

Social Psychology

PSYC 154

Fall 2025 Section 02 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/18/2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Bianca Hinojosa

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About me

My name is Dr. Bianca Hinojosa, and I received my PhD in Health Psychology at the University of California Merced. I am the child of Mexican immigrants and was born and raised in Fresno, CA. I have a bachelors degree in cognitive science and a masters degree in experimental psychology. My research focuses on how intergroup processes influence peoples' health and well-being. In particular, I am interested in how healthcare workers' implicit attitudes towards Latinx people influence medical decision making for their Latinx patients.

What to call me?

Please refer to me as either Dr. Hinojosa.

How to email me:

Email Header: "PSYC 154"

Body of email:

"Hello Dr. Hinojosa,

I hope you are doing well. I have a question about ... Thank you for your time.

Best,

Student name (Student ID)"

Remember when emailing professors the communication is formal.

When to email me:

- clarification on an assignment (at least 48 hours before the due date)
- setting up an appointment for office hours
- to inform me of a school sponsored activity that prevents you from attending class or taking an exam
- to inform me of an emergency/medical/family situation that will prevent you from taking an exam or turning an assignment in on time

When NOT to email me:

- to ask about due dates for an assignment (this information is in the class schedule)
- to ask when an exam is scheduled (this information is in the class schedule)
- to tell me you are missing class

Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, DMH 319

Or by appointment

Course Description and Requisites

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

Prerequisite: PSYC 001.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

LATE WORK

I understand that sometimes circumstances such as illnesses, family emergencies can make it difficult or impossible to complete an assignment on time. If you need an extension, please contact me as soon as possible. Late assignments will receive a 10% point reduction for each day they are late, up to 5 days (50% off). After 5 or more days, assignments will not be accepted and the student will receive a 0 for the assignment. I will not provide any feedback on late assignments.

ONE TIME 24-HOUR EXTENSION

Each student has the option to use a one time 24-hour extension from the due date and time for either Assignment 1a (paper) or the Op-Ed Assignment no questions asked. You must leave a comment in the assignment submission that you are using your one time 24-hour extension or I may dock you the 10% late penalty. You do not need to email me you are using the extension.

GRADE REVIEW POLICY

If you believe that you have unfairly missed points on an exam or assignment, you must make an appointment with the professor to go over the exam or assignment within one week of receiving your grade. If you do not make an appointment within one week of receiving your grade, the grade will be considered final.

AI POLICY

"Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is explicitly prohibited... by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. It's imperative that all work submitted should be your own. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and / or be reported for academic misconduct." Tara Perrin, Middle Tennessee State University

All written assignments will be submitted in Canvas through Turnitin. Turnitin is a plagiarism detection software that also detects the use of AI. **Any student found to be using AI in their assignments will receive a zero.** AI includes AI generated content, paraphrased content, using it to check grammar, using it to check spelling, submitting your paper into any AI tool to get feedback. Many grammar checkers use AI to edit grammar and spelling. This is still considered AI use and will result in a zero. If you have any questions please contact the professor at least 24 hours before your submission to talk about AI. As a rule of thumb, do not put your writing into any portal asking for it to give you edits, 99.9% of the time this is AI.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.

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.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

Price: Free

Textbook: Diener & Diener (Eds). Noba Resources. Text complied under a Creative Commons license by: Bianca Hinojosa on nobaproject.com

Free online version: <http://noba.to/euc7z3m5> (<http://noba.to/euc7z3m5>).

Course Requirements and Assignments

PARTICIPATION

Each class day during lecture you will complete an in-class participation activity. This activity can take many forms including iclicker, discussion, group work etc. I will drop the 4 lowest participation activities.

EXAMS (100 Points)

Exams will typically consist of 10-15 multiple-choice/fill-in-the-blank questions and 3-5 open-ended questions. The exams will cover material from that section of class only; exams are not cumulative. Exam questions will cover any materials discussed in class lectures and anything from the readings. Exams will be in-person using LockDown Browser. Exams will be open note.

If you must miss an exam for emergency reasons or for a university sponsored activity, you must contact the professor in advance and provide appropriate documentation within 48 hours after the exam. It is your responsibility to ensure that we schedule a time for you to take a makeup exam. I reserve the right to create a new exam for anyone who needs a make-up. The make-up exam will be all open-ended questions.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Implicit Attitudes (50 points)

Students will visit <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit> and complete at least two tasks: one from the “project implicit social attitudes” page and one from the “project implicit health” page. After completing the tasks, students will write a one-page reflection on each task (2 pages total, double spaced). Instructions for this assignment will be posted on Canvas.

This assignment meets

- 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

Assignment 2 parts A and B: Applying Social Psychology (150 points)

Assignment 2 will apply social psychology research to real-world behaviors. The professor will provide a list of books to select on Canvas. As part of this assignment, you will write a 3- to 4-page (double spaced) report on the book you select (part A), and create a presentation of concepts covered in the book (Part B). Part A of the assignment is individual and Part B of the assignment is a group task.

