

Social Psychology PSYC 154

Summer 2026 Section 80 Fully Online 3 Unit(s) 06/01/2026 to 07/02/2026 Modified 05/27/2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Arlene G. Asuncion, Ph.D.

Telephone: (408) 924-5609

Email: arlene.asuncion@sjsu.edu

When contacting me by email, please write "Psyc 154 -Summer" 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 4:00 pm or on weekends.

Office Hours: Thurs 11 am - 12 noon & by appointment

Please email me in ADVANCE to schedule a ZOOM meeting during my scheduled office hours and I will send you a Zoom link to join. If you cannot meet during my designated office hours, please provide me with 2 or 3 options regarding days/times you're available to meet with me. I will then send you a Zoom link to meet on the day/time that is best for the both of us.

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 quiz date.

Class Days/Time:

Fully asynchronous online course. There is no designating meeting day/time

This course section will be conducted via CANVAS. More details about class structure is provided later in the syllabus as well as on our Canvas course page.

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

COURSE POLICIES/EXPECTATIONS

A. "Netiquette" -- Please use these general guidelines when emailing me and/or when posting on the class discussion boards

1. When emailing your professor (me)

- Indicate your class/section in the subject line of your email (e.g., Psyc 154 Summer)
- 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 4:00 pm. So emails sent to me after 4:00 pm won't be read until the following morning at the earliest.

-- **DO EMAIL ME IN ADVANCE TO**

- set up an individual Zoom appointment to meet with me
- 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)

-- **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. Discussion boards posts

-- When posting on the course discussion boards, please be respectful of one another's opinions/beliefs/observations even when they are different or conflict with your own. It's expected that we ALL behave with respect and tolerance for each other, despite any differences we have. Please refrain from any personal attacks, insults, etc. I hope the Discussion board posts will be a place where we can all feel comfortable to interact with another and engage in thoughtful "conversation" as a class.

***** IMPORTANT:** 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.

B. ASYNCHRONOUS COURSE FORMATS AND YOUR STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

As you know, asynchronous courses provide you with a certain amount of flexibility in terms of when you can listen to lectures because you can choose to do so whenever it bests fits your own schedule

HOWEVER, as with any course, there are specific dates when you will need to complete certain course requirements. In other words, *you will have deadlines that you will be responsible to meet* even though our class has no in-person class meetings.

I have listed specific days by which you should watch/take notes of the relevant lectures in each module. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND that you try to view the assigned lecture(s) by the dates indicated on the course schedule so that you will not fall behind.

*****THE 5 WEEK SUMMER SESSION GOES EXTREMELY FAST. STUDENTS WILL LEARN THE SAME AMOUNT OF MATERIAL THAT IS COVERED IN A REGULAR 16-WEEK SEMESTER. So it is EXTREMELY important that you watch all video lectures, read the assigned textbook chapters, and complete all assignments in a timely manner***.**

Here are my expectations for students' responsibilities:

1. Students are responsible for knowing all due dates for assignments, activities, and exams.

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

2. Students are responsible for contacting me **BEFORE** any course assignment, activity, or quiz 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 (p. 10) for more details you want to be aware of.**

3. Students are expected to **CHECK OUR CANVAS PAGE REGULARLY** to view course lectures, 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.

4. Students are expected to **turn in their own individual work and complete all module exams independently without any outside help of any kind** (e.g., closed book, no notes, study guides, etc)

There are no requirements for students to download any software (i.e., Lockdown browser) to monitor whether or not cheating is taking place during your exams. As you know, there really is no “fool-proof” way for instructors to prevent students’ cheating, especially in an online setting.

That said, 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.

If you have any questions/issues regarding any of these policies, please email me directly to discuss them.

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/quiz 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, 7/2**. I will **NOT ACCEPT** any late/missing assignments or offer any **EXTRA** credit opportunities **AFTER THIS DATE.**

Public Sharing of Instructor Material:

In accordance with University Policy S12-7, course material developed by the instructor (including video lecture recordings) are the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not put publicly share or upload any instructor-generated material for this course such as lectures, study guides, or test questions without instructor consent.

