

Course Outline for: SOC 2108 Social Psychology**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 - History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Goal #7A – Human Diversity, Race, Power, and Justice in the United States

Explore the dynamic interplay between the individual self and larger social patterns by learning how personal identity and meaning are shaped by society, culture, and institutional influences. Students will navigate challenging topics such as social stigmas, managing majority and minority group identities, and confronting cultural expectations rooted in historical and contemporary U.S. traditions and values. Emphasizing the importance of intersectionality, we critically examine historic and contemporary structures of racism and systemic inequalities that shape social, political, economic, and environmental landscapes in the United States from a sociological perspective. By engaging with issues of ethnicity, sexuality, gender, class, and ability, students are empowered to assign meaning to and navigate their social worlds, fostering a deeper understanding of themselves and their roles in addressing the issues facing humanity.

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

1. Sociological theories of social psychology
2. Sociological research methods in social psychology
3. Identities, socialization, and the self
4. Social communication and language
5. Social Structures and institutions, including statuses and roles
6. Power relationships, including legitimacy, equity, and justice
7. Power relationships between majority and minority groups (e.g., racism, sexism, sexuality, weight, ability, age, and social class)
8. Prejudice, stereotypes, discrimination, and institutional discrimination
9. Sociological imagination and social construction
10. Impression management and stigmas

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Explain how marginalized identities have developed and transformed over time within societal power structures and cultural practices in the United States (e.g.

- individual, interactional, and institutional levels), with a focus on how institutions maintain inequality. (Goal 2b, 2c, 2d, 5b, 7Aa, 7Ab)
2. Analyze theoretical perspectives in social psychology related to the shifting dynamics of institutional power relationships among minority groups in the U.S over time. (Goal 2b, 2c, 2d, 5b, 7Ab)
 3. Examine social issues among majority and minority groups—such as sexism, racism, and ableism—through both personal (individual-level actions) and structural (policies) lenses to foster positive social transformation. (Goal 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5d, 7Ab)
 4. Critically reflect on their own beliefs regarding social identities (individual-level) and systems of power (institutional-level maintenance of inequality) related to marginalized identities. (Goal 2b, 2c, 2d, 5c, 7Ac)
 5. Examine key concepts in social psychology that address how individuals develop their personal identities within the context of societal institutions. (Goal 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5c)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

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

1. Exams and quizzes
2. Journals and personal reflection
3. Research papers
4. Oral presentations
5. Written assignments and essays
6. Group learning activities

F. Special Information:

None