During the first week of classes you will select your group and book. Each group will be 3-4 students. Your group must select the same book. You will each individually write a personal report on the book and as a group you will present to the class.

Instructions for this assignment will be posted in Canvas.

This assignment meets

- 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

Assignment 3: Altruistic Acts Journal (50 points)

Assignment 3 will focus on applying what we have learned in class to real world examples. "The purpose of the assignment is to cultivate awareness, empathy, and critical thinking regarding altruism by having students observe, record, and reflect on acts of kindness and egoism in their daily lives"

Instructions for this assignment will be posted in Canvas.

This assignment meets

- 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

Assignment 4: Writing an Op-Ed (100 points)

"In this assignment, students write a science-based op-ed of 700 - 750 words that brings relevant psychological research to bear on an important social problem. Although op-eds come in many forms, the best papers share several key features: They identify a specific puzzle (e.g., Why do healthcare workers report high levels of weight bias?), examine the problem in light of current scientific thinking (theory) and evidence (e.g., research findings), and communicate some novel insight about the nature of the problem or propose a solution based on available evidence. Students are required to use three or more external peer-review sources beyond course readings to support their arguments."(assignment adapted from Adam Pearson)

Instructions for this assignment will be posted in Canvas

This assignment meets

- CLO1: Understand the major theoretical approaches findings, and historical trends in Social Psychology
- 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

Extra Credit (Up to 5 points)

Community Building

The purpose of the community building extra credit is so that you can forge connections and build community with other students in this class.

To earn 1 point of extra credit you must attend and support a student at a community building event and document that you attended the event (ideally document it with the student involved in the event. To document the event, you will submit a picture of yourself at the event (ideally including the person who invited you) and the flyer/schedule/brochure/handout of the event to Canvas. These events include but are not limited to club events (outside speaker), dance recital, music recital, sport game or match, library event, theater play or musical.

You can earn up to 5 points of extra credit aka attend 5 events.

The professor will create a discussion board for students to advertise their events so others can go and support.

✓ Grading Information

Your letter grade will be assigned according to the following percentage scale:

A+ = 97.00% or greater

A = 94.00%-96.99%

A- = 90.00%-93.99%

B+ = 87.00%-89.99%

B = 84.00%-86.99%

B- = 80.00%-83.99%

C+ = 77.00%-79.99%

C = 74.00%-76.99%

C- = 70.00%-73.99%

D+ = 67.00%-69.99%

D = 64.00%-66.99%

D- = 60.00%-63.99%

F = 59.99% or less

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

	Lectures	Readings	Assignments
Week 1			
8/21	Syllabus		
Week 2			
8/26	What is Social Psychology	An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology	
8/28	Research Methods	Research Methods in Social Psychology Conducting Psychology Research in the Real World	Create group and select book for Assignment 2
Week 3			
9/2	The Social Self	Self and Identity	
9/4	The Social Self		
Week 4			
9/9	Perceiving Persons	Social Cognition and Attitudes	
9/11	Perceiving Persons How to Write an Op-Ed		
Week 5			

9/16	Prejudice, Discrimination, Stereotyping	Psychology of Racism Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping	Assignment 1 Implicit Attitudes due 9/16
9/18	Prejudice, Discrimination, Stereotyping		Select an Op- Ed topic due 9/18
Week 6			
9/23	Health & Well-Being	The Healthy Life	
9/25	Health & Well-Being		
Week 7			
9/30	Exam 1		*OPTIONAL* Submit Assignment 2 Part A Individual Paper for notes/edits from professor
10/2	Attitudes & Persuasion	Persuasion: So Easily Fooled	
Week 8			
10/7	Conformity	Conformity and Obedience	
10/9	Conformity		
Week 9			

10/14	Group Processes	The Psychology of Groups	Assignment 2 Part A Individual Paper due 10/14
10/16	Group Processes Book Group Strategy Meeting		Book Group Strategy Meeting due 10/16
Week 10			
10/21	Attraction & Close Relationships	Attraction and Beauty Love, Friendship, and Social Support	
10/23	Attraction & Close Relationships		
Week 11			
10/28	Helping Others	Helping and Prosocial Behavior	
10/30	Aggression	Aggression and Violence	
Week 12			
11/4	Justice and Law		
11/6	Mental Health Day, No class		
Week 13			

11/11	No class		
11/13	In-class time to work on presentation		Altruistic Acts Journal due 11/13
Week 14			
11/18	Class Presentation		Assignment 2 Part B
11/20	Class Presentation		Assignment 2 Part B
Week 15			
11/25	No meeting, time to work on op-ed		
11/27	No class		
Week 16			
12/2	Class Presentations		Assignment 2 Part B Op-Ed due 12/2
12/4	Exam 2		
Week 16			
<u>Monday</u> 12/8			Extra Credit due 12/8