

# Social Psychology PSYC 154

Spring 2026 Section 03 In Person 3 Unit(s) 01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026 Modified 12/31/2025

## Contact Information

Instructor: Arlene G. Asuncion, Ph.D.

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When contacting me by email, please write "Psyc 154-03" in the subject line.

I check email regularly during the work day, but please allow at least 1-2 business days for a response. Also, I do not regularly check email after 5:00 pm or on weekends. If you email me on a Friday, please do not expect a reply until Monday (at the earliest).

*Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 pm \*\*\*ZOOM*

*Thursdays 7:45-8:45 am In-person (DMH 322)*

**\*\*\*Please email me in ADVANCE to schedule a meeting & to receive a Zoom link to join our meeting.**

If my regular office hours conflict with your schedule, please email me to set up an appointment at a day/time that is mutually convenient.

Students are encouraged to contact me to discuss any concerns you may have regarding our class as soon as possible and/or **BEFORE** an assignment or exam date.

Class Days/Time: TR 9:00 – 10:15 am

Classroom: Hugh Gillis Hall (HGH) 225

Prerequisites: Introductory (General) Psychology (Psyc 1 or equivalent)

## Course Description and Requisites

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

Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

Letter Graded

## \* Classroom Protocols

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### COURSE POLICIES/EXPECTATIONS

1. **NETTIQUETE** -- Please use these general guidelines when emailing me and/or when posting on the class discussion boards

#### When emailing your professor (me)

- Indicate your class/section in the subject line of your email (e.g., Psyc 154 Sec 03)
- Please address me by my formal title, (e.g., Professor or Dr. Asuncion). Remember when you send emails to your instructors, it is a "formal" mode of communication. So it is good practice to write your emails as you would if you were sending any type of professional/formal email.
- Allow AT LEAST 24-48 hours for a reply from me. If you email me on a Friday, the earliest you can expect me to respond is on the following Monday. I stop checking school emails at 5:00 pm. So emails sent to me after 5:00 pm won't be read until the following morning at the earliest.

#### -- EMAIL ME IN ADVANCE TO

- set up an individual Zoom appointment to talk with me during my regular office hours or outside of my regular office hours if your schedule conflicts with them
- inform me of any emergency/medical/family situation that may affect your ability to complete a course activity/assignment/quiz **BEFORE** the due date.

\*\*\* NOTE: I will **REQUIRE** documentation of such situations to consider the possibility of an extension/make-up (see Make-up policy below)

#### -- DO NOT EMAIL ME TO

- ask when due dates are for activities/assignments/quizzes. Those are all listed on your course schedule and can be easily found there.

2. **GENERAL DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS** -- There will be a separate Discussion board to post general questions about the course policies, assignments, activities, etc. Please post your general questions about the class on this discussion board and DO NOT EMAIL ME DIRECTLY about these.

I have found that several students usually have the same questions about activities, papers, or assignments and it is more efficient to answer these types of questions through the CANVAS discussion board so that all students can read my answers/responses.

***3. EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES:***

a. Students are responsible for knowing all due dates for assignments, activities, and quizzes.

Make a list of ALL due dates that you are responsible for meeting and make sure your schedule allows you to meet these class deadlines

b. Students are responsible for contacting me BEFORE any course assignment or activity is due (or no later than 3 days after), to inform me of any issues/conflict that may arise.

If you have a conflict with a scheduled course requirement, then **notify me IN ADVANCE** of the scheduled date so that we can discuss this ahead of time (also, be ready to provide documentation). If something urgent has occurred (i.e., an emergency), then contact me as soon as possible and arrange to provide documentation.

For example, if your work supervisor has needed to make a last minute change to your work schedule and it now conflicts with a course requirement deadline, then **it is your responsibility to notify me promptly** and to provide me with a letter from your supervisor on company letterhead explaining this emergency.

**Please see the Make-Up Policy below for more details you want to be aware of.**

c. Students are expected to CHECK OUR CANVAS PAGE REGULARLY to participate in class activities, complete assignments, and keep updated regarding course announcements.

