

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

PSYC 201 – SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: PSYC 201 - Social Psychology
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Spring 2021
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2021**
- E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work, and Education
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3
Laboratory: 0
Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. Prerequisites: PSYC 103 – Introduction to Psychology
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:
Department Chair: Dr. Isabel T. Gutierrez-Bergman, isabel.gutierrez@raritanval.edu
Divisional Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks, patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: PSYC 103 Introduction to Psychology

This course will provide students with a basic overview of social psychology. The course will focus on social and situational factors that influence people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Additionally, students will learn to critically understand and evaluate theories in social psychology, the implications of the theories for human nature, and how the theories apply to phenomena experienced in people's everyday life. Whenever possible, the course will focus on research with real-world implications and the application of psychological concepts to real-world scenarios. Students will develop an appreciation of how an investigation of the human mind requires a multi-level analysis, including the individual and their socio-cultural environment. The course will cover a variety of topics including: research methods in social psychology, the self, social cognition, attitudes, emotion, social influence, persuasion, prosocial behavior, antisocial behavior, attraction and relationships, and prejudice and intergroup relations.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. This course is a standard course offered at virtually all community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities.
- B. This course generally transfers as a psychology elective, social science elective, or free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a social science elective for the Social Sciences, A.A. degree
- C. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

The course will cover the following topics:

- A. Introduction and Research Methods in Social Psychology
- B. The Self
- C. The Self in Control
- D. Social Cognition
- E. Emotion and Affect
- F. Attitudes, Beliefs, and Consistency
- G. Social Influence and Persuasion
- H. Prosocial Behavior
- I. Aggression and Antisocial Behavior
- J. Attraction and Exclusion
- K. Close Relationships
- L. Prejudice and Intergroup Relations
- M. Groups
- N. Evolutionary Social Psychology
- O. Cultural Social Psychology

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to: (2, 3, 5, 8)

- a. Describe social situational factors on people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. (GE- NJ 5, *)
- b. Demonstrate a basic understanding of research methods and the interpretation of quantitative results (GE-NJ 2, *)
- c. Critically evaluate information from a variety of sources using scientific and psychological principles. (GE-NJ 3, IL, *)
- d. Describe intragroup and intergroup theories of human behavior and relationships. (GE- NJ 5, 8, *)
- e. Identify broad perspectives in social psychology and their applications to real-world situations. (GE-NJ 5, 8, *)
- f. Apply ethical standards to evaluate issues related to social influence, including issues related to psychological research (GE-NJ 5, ER&A, *)

(* Embedded Critical Thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- a. Describe broad perspectives of social psychology and the underpinnings of social interaction.
- b. Explain research methods in social psychology and critically evaluate social psychological research.
- c. Compare and contrast classic and contemporary theories in social psychology.
- d. Identify how social psychological research can apply to real-world problems and how social psychology is encountered in everyday life.

C. Assessment Instruments

- a. Lecture/discussion
- b. Small-group work
- c. Exams
- d. Essays
- e. Oral Presentations

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Exams
- B. Essays and/or reflection papers
- C. Research papers
- D. Oral presentations
- E. Quizzes
- F. Participation

The primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. student oral presentations
- D. simulation/role-playing
- E. student collaboration
- F. independent study
- G. guest speakers
- H. computer-assisted instruction
- I. videos and weblinks that enhance knowledge of course material

VIII. Texts and Materials

Title: *Social Psychology and Human Nature*
Authors: Roy F. Baumeister & Brad Bushman
Edition: 5th
Publisher: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning
Copyright: 2021
ISBN-13: 978-0357122914
ISBN-10: 0357122917

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- A. Library databases
- B. Other computer-based resources (e.g., websites, links, and videos)
- C. Various journal and applicable articles