

**Course Outline for:** PSYC 2600 Introduction to Social Psychology**A. Course Description**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: PSYC 1110 Introduction to Psychology
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 – History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences

Curious about why people act differently in certain situations, the roots of prejudice and violence, or how to create more peaceful relations? These are questions that social psychologists examine through research on how our social worlds shape our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. We explore topics like how we compare ourselves with others, how we conform and obey, why we dehumanize people different from us, the rise of loneliness, and the dynamics of romantic relationships. Through learning about scientific research on these topics, reflective discussions, and applied assignments, students gain insights into themselves, others, and the world, and are prepared to use that knowledge to address social problems.

**B. Date last reviewed/updated:** May 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. Research Methods in Social Psychology
2. Attribution and Social Cognition
3. The Social Self and Culture
4. Attitudes and Attitude Change
5. Social Influence: Conformity and Obedience
6. Group Processes
7. Interpersonal Attraction and Close Relationships
8. Helping Behavior
9. Aggression
10. Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination

**D. Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Illustrate key concepts in Social Psychology. (Goal 5a)
2. Illustrate basic principles of research methods in Social Psychological research. (Goal 2a, 5a)
3. Critically evaluate social psychological research. (Goal 2a, 2c, 5a, 5c)
4. Develop and communicate solutions to contemporary social problems using social psychological concepts. (Goal 2a, 2b, 5c, 5d)

5. Analyze oneself and others as social beings subject to situational influences. (Goal 2a, 2d, 5a)
6. Illustrate the role of social factors (e.g., culture, race, gender, and socioeconomic status) in shaping social behavior. (Goal 2a, 2c, 2d, 5a)
7. Illustrate how social behavior is influenced by biological factors. (Goal 2a, 5a)

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:**

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Exams
2. Application projects
3. Discussions
4. Reflective writing assignments.

**F. Special Information:**

None