I **STRONGLY** encourage you to check our Canvas page **DAILY** so you will be aware of important course announcements, reminders, and due dates.

d. Students are expected to turn in their own individual work

I **EXPECT** all students to maintain academic integrity in all coursework and when completing exams. All exams are to be completed with no notes, no study guides, no textbook, or any outside help of any kind. All essays and other course assignments must be your own independent work.

- e. Students are expected to attend class regularly

Because this course is a fully in-person class, regular attendance is expected. Although students' attendance cannot be used in assigning final course grades, regular participation in in-class activities, lectures, and class discussions is expected and **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**.

- f. Students are responsible for getting lecture notes from one of their classmates when class is missed for any reason.

It has been a long-standing policy of mine NOT TO POST LECTURE NOTES/SLIDES Canvas or to email them to students.

So if you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get lecture notes and any information you may have missed from your classmates.

## 4. MAKE-UP POLICY

A make-up or extension on a course requirement will be considered *ONLY under serious and documented circumstances*.

Where such circumstances exist, *IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT ME BY EMAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND NO LATER THAN 3 DAYS AFTER the date of the missed class requirement.*

*BE READY TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION.*

**Appropriate documentation** (e.g., a doctor's note or a note from your work supervisor stating that you were called in to work at the last minute) is **REQUIRED** for make-up to receive full credit.

If you are not able to provide documentation, and you have serious and extenuating circumstances that prevented you from fulfilling a course requirement as scheduled, then please email me to discuss with me.

**NOTE:** Without proper documentation, points will be deducted for any make-up work submitted.

\*\*\* Again, it is important you inform me **BEFORE** any assignment/exam is due. I am more likely to be able to help with any issues if I know about them SOONER rather than after a due date.

\*\*\* The LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION for this course is THURSDAY, 5/7. I will NOT ACCEPT any late/missing assignments or offer any extra credit opportunities after this date.

## 5. CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

I expect everyone to be respectful of me and your fellow classmates. Please practice the following guidelines to help the class run more smoothly and to limit the amount of distractions that occur.

- a. Please **TURN OFF** all cell phones & **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.
- b. Please **REMOVE** all earphones and do not listen to music or look at your social media or other apps during class time.
- c. If you arrive late, please come in as quietly as you can (please avoid walking in front of your instructor)
- d. If you have to leave early, please do so quietly and sit next to the door so you don't distract other people.
- e. Please don't talk when your instructor is speaking or when other students are asking questions.
- f. Please be respectful of other people's experiences/comments even when you might not agree with what they're saying.

## 6. USE OF LAPTOPS IN THE CLASSROOM

Laptops are permitted in the classroom for NOTE-TAKING PURPOSES ONLY.

If you use a laptop to take notes, please sit at the back or on the sides of the classroom so your screen will not be a distraction to other students in the class.

Use of laptops for any other purpose (e.g., non-class related activities like emailing friends or surfing the web) will NOT be permitted.

Students not abiding by these guidelines will be asked to turn off their laptop and will not be allowed to bring it into the classroom in the future.

## Program Information

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**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

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### Course Description

This course is designed to give you a BROAD overview of classic and contemporary theory and research in Social Psychology.

Social Psychologists are primarily interested in how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by our social environment and by the people with whom we interact.

In this course, we will focus on "normal" everyday interactions and in how the "average" person thinks, feels, and behaves.

This course includes in-person lectures, short in-class writing assignments, course activities, and exams evaluating your knowledge of the lecture and textbook material.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of the Psyc 154 Social Psychology, students will be able to:

- CLO1: Understand the major theoretical approaches findings, and historical trends in Social Psychology
- CLO2: Understand, critically evaluate, and apply the major research methods in Social Psychology

- CLO3: Express and apply social psychological theory effectively in written and oral communication
- CLO4: Gain an awareness of the many social influences, as well as cultural and individual differences, that underlie the complexities of human behavior
- CLO5: Understand the applications of Social Psychology to personal, social, and organizational issues

## Course Materials

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Psyc 154 03 is a **FULLY IN-PERSON class** (all class lectures & exams will be on campus in HGH 225). A course **CANVAS SITE** will be used as an **online resource supplement** for this class.