The video lectures I provide for the course are intended to aid you in your work in our class and are for your *personal/private study purposes only.*

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), 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 [Syllabus Information web page](#) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

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

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 be especially interested in “normal” everyday interactions and in how the “average” person thinks, feels, and behaves. This on-line course will include video lectures with accompanying PowerPoint slides, short writing assignments, course activities, discussion board posts, and quizzes evaluating your knowledge of the lecture and textbook material.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

- CLO1: Understand the major theoretical approaches, findings, and historical trends in Social Psychology
- CLO 2: Understand, critically evaluate, and apply the major research methods in Social Psychology
- CLO 3: Express and apply social psychological theory effectively in written and oral communication
- CLO 4: Gain an awareness of the many social influences, as well as cultural and individual differences, that underlie the complexities of human behavior
- CLO 5: Understand the applications of Social Psychology to personal, social, and organizational issues

Course Materials

Course Format

Online ASYNCHRONOUS Course – COURSE CANVAS SITE

The course Canvas site is the main resource for this online asynchronous course. Use of this site and the information provided is the primary way we will conduct class and participate in all course activities.

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 summer session. This site is organized into course modules (Modules 0-5) and contains the following course material:

- Syllabus and tentative course schedule
- Course announcements
- Discussion boards
- Class activities/assignments
- Video lectures with slides
- Exam study guides/review sheets
- Module exams

Students will complete **5 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 (Chapters 1 & 2)

Social Cognition, Schemas, Person Perception, & Attributions (Chapter 3)

Module 2:

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

Module 3:

Attitudes & Attitude Change (Chapter 7); Attitudes & Behavior (Chapter 8)

Norms & Conformity (Chapter 9); Norms & Behavior (Chapter 10)

Module 4:

Group Processes (Chapter 11); Attraction/Love (Chapter 12)

Aggression (Chapter 13 pp. 482-296); & Prosocial/Helping Behavior (Chapter 14)

Due dates for discussion posts, papers, assignments, activities, and quizzes are posted on our Canvas course page. All video lectures are pre-recorded and available for you to view whenever it is most convenient for you. Students will **NOT** be required to attend "live" Zoom lectures for this course.

For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](#).

Social Psychology

Author: Smith & Mackie

Publisher: Psychology Press

Edition: 4th edition

ISBN: 978-1-84872-894-3

ONLINE RESOURCE FOR TEXTBOOK

To access practice quizzes & chapter summaries for the text, use the following link:

<https://www.routledgetextbooks.com/textbooks/9781848728943/>
(<http://www.routledgetextbooks.com/textbooks/9781848728943/>).

Course Requirements and Assignments

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

1. **4 MODULE EXAMS** (50 pts each. 4 exams = 200 pts total). Assessment of CLOs 1,2,4, & 5

There will be 4 module exams and each will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Exams will be designed to measure your knowledge and understanding of the material discussed in the video lectures as well as your textbook. Each multiple choice question will be worth 1 point. So each exam will be worth a total of 50

points. The final exam will NOT BE CUMULATIVE and will be based only on the material covered after Exam 3.

*** All module exams will be available on our CANVAS page on the designated day/time indicated on the course schedule. **The TIME LIMIT for each quiz is 75 MINUTES ONLY.** This time limit is sufficient time to complete the exam (assuming that you have studied carefully and are well-prepared BEFORE you attempt the exam).

*** **Students are expected to take all exams with NO OUTSIDE HELP (e.g., no notes, textbook, study guides, the help of another person, etc)**

*** I realize there is no fool-proof way to prevent students from cheating on these online exams. BUT, I HOPE & EXPECT that you adhere to an honor code and attempt each exam on your own without any outside help.***

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS GIVEN. (see p. 10 Make-up policy) ***

Again, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to know when all exams are scheduled. Forgetting or not knowing when an exam should be completed is NOT A VALID REASON for missing an exam.

