

PSYC 2600 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

How can human behavior be comprehensively explained? In what ways can individuals cultivate greater awareness of fluctuations in their emotions and actions within social contexts? What underlying mechanisms drive human conduct, and how do these shape interpersonal influence and reciprocal impact? Furthermore, how can individuals maintain fidelity to their core values amidst divergent social attitudes and behaviors? What psychological and social factors contribute to the experience of romantic love? What strategies effectively mitigate prejudice? How do individuals navigate the grief associated with the loss of loved ones? Finally, what motivates perseverance in learning despite encountering obstacles?

Social psychology rigorously investigates these complex questions through empirical research. This course endeavors to transcend theoretical understanding by integrating scholarly inquiry with active engagement, including class discussions, introspective reflection, and critical application of scientific principles to quotidian experiences.

As a discipline, social psychology explores how individuals think, feel, and behave within social environments. It aims to identify and elucidate the determinants of human behavior in diverse social contexts, employing systematic scientific methodologies to explain observed phenomena and to anticipate behavioral patterns. The field's theoretical frameworks offer valuable insights into social problems, facilitating a deeper comprehension of their etiology and informing strategies for prevention.

This course, Social Psychology of Social Problems, brings together contributions from leading international scholars who examine pressing societal issues. It operates on the premise that understanding the origins of social challenges is a prerequisite to effective intervention and prevention.

OBJECTIVES

This course fosters a comprehensive understanding of human behavior and the ways in which social dynamics shape individual actions. Students examine both overt and subtle forms of social influence encountered in everyday life, linking psychological principles to personal and collective well-being. Emphasis is placed on the practical application of psychological knowledge to real-world challenges such as peer pressure and conflict resolution. Critical thinking skills are cultivated through engagement with scientific evidence and reflective evaluation of sources of authority. Active participation, including public speaking and collaborative work, is integral to developing effective communication and analytical competencies.

Learning Objectives:

To describe and critically analyze social behaviors and their manifestations.

To identify and assess the multifaceted factors that precipitate social behaviors.

To apply empirical research findings toward addressing and alleviating identified societal challenges.

To explore a range of pertinent topics, including but not limited to substance abuse, criminality, prejudice, domestic violence, public health issues, bullying, and aggression.

II. GRADING SCALE AND BREAKDOWN

Students will be awarded grades according to UVA grading scale:

A+	100-99	B+	89-87	C+	79-77	D+	69-67
A	98-96	B	86-84	C	76-74	D	66-64
A-	95-90	B-	83-80	C-	73-70	D-	63-60
						F	59-0

Grade Breakdown

Oral presentation.....	50%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam.....	20%
Attendance and participation	10%
TOTAL.....	100%

Oral Presentations (50%): Throughout the course, students will complete five oral presentation, each constituting 10% of the final grade.

Midterm Exam (20%) & Final Exam (20%): Two written examinations will be administered during the course, together accounting for 40% of the overall grade. These exams are designed to assess students' comprehension of key concepts as well as their ability to apply analytical skills.

Attendance and Participation (10%): Regular attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to actively contribute to class discussions and collaborative activities. Evaluation will consider the level of engagement, enthusiasm, and the quality of participation throughout the course.

Students are responsible for catching up on any missed sessions. For substantive questions or concerns related to course content, research assignments, or exam grading, consultations must occur in person during office hours or by appointment, as such matters will not be addressed via email. For general communication or minor inquiries, students are encouraged to use email correspondence.

III. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND MATERIALS

Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., Akert, R. M., & Sommers, S. R. (2016). *Social psychology* (9th ed.). Pearson Education Inc.

Supplementary materials—including scientific articles, videos, and scholarly papers—will be provided by the instructor throughout the duration of the course. These resources are designed to enhance your comprehension and reinforce the core concepts addressed during lectures.

IV. COURSE PLANNING AND CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	CHAPTER
08/09/2026	Syllabus presentation/ Introducing Social Psychology	Chapter 1
10/09/2026	Methodology: how social psychologists do research	Chapter 2
15/09/2026	Methodology: how social psychologists do research	Chapter 2
17/09/2026	Social Perception: how we come to understand other people	Chapter 4
22/09/2026	Social Perception: how we come to understand other people	Chapter 4

