



UNSW Course Outline

PSYC3121 Social Psychology - 2024

Published on the 02 Sep 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC3121

Year : 2024

Term : Term 3

Teaching Period : T3

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Science

Academic Unit : School of Psychology

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course provides an advanced treatment of psychological research that addresses the nature of human social dynamics. It builds upon relevant topic coverage in PSYC1001 and PSYC2061. Students are assumed to have familiarity with social psychological principles, areas of research,

and methodological approaches, as covered in PSYC1001 and PSYC2061. This course provides in-depth coverage of current research as it relates to major theories and areas of study in the field of social psychology, including the nature of attraction, stereotypes and prejudice, aggression, morality and prosocial behaviour. Students will learn about the history, principles, methods, and ethics of social psychology at an advanced level. Lecture content is pre-recorded and released each week online via Moodle. Live Q&A sessions during lecture times provide an opportunity for students to interact with teaching staff, discuss assessment, and ask questions. Tutorials are oriented around active learning experiences designed to enhance understanding of research, methodology, and theories as covered in lectures. Online self-directed activities further promote understanding in these areas.

Course Aims

This course aims to highlight contemporary theory and research in social psychology at an advanced level. Students will learn about the empirical questions, methods, and conclusions drawn from contemporary social psychological research and how these conclusions inform psychological theory. Students will learn to communicate about social psychological research in a variety of formats. Students will develop skills to critically evaluate research in the field of social psychology.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course builds upon relevant topic coverage in PSYC1001 and PSYC2061. Students are assumed to have familiarity with social psychological principles, areas of research, and methodological approaches, as covered in PSYC1001 and PSYC2061.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Understand the major objectives and theoretical perspectives used in contemporary social psychology at an advanced level.
CLO2 : Describe, apply and evaluate an advanced knowledge of research methods used in social psychology, enabling you to design and conduct social psychological studies and literature searches.
CLO3 : Apply advanced critical thinking skills to problems related to social psychology enabling you to use reasoning and evidence to recognise, develop, defend and criticise arguments and persuasive appeals.
CLO4 : Evaluate the values and ethics arising in social psychological research.
CLO5 : Effectively communicate with your peers and teaching staff, including in group settings.
CLO6 : Understand and apply principles of social psychology to solve problems in everyday life and in society.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Understand the major objectives and theoretical perspectives used in contemporary social psychology at an advanced level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think tank write-up • Tutorial preparation and participation activities • Final exam
CLO2 : Describe, apply and evaluate an advanced knowledge of research methods used in social psychology, enabling you to design and conduct social psychological studies and literature searches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think tank group presentation • Think tank write-up • Tutorial preparation and participation activities • Final exam
CLO3 : Apply advanced critical thinking skills to problems related to social psychology enabling you to use reasoning and evidence to recognise, develop, defend and criticise arguments and persuasive appeals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think tank group presentation • Think tank write-up • Tutorial preparation and participation activities • Final exam
CLO4 : Evaluate the values and ethics arising in social psychological research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think tank write-up • Tutorial preparation and participation activities
CLO5 : Effectively communicate with your peers and teaching staff, including in group settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think tank group presentation • Final exam • Think tank write-up
CLO6 : Understand and apply principles of social psychology to solve problems in everyday life and in society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think tank group presentation • Final exam • Think tank write-up

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360 | Zoom

Learning and Teaching in this course

All news updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email. It is the student's responsibility to check Moodle and their student emails regularly to keep up to date.

Given that the course content and some assessable components are delivered online, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have access to a computer with a stable internet connection and a browser capable of handling the features of the Moodle eLearning website and any of its content.

The Moodle discussion forums should be the first line of contact with the Course Coordinator

(meeting requests, personal or Equitable Learning Support matters can be sent by email in the first instance).

Students registered with Equitable Learning Services must contact the course coordinator immediately if they intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. Letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

It is expected that students will watch the lectures and complete the self-directed online activities in a timely manner. Students are also expected to engage in the live Q&A sessions, including contributing questions either prior to or during the session.

Attendance during tutor-led activities during allocated tutorial times ('tutorials') is compulsory to ensure students are consistently working towards achieving the foundational graduate competencies required by the APAC Accreditation Standards. These Accreditation Standards are incorporated in Program and Course Learning Outcomes. Attendance is monitored for tutorials. Failure to meet these specified attendance requirements may result in course failure. Also, due to the extended group based work that takes place in tutorials, marks that stem from group contributions may be impacted by nonattendance. Students must only attend the tutorial in which they are enrolled; switching sections is not allowed, except under explicit permission from the tutor leading the session a student wishes to sit in on. Tutors reserve the right to decline such requests. Explanations for an occasional absence from a class or requests for permission to be absent from a class should be discussed with the lecturer/tutor, and where applicable, accompanied by a medical certificate.

It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure.

It is expected that students have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide.

