COURSE CONTENT

Course Code / Title : HP2400 Social Psychology

Pre-requisites : HP1000 + HP1100 or CS2008 (PSMA)

No. of AUs. : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Course Aims

Much of people's thoughts and actions are guided by the richly-structured social environment in which they are embedded. This course is a broad overview of social psychology, the scientific study of thought and behavior in response to the social world. Throughout this course, you will benefit from learning the basic psychological principles that shape the ways you make sense of yourselves, other people, and the world. You will learn the major theories and empirical findings on topics that are central to everyday life, such as obedience, prosocial behaviors, and romantic attraction. You will learn how human thinking and behaviors are influenced by various social contexts, from group membership and interpersonal relationships to society and culture. Finally, you will receive progressive training on theoretical thinking, critical reasoning, and methodological designs.

More broadly, this course is in deep connection with other key courses of the program such as Introduction to Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Social Cognition, Developmental Psychology, Human Motivation, Laboratory in Social Psychology, Fundamentals of Social Science Research, and Research Design and Data Analysis in Psychology. The course forms part of the foundational training on psychological knowledge, research capability, theoretical reasoning, and critical thinking.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:
  1) describe the basic theories of social psychology
  2) identify, compare and contrast the conceptual properties of basic frameworks in social psychology
  3) explain social phenomena in real life with the basic frameworks in social psychology
  4) think critically and scientifically about social phenomena.

Course Content

A list of sample topics to be covered in this course:

Introduction, Methods of social psychology, social cognition, social perception, cognitive dissonance, attitudes, conformity, emotions, interpersonal attraction, group processes, prosocial behaviors, aggression, applications of social psychology.

Course Assessment

CA1   Midterm Quiz   : 20%
CA2   Tutorial Participation   : 10%
CA3   Group Project   : 20%
Final Examination   : 50%
Total   --------
                                        100%

Reading and References

Aronson, E., Wilson, T., & Akert, R. (2014). Social Psychology, 8th Ed. Pearson (or more recent editions).

Planned Weekly Schedule (subject to changes, if any)

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
1	Introduction to Social Psychology	1,2,3,4	Nil
2	Methods of Social Psychology	1,2,3,4	Nil
3	Social Cognition	1,2,3,4	Vohs, K. D., Mead, N. L., & Goode, M. R. (2006). The psychological consequences of money. *Science*, 314(5802), 1154-1156.
4	Social Perception	1,2,3,4	Hooper, N., Erdogan, A., Keen, G., Lawton, K., & McHugh, L. (2015). Perspective taking reduces the fundamental attribution error. *Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science*, 4(2), 69-72.

5	The Self	1,2,3,4	Nil
6	Cognitive Dissonance	1,2,3,4	Gawronski, B. (2012). Back to the future of dissonance theory: Cognitive consistency as a core motive. *Social Cognition,* 30(6), 652-668.
7	Midterm Quiz	1,2,3,4	Nil
8	Attitudes	1,2,3,4	Nil
9	Conformity	1,2,3,4	Freedman, J. L., & Fraser, S. C. (1966). Compliance without pressure: the foot-in-the-door technique. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology,* 4(2), 195.
10	Emotions	1,2,3,4	Nil
11	Interpersonal Attraction	1,2,3,4	Nil
12	Group Processes	1,2,3,4	Nil
13	Prosocial Behaviors	1,2,3,4	The influence oftime of day on unethical behavior: Kouchaki, M., & Smith, I. H. (2014). The morning morality effect: The influence of time of day on unethical behavior. *Psychological Science,* 25(1), 95-102.