24/09/2026	The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context	Chapter 5
29/09/2026	The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context	Chapter 5
01/10/2026	Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings	Chapter 7
06/10/2026	Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts and Feelings	Chapter 7
20/10/2026	Conformity and Obedience: Influencing Behavior	Chapter 8
22/10/2026	Conformity and Obedience: Influencing Behavior	Chapter 8
27/10/2026	MIDTERM EXAM	
03/11/2026	Group Processes	Chapter 9
05/11/2026	Group Processes	Chapter 9
10/11/2026	Influence in Social Groups	Chapter 9
12/11/2026	Prosocial Behavior: Why Do People Help?	Chapter 11
17/11/2026	Prosocial Behavior: Why Do People Help?	Chapter 11
19/11/2026	Aggression: Why Do We Hurt Other People? Can We Prevent It?	Chapter 12
24/11/2026	Aggression: Why Do We Hurt Other People? Can We Prevent It?	Chapter 12
26/11/2026	Prejudice: Causes, Consequences, and Cures	Chapter 13
01/12/2026	Prejudice: Causes, Consequences, and Cures	Chapter 13
03/12/2026	Attraction and Relationships	Chapter 10
10/12/2026	Attraction and Relationships	Chapter 10
15/12/2026	FINAL EXAM	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1) Use of Spanish in the Center

The use of Spanish at the Center is strongly encouraged. Remember that you have come to Spain to learn Spanish and immerse yourself in its culture, and there is no better way to do so than by using Spanish on as many occasions as possible.

2) Class Attendance and Tardiness

2.1) Attendance and punctuality are essential for successfully completing the course. Unjustified absences and tardiness will negatively affect the final grade.

2.2) Only one unexcused absence is permitted. Please bear this in mind when planning trips or outings.

2.3) Arriving more than 5 minutes late will be considered a half absence (½). It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of any absence before class begins.

2.4) Arriving more than 30 minutes late will be considered a full absence.

2.5) Four (4) unjustified absences will result in no credit being granted for the course.

2.6) Only documented absences are considered justified: religious holidays, family emergencies, or medical appointments, provided they are verified with a note, submitted at the front desk on the day the student returns to class after the incident has ended.

3) Academic Integrity

3.1) The exchange of information is not only permitted but is also a way of enriching the knowledge acquired during the course. However, all work submitted for each course must be individual and original in every respect. Any sources and direct quotations used must be properly cited.

3.2) Remember that the use of artificial intelligence to complete assignments or examinations is strictly prohibited unless an instructor expressly states otherwise. Such use constitutes a lack of authenticity, and may amount to direct plagiarism, in addition to undermining the development of critical thinking and writing skills, which are among the primary goals of this program. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

3.3) Any work that has received credit for one course will NOT be accepted for credit in another course. There will be NO exceptions to this rule. Reusing such work will result in immediate failure of the second course. If assignments for two different courses are related in any way and the student has questions about whether the second project is permissible, the matter must be discussed with all instructors involved. This will prevent any possible unintentional violation of this rule.

3.4) As with punctuality, assignments must be submitted on time. Any late submission will result in a reduction of the grade for that assignment.

3.5) Failure to comply with the provisions set out above will result in the loss of the corresponding course credits for the course in which these rules have been violated.

3.6) If you have a documented special need that requires academic accommodations (SDAC), it must be certified by your home institution. Please contact the Head of Studies in Valencia, María Andrés (maria.andres@uvavalencia.org).

4) Activities, Workshops, and Lectures

Throughout the course, various activities, workshops, and lectures are organized. Participation may be voluntary or mandatory if the instructor considers the activity relevant to the course.

5) Classroom Conduct

5.1) It is very important that all students arrive to class on time, prepared, and with the materials needed for the day. During class, students must treat one another and the instructor with respect, demonstrate a positive attitude, and help create a participatory and collaborative environment that supports effective learning. Any violation of these expectations will have direct consequences.

5.2) Electronic devices (laptop, mobile phone, smartwatch) may be used in class only for course-related purposes. If a student uses such technology for personal reasons during class, the student may be penalized with an unexcused absence.

5.3) The use of computer or electronic technology during examinations is prohibited unless the instructor determines otherwise in accordance with the examination format.

6) Course Content

On occasion, and always within the context of the course, certain “sensitive” topics may be addressed both inside and outside the classroom. Therefore, if a student feels offended by such content in a particular class, the student may leave the class, and doing so will not have any negative effect whatsoever on the final grade. Faculty members will always be open to communication and dialogue in order to promote better intercultural understanding.

7) Final Clarification

The instructor may modify or add activities and/or change the dates indicated according to the learning needs of the group. Effective learning requires not only careful planning, but also a certain degree of flexibility.