEK 1	Course Introduction and Requirements Icebreakers Ch. 1: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AS A DISCIPLINE Ch. 2: THE SELF Reflective exercise #1 due next class
WEEK 2	Reflective Exercise #1 Presentations Ch. 3: SOCIAL PERCEPTION Ch. 4: SELF PRESENTATION & SOCIAL COGNITION Groupwork to select Research Topics (Diads)
WEEK 3:	Quiz 1 - Chapters 1, 2, 3 Rest of Chapter 4 Ch. 5: ATTITUDES Video: Guts, Gumption Go Ahead!
WEEK 4	Quiz 2 - Chapters 4 and 5 Ch. 6: PERSUASION Ch. 7: PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION Video: Still Killing Us Softly Reflective exercise #2 due next class
WEEK 5	Quiz 3 - Chapters 6 and 7 Ch. 8: SOCIAL INFLUENCE Ch. 9: GROUP BEHAVIOR Video: Diversity Reflective Exercise #2 Presentations
WEEK 6	Quiz 4 - Chapters 8 and 9 Ch. 10: INTERPERSONAL ATTRACTION Ch. 11: INTIMATE RELATIONS Video: Human Sexuality RESEARCH ROUGH DRAFTS DUE NEXT WEEK
WEEK 7	Quiz 5 - Chapters 10 and 11 Ch. 12: AGGRESSION Ch. 13: PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR Guest Speaker
WEEK 8	Quiz 6 - Chapters 12 and 13 Ch. 14: PERSONAL RELEVANCE OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY START OF PRESENTATIONS Group discussion session to assist with research and any other issues to be resolved for semester grade.
WEEK 9	Remaining Presentations Final Exam Review LAST DAY TO TURN IN FINAL RESEARCH PAPER AND ANY LATE PAPERS!
WEEK 10	FINAL EXAM Individual close-out sessions

NOTE: SYLLABUS MAY BE ADJUSTED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS.