

Social Psychology

PSYC 154

Fall 2026 Section 03 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/19/2026 to 12/07/2026 Modified 08/18/2026



Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Bianca Hinojosa

Email: bianca.hinojosa@sjsu.edu

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)

Office Hours

Thursday, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, DMH 319

Or by appointment

Course Information

Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 am - 11:45 am

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 do not accept any late work unless you have AEC accommodations and/or a tragic unforeseen event has occurred. I will ask for proof in order to grant the extension. Please remember that office hours are a space to discuss difficulty in completing course work.

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

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 and be reported to the University.**

AI includes brainstorming using AI, 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, having AI write your paper for you, putting the assignment prompt into AI and asking it to write the paper for you. Having Gemini offer suggestions for your writing and accepting these suggestions. This is not an exhaustive list, please discuss with the professor if you have any questions on what constitutes AI use. All work you submit must be your own work without the use or assistance of AI tools.

Many grammar checkers use AI to edit grammar and spelling (for example, Grammarly and Gemini). This is still considered AI use and will result in a zero. If you have any questions please contact the professor at least 48 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.

Additionally,

- You may not use any AI tools
- You may not use Chat GPT, Grammarly, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Adobe Creative Cloud, Claude, NotebookLM, Perplexity, Consensus, AI tools in Canva, Anara AI, Jenni AI, Turbo AI. Importantly, this is not an exhaustive list and any use of AI is prohibited.
- You may not use Meta Glasses.
- You may not use any AI tools to create photos for assignments
- You may not use AI tools to create slides for presentations

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

EXAMS (90 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

Participation (30 points)

Throughout this course, at random, I will have you complete in-class participation. This may come in the form of reading articles and writing a reflection, small group discussion, pairing with a partner, creating models, integrating concepts, developing interventions etc.

A student may not make-up any missed in-class participation.

Students who are missing a class for a university sponsored event must provide proper documentation to the professor.

The professor will drop the lowest 2 in-class participation

This assignment meets CLO #1, #3, and #4

Small Group Discussion #1-3 (60 points)

Three times throughout the semester students will complete small group discussions. The professor will provide an article to read in class, students will form small groups, and answer discussion questions provided by the professor. Students will submit a write-up of their answers at the end of class.

A student may not make-up any missed small group discussion unless for a university sponsored event or emergency, and the student must provide proper documentation to the professor.

This assignment meets CLO #1, #2, #3, and #4

Assignment 1: Implicit Attitudes (45 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 an in-class reflection on each task. Instructions for this assignment will be posted on Canvas and discussed in-class.

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 (75 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 an in-class 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 and discussed in class.

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

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

Breakdown

There is a total of 300 points for this course. Please see below for the percentage breakdown:

Participation: 10%

Discussion: 20%

Exams: 30%

Assignment 1: 15%

Assignment 2 (part A and B): 25%

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			
8/20	Syllabus		
Week 2			
8/25	What is Social Psychology	An Introduction to the Science of Social Psychology	
8/27	Research Methods	Research Methods in Social Psychology	
Week 3			
9/1	Research Methods	Conducting Psychology Research in the Real World	Create group and select book for Assignment 2
9/3	The Social Self		
Week 4			
9/8	The Social Self		
9/10	Perceiving Persons	Social Cognition and Attitudes	
Week 5			
9/15	Prejudice, Discrimination, Stereotyping	Psychology of Racism Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping	
9/17	Small Group Discussion #1	TBD	Assignment 1 Implicit Attitudes
Week 6			
9/22	Attitudes and Persuasion	Persuasion: So Easily Fooled	
9/24	Exam 1		
Week 7			
9/29	Group Processes	The Psychology of Groups	

10/1	Conformity	Conformity and Obedience	
Week 8			
10/6	Conformity		
10/8	The Psychology of Cults		
Week 9			
10/13	Small Group Discussion #2: Psychology of Cults	https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/out-of-the-darkness/202305/why-some-people-hand-their-lives-over-to-cults https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/out-of-the-darkness/202305/why-some-people-hand-their-lives-over-to-cults TBD	
10/15	In-class: Assignment 2 Part A Individual Paper		
Week 10			
10/20	Health & Well-Being	The Healthy Life	
10/22	Everybody's Work: Healing What Hurts us All Documentary		
Week 11			
10/27	Attraction & Close Relationships	Attraction and Beauty Love, Friendship, and Social Support	
10/29	Attraction & Close Relationships		
Week 12			
11/3	Small Group Discussion #3: Attraction & Close Relationships	TBD	
11/5	Helping Others	Helping and Prosocial Behavior	

Week 13			
11/10	Justice and Law		
11/12	Exam 2		
Week 14			
11/17	In-class time to work on group presentation		
11/19	In-class time to work on presentation		
Week 15			
11/24	[reserved if we need a day for group presentations, otherwise no meeting]		
11/26	No class		
Week 16			
12/1	Class Presentations		Assignment 2 Part B
12/3	Class Presentations		Assignment 2 Part B