2. 4 SHORT ESSAYS (Maximum length 2 full pages, 10 pts each, 4 essays = 40 pts). Assessment of CLO 3.

Essay topics and other details about these essays 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 essay 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 p. 10 Make-up Policy) Again, forgetting to submit your paper or not realizing there was a paper due is NOT A VALID REASON for asking for an extension.

3. CLASS PARTICIPATION/DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS (20 pts total). Assessment of CLOs 2, 3, 4, & 5

In Module 0, you will complete 2 activities (Introduction discussion posts & Syllabus Quiz) to begin your participation in this course. Completion of BOTH of these activities will earn you 5 participation points.

You will also participate in this course by posting your comments/reflections on our class discussion boards. You will be required to post your thoughts on the discussion "prompts" posted within Modules 1-4.

There are a total of 5 discussion board posts required, worth a total of 15 points. Due dates for the discussion board posts are indicated on the course schedule.

NO LATE DISCUSSION POSTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. The discussion board will auto-lock promptly on the due date/time. You will NOT be able to post any more comments once the discussion board is closed.

*** I **STRONGLY** encourage you to post your discussion board comments as soon as the discussion board is made available. Doing so will make it less likely that you will forget to post them.

FINAL EXAMINATION

The date for your final examination is listed on the course schedule. The final for this course is **NOT CUMULATIVE** and will only cover material after Exam 3.

The format for the final exam will follow the same format as previous exams (50 multiple choice questions & 75 minute time limit). It will be worth 50 points total.

✓ Grading Information

GRADING INFORMATION

Final course grades are based on your performance on the 4 exams, 4 essays, & your participation in the class activities & discussion boards.

Overall, there is a total of 260 points to be earned in this course PLUS any extra credit points you receive (up to a maximum of 15 extra credit points).

Failure to submit a course requirement will result in a score of 0 points for that missing assignment.

It is a **STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY** to request a make-up for missed class requirements (see Make-up policy in syllabus).

Any missed assignment must be completed **BEFORE** the last day of instruction **THURSDAY, 7/2 by 11:59 pm**.

Grading summary:	Points (% of final course grade)
4 EXAMS (50 pts each)	200 (77% -- each exam 19%)
4 ESSAYS (10 pts each)	40 (15%)
Participation/Discussion posts	20 (8%)

TOTAL POINTS	260 (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" (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%). .4 and below will be rounded "down" (e.g., 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%).

GRADING SCALE

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 100%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>88 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 87%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>78 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 77%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>68 to 69%</i>

<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 67%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>59% & below</i>

*** EXTRA CREDIT (15 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 Research Methods activity where you will be asked about your understanding of experimentation. Another 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. The final extra credit activity will ask you to discuss/describe 2 compliance techniques that you have used (or that someone else used on you) to induce compliance.

Each of the extra credit opportunities is worth 5 extra credit points.

University Policies

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

Psyc 154-80 Social Psychology Summer 26 Course Schedule

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change the dates for exams, activities, and papers. However, students will be informed on CANVAS of any changes before they are made. All assignments/activities due by 11:59 pm (unless noted otherwise)

DATE	VIDEO LECTURES TO WATCH (suggested viewing dates in parentheses)	CHAPTERS	DUE
WEEK 1 – MODULES 0 & 1 6/1 – 6/5	Introduction to class (M 6/1) Theories & History (T 6/2) Research Methods parts 1 & 2 (W 6/3) Social Cognition (R 6/4) Schemas (F 6/5)	1 2 3	Module 0 Discussion board posts DUE T 6/2 Syllabus “quiz” act DUE WEDNESDAY Research methods credit opportunity FRIDAY 6/5