The course Canvas site and the information provided on it is **NOT** a substitute for attending class. However, some course assignments will be conducted via Canvas.

Students will need a computer/laptop, IPad or tablet, or other device that will allow access to CANVAS and word processing software to use for completing course assignments. The course Canvas site will be updated regularly throughout the semester.

Students will complete **6 Course Modules** that will cover the following topics & accompanying textbook chapters:

Module 0: "Getting started" – Introduction to Psyc 154

Module 1: Theories/History, Research Methods, Social Cognition, & Person Perception (Chapters 1, 2, & 3)

Module 2: The Self, Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Social Identity (Chapters 4, 5, & 6)

Module 3A: Attitudes/Attitude change, & Attitudes/Behavior (Chapters 7 & 8)

Module 3B: Norms, Conformity, & Compliance (Chapters 9 & 10)

Module 4: Group Processes, Attraction/Love, Aggression, & Prosocial Behavior [Chapters 11, 12, 13 (pp. 482-496 only), & 14]

This course Canvas site will contain the following course material:

- Syllabus and tentative course schedule
- Course announcements
- Class activities/assignments
- Exam study guides/review sheets

## REQUIRED textbook

Smith & Mackie Social Psychology (4th edition). Psychology Press

ISBN: 978-1-84872-894-3

## ONLINE RESOURCE FOR textbook

To access practice quizzes and chapter summaries for the textbook, use the following link

Online resource for Social Psychology textbook  
(<https://routledgetextbooks.com/textbooks/9781848728943/>).

# Course Requirements and Assignments

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## YOUR GRADE IN THE CLASS WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. 3 EXAMS (50 pts each) and 2 QUIZZES (25 pts each) Total exams/quizzes = 200 pts total) Assessment of CLOS 1, 2, 4, & 5.

There will be 3 IN-CLASS EXAMS each consisting of 50 multiple choice questions & 50 points each. The final exam will NOT BE CUMULATIVE and will be based only on the material covered after Exam 3.

There will also be 2 IN-CLASS QUIZZES each consisting of 25 multiple choice questions & worth 25 points each.

Exams & quizzes will be designed to measure your knowledge and understanding of the material discussed in the class lectures as well as your textbook.

NOTE: There will be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS/QUIZZES GIVEN** (see make-up policy for details/exceptions)

2. 4 SHORT ESSAYS (Maximum length 2 full pages; 10 pts each. 4 essays = 40 pts total). Assessment of CLO3

Essay topics and other details about these papers are described on our course CANVAS page. In these essays, you will be asked to apply a social psychological concept to your own life experience. Each essay will be worth 10 points.

In general, essays less than 2 pages with little or no application of relevant class material **WILL NOT** earn the maximum 10 points (see grading rubric on Canvas for details). Due dates for each paper are indicated on the course schedule on CANVAS.

NOTE: ALL ESSAYS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ON-LINE THROUGH OUR CANVAS PAGE NO LATER THAN THE DUE DATE/TIME indicated on the course schedule.

**NO LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED** (see make-up policy for details/exceptions)

### 3. CLASS PARTICIPATION (25 points total)

#### a. Class activities (10 points total). Assessment of CLOs 2, 3, 4, & 5.

During the course, you will participate in several class activities. Class activities include the Module 0 discussion posts (2 pts), syllabus quiz (3 pts), and research methods worksheet (5 pts max).

Due dates for these class activities are indicated on the course schedule on our CANVAS page.

**NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED** (see make-up policy for details/exceptions)

#### b. In-class reflections/discussion board posts (15 points total). Assessment of CLOs 2, 3, 4, & 5.

You will also participate in this course by completing several in-class reflections/short writing assignments. You will be asked to respond to writing "prompts" during the class meeting time throughout the semester.