<p>WEEK 2 – MODULE 1 (con't)</p> <p>6/8 – 6/12</p>	<p>Impression formation (M 6/8)</p> <p>Person Memory (T 6/9)</p> <p>Attributions (W 6/10)</p> <p>MODULE 1 EXAM 1</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>All Module 1 video lectures & Chapters 1-3 in textbook</p>	<p>ESSAY #1 – Incon: Impression DUE WEDNESDAY 6/10</p> <p>Module 1 Discussion board post(s) DUE THURSDAY 6/11</p> <p>EXAM 1</p> <p>THURSDAY, 6/11</p> <p>Exam 1 available C between 9 am – 1</p> <p>*** 75 minute time</p>
--	--	--	--

WEEK 3 – MODULE 2 6/15 – 6/19	The Self (part 1) (F 6/12)	4	ESSAY #2 – Target prejudice DUE WEDNESDAY, 6/17 Module 2 Discuss board post(s) DUE THURSDAY 6/18
	The Self (part 2) (F 6/12)	4	
	Stereotyping 1 (part 1) (M 6/15)	5	
	Stereotyping 1 (part 2) (T 6/16)	5	
	Stereotyping 2 (part 1) (W 6/17)	6	
	Stereotyping 2 (part 2) (R 6/18)	6	
	Prejudice (F 6/19)		
	EXAM 2 – MODULE 2		
	All Module 2 video lectures & Chapters 4-6 in textbook		EXAM 2 MONDAY, 6/22 Exam 2 available C between 9 am – 1 *** 75 minute time

<p>WEEK 4 – MODULE 3</p> <p>6/22 – 6/26</p>	<p>Attitudes (part 1) (M 6/22)</p> <p>Attitudes (part 2) (M 6/22)</p> <p>Attitude Change (part 1) (T 6/23)</p> <p>Attitude Change (part 2) (T 6/23)</p> <p>Behavior & Attitudes (W 6/24)</p> <p>Attitudes & Behavior (W 6/24)</p> <p>Norms & Conformity (part 1) (R 6/25)</p> <p>Norms & Conformity (part 2) (R 6/25)</p> <p>Norms & Behavior (F 6/26)</p> <p>EXAM 3 – MODULE 3</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>All Module 3 video lectures & Chapters 7-10 in textbook</p>	<p>Magazine ad extra activity</p> <p>DUE TUESDAY, 6/22</p> <p>ESSAY #3 – Cognitive Dissonance</p> <p>DUE WEDNESDAY, 6/24</p> <p>Module 3 Discussion board post(s)</p> <p>DUE THURSDAY 6/25</p> <p>Compliance technique extra credit activity</p> <p>DUE FRIDAY 6/26</p> <p>EXAM 3</p> <p>MONDAY, 6/29</p> <p>Exam 3 available between 9 am – 11 am</p> <p>*** 75 minute time</p>
---	---	---	---

<p>WEEK 5 – MODULE 4</p> <p>6/29 – 7/2</p>	<p>Group processes (part 1) (M 6/29)</p> <p>Group processes (part 2) (M 6/29)</p> <p>Attraction (T 6/30)</p> <p>Love (part 1) (T 6/30)</p> <p>Love (part 2) (T 6/30)</p> <p>Aggression (part 1) (W 7/1)</p> <p>Aggression (part 2) (W 7/1)</p> <p>Prosocial/Helping (W 7/1)</p> <p>EXAM 4 – MODULE 4</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11 (con't)</p> <p>12</p> <p>12 (con't)</p> <p>12 (con't)</p> <p>13 (pp 482-496)</p> <p>13 (pp 482-496) con't</p> <p>14</p> <p>CHAPTERS 11-14</p> <p>(Chapter 13 pp. 482-496 only)</p>	<p>ESSAY #4 – Unrec love DUE TUESDAY</p> <p>Module 4 Discussion board post(s) DUE WEDNESDAY 7/1</p> <p>END OF SUMMER DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS DUE THURSDAY 7/2</p> <p>EXAM 4</p> <p>THURSDAY, 7/2</p> <p>Exam 4 available between 9 am – 11:59 pm</p> <p>*** 75 minute time</p>
--	---	---	--