To encourage regular class participation, the dates for these in-class reflections are NOT listed on the course schedule and will take place randomly throughout the semester.

Because these are IN-CLASS writing assignments, students **MUST BE PRESENT** in-class to participate.

**No make-ups of these reflections will be granted unless students provide documentation of an illness or other serious reason for their absence** (see make-up policy for details/exceptions)

Students will also be asked to post several discussion board posts throughout the semester. These discussion board activities & due dates will be posted within the Course modules.

Students are **STRONGLY** encouraged to complete the discussion board posts as soon as they are available.

## ✓ Grading Information

### GRADING INFORMATION

Final course grades are based on your performance on the 4 exams, 4 essays, and your participation in the class activities and in-class reflection assignments. Overall, there is a total of 265 points to be earned in this course PLUS any extra credit points you receive (maximum 10 extra credit points).

Grading summary:	Points (% of final grade)
3 Exams (50 points each)	150 pts (57% for all exams, each exam worth approx. 19%)
2 Quizzes	50 pts (19% for all quizzes)
4 Short Essays (10 points each)	40 pts (15%)
Class participation (25 points total)	
3 class activities	10 pts (4%)
5 in-class reflections & discussion posts	15 pts (6%)
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Total points	265 (100%)

\*\*\* Final grades will be based on the PERCENTAGE of total points you earn. The following grading scale will be used to compute your final course grade. I will also use conventional rules to "round" your course percentage.

.5 and above will be rounded "up" (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%)

.4 and below will be rounded "down" (i.e., 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%)

#### *GRADING SCALE*

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>246 to 265</i>	<i>93 to 100%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>239 to 245</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>

<i>B plus</i>	233 to 238	88 to 89 %
<i>B</i>	220 to 232	83 to 87%
<i>B minus</i>	212 to 219	80 to 82%
<i>C plus</i>	207 to 211	78 to 79%
<i>C</i>	193 to 206	73 to 77%
<i>C minus</i>	186 to 192	70 to 72%
<i>D plus</i>	180 to 185	68 to 69%
<i>D</i>	167 to 179	63 to 67%
<i>D minus</i>	159 to 166	60 to 62%
<i>F</i>	158 & below	59% & below

\*\*\* EXTRA CREDIT (10 pts possible) -- Extra credit opportunities will be offered at the discretion of the instructor. Any opportunities for extra credit will be announced on CANVAS. One of these activities is a Magazine Ads analysis in which you will be asked to analyze magazine

ads for the presence of heuristic cues used by advertisers to capture our attention. This magazine ad activity will be worth a total of 5 extra credit points.

You may also earn extra credit points by completing the Compliance techniques activity in which you will discuss 2 compliance techniques. This activity is worth another 5 extra credit points.

## University Policies

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Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/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) (<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

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### PSYCHOLOGY 154 -- SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY -- SPRING 2026

#### Tentative Course Schedule

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to change the dates for exams, activities, and essays. However, students will be informed in class and on Canvas announcements of any changes when they are made. All assignments/activities due by 11:59 pm (unless noted otherwise)

# Course Schedule

MODULE/DATES	Lecture topic & Chapter reading	<b>Assignments &amp; DUE dates</b> <b>*** Unless stated otherwise, all assignments are to be submitted on CANVAS by 11:59 PM on due date</b>
MODULE 0 "Getting started"  R 1/22	Welcome & Introduction to class  Chapter 1	Module 0 Discussion board posts – due TUESDAY 2/3  Syllabus "quiz" activity – due THURSDAY 2/5
MODULE 1  T 1/27	Lecture: Theories/History of Social Psychology  Chapter 1	
R 1/29	Lecture: Research Methods  Chapter 2	
T 2/3	Lecture: Research Methods/Social Cognition  Chapter 3	Module 0 Discussion board posts – due TUESDAY 2/3
R 2/5	Lecture: Social Cognition/Schemas  Chapter 3	Syllabus "quiz" activity – due THURSDAY 2/5
T 2/10	Lecture: Schemas/Impression formation  Chapter 3	Research Methods Activity – due TUESDAY 2/10

MODULE/DATES	Lecture topic & Chapter reading	Assignments & DUE dates  <b>*** Unless stated otherwise, all assignments are to be submitted on CANVAS by 11:59 PM on due date</b>
R 2/12	Lecture: Person memory  Chapter 3	
T 2/17	Lecture: Attributions  Chapter 3	Essay #1 – due TUESDAY 2/17
R 2/19	EXAM 1 MODULE 1  Chapters 1, 2, & 3	IN-CLASS – BRING SCANTRON 882E & #2 PENCIL
MODULE 2  T 2/24	Lecture: The Self – part 1  Chapter 4	
R 2/26	Lecture: The Self – part 2  Chapter 4	
T 3/3	Lecture: Stereotyping 1 – part 1  Chapter 5	
R 3/5	Lecture: Stereotyping 1 – Part 2  Chapter 5	

MODULE/DATES	Lecture topic & Chapter reading	Assignments & DUE dates  <b>*** Unless stated otherwise, all assignments are to be submitted on CANVAS by 11:59 PM on due date</b>
T 3/10	NO CLASS  Lecture: Stereotyping 2 – part 1 ***VIDEO LECTURE***  Chapter 5	Essay #2 – due TUESDAY 3/10
R 3/12	NO CLASS  Lecture: Stereotyping 2 – part 2 ***VIDEO LECTURE***  Chapter 5	
T 3/17	Lecture: Prejudice Chapter 6	
R 3/19	EXAM 2 MODULE 2  Chapters 4, 5, & 6	IN-CLASS – BRING SCANTRON 882E & #2 PENCIL
MODULE 3A T 3/24	Lecture: Attitudes - parts 1 & 2  Chapter 7	
R 3/26	Lecture: Attitude change - parts 1 & 2  Chapter 7	
3/30 – 4/3	SPRING BREAK	

MODULE/DATES	Lecture topic & Chapter reading	<b>Assignments &amp; DUE dates</b> <b>*** Unless stated otherwise, all assignments are to be submitted on CANVAS by 11:59 PM on due date</b>
T 4/7	Behavior-Attitudes Chapter 8	Magazine Ad extra credit opportunity DUE Tuesday, 4/7
R 4/9	Attitudes-Behavior Chapter 8	Essay #3 – due THURSDAY, 4/9
T 4/14	QUIZ 1 MODULE 3A Chapters 7 & 8	IN-CLASS -- BRING SCANTRON 882e & #2 PENCIL
MODULE 3B R 4/16	Lecture: Norms & Conformity – part 1 Chapter 9	
T 4/21	Lecture: Norms & Conformity – part 2 Chapter 9	
R 4/23	Lecture: Norms & Behavior Chapter 10	
T 4/28	QUIZ 2 MODULE 3B Chapters 9 & 10	IN-CLASS – BRING SCANTRON 882E & #2 PENCIL
MODULE 4 R 4/30	Lecture: Group processes -- parts 1 & 2 Chapter 11	Module 4 discussion board posts due THURSDAY, 4/30  Compliance techniques <i>EXTRA CREDIT</i> activity – due THURSDAY, 4/30

MODULE/DATES	Lecture topic & Chapter reading	<b>Assignments &amp; DUE dates</b> <b>*** Unless stated otherwise, all assignments are to be submitted on CANVAS by 11:59 PM on due date</b>
T 5/5	Lecture: Attraction/Love  Chapter 12	Essay #4 – due TUESDAY, 5/5
R 5/7	Lecture: Aggression/Prosocial behavior  Chapter 13 (pp. 428-496) & Chapter 14	End of Semester discussion board posts due THURSDAY 5/7
TUESDAY, 5/19	EXAM 4 (FINAL) MODULE 4  Chapters 11, 12, 13 (pp.482-496), & 14	IN-CLASS: 9:00 – 10:15 am  BRING SCANTRON 882E & #2 PENCIL