Additional Course Information

Discussion Forums: Moodle Forums provide students with an opportunity to question and clarify the concepts and ideas mentioned in the lectures, tutorials, and online activities. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with this forum by posting questions or comments, and reading, answering, or replying to other student's posts to enhance understanding of the content, critical thinking, and written communication skills. Use of the forum will help students to develop effective communication skills for conveying complex information and evaluating multiple

perspectives.

Consultation: The Course Convenor is available for online consultation to students, individually or as a group and online or in-person. Consultations must be arranged at a mutually convenient time, an agenda or meeting topic must be provided with a minimum of 48 hours prior notice. Consultation with the course convenor may address topics related to assessment, broad course structure, or matters of a personal nature. Lecturers and tutors are also available for consultation, to be arranged via email, to address specific topics, and/or tutorial-related matters.

Psychology Student Guide: The [School of Psychology Student Guide](#) contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Equitable Learning Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Think tank write-up Assessment Format: Individual	35%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 08/11/2024 05:00 PM
Tutorial preparation and participation activities Assessment Format: Individual	15%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 17/11/2024 11:59 PM
Final exam Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable
Think tank group presentation Assessment Format: Group	10%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 7 tutorials

Assessment Details

Think tank write-up

Assessment Overview

This written assessment will use your group's research question as a starting point and present the rationale, methodology, planned analysis, and predicted outcomes of a proposed study that would address the research question. You will also describe the impact of the proposed study on the field of research and address potential limitations. The word limit is 1500 words.

Marks will be allocated according to a rubric assessing completion of the required assignment components, adherence to instructions, and an overall judgment of the readability of the assignment.

Comprehensive information on the Think Tank write-up is provided in an assignment sheet and marking rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand the major objectives and theoretical perspectives used in contemporary social psychology at an advanced level.
- CLO2 : Describe, apply and evaluate an advanced knowledge of research methods used in social psychology, enabling you to design and conduct social psychological studies and literature searches.
- CLO3 : Apply advanced critical thinking skills to problems related to social psychology enabling you to use reasoning and evidence to recognise, develop, defend and criticise arguments and persuasive appeals.
- CLO4 : Evaluate the values and ethics arising in social psychological research.
- CLO5 : Effectively communicate with your peers and teaching staff, including in group settings.
- CLO6 : Understand and apply principles of social psychology to solve problems in everyday life and in society.

Assessment Length

1500 words

Submission notes

Students are required to submit an electronic copy of their written assignment to the School via the course Moodle site. An electronic version of the assignment should be submitted through the Turnitin link on Moodle for plagiarism checking.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity

reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Tutorial preparation and participation activities

Assessment Overview

This combined participation mark comprises:

Tutor-led Activities (8 x 1% each): during allocated tutorial times, tutors will lead students through activities that complement and extend understanding of social psychology. The majority of these activities involve group-based work that carries from week to week

Completion of online tutorial activities (3%, 1% each) and completion of the self-test quizzes* (4%, 1% each): You are encouraged to complete online tutorial activities and self-test quizzes throughout the term per the course schedule; the deadline for completion of these activities for participation marks is Sunday Week 10.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand the major objectives and theoretical perspectives used in contemporary social psychology at an advanced level.
- CLO2 : Describe, apply and evaluate an advanced knowledge of research methods used in social psychology, enabling you to design and conduct social psychological studies and literature searches.
- CLO3 : Apply advanced critical thinking skills to problems related to social psychology enabling you to use reasoning and evidence to recognise, develop, defend and criticise arguments and persuasive appeals.
- CLO4 : Evaluate the values and ethics arising in social psychological research.

Detailed Assessment Description

Activities and quizzes will be available at the beginning of the corresponding week listed in the Course Schedule and will remain open for the duration of the course. Students can take each quiz and complete each activity as many times as they choose. Functionally, participation is due during the weeks in which the activities are listed in the Course Schedule. You are

encouraged to complete online tutorial activities and self-test quizzes throughout the term per the course schedule; the deadline for completion of these activities for participation marks is 11:59pm on the Sunday of Week 10. Activity completion after this time will not earn marks, though activities will remain open for completion and/or review after this time.

Assessment Length

8 activities (4 online self-directed activities; 4 self-test quizzes)

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Final exam

Assessment Overview

The final exam will test your factual knowledge of and critical reasoning skills related to content from lectures, online activities, readings, and tutorials. Question formats will include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions. The number of questions per topic will be proportional to the number of lectures and tutorials on the topic.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand the major objectives and theoretical perspectives used in contemporary social psychology at an advanced level.
- CLO2 : Describe, apply and evaluate an advanced knowledge of research methods used in social psychology, enabling you to design and conduct social psychological studies and literature searches.
- CLO3 : Apply advanced critical thinking skills to problems related to social psychology enabling you to use reasoning and evidence to recognise, develop, defend and criticise arguments and persuasive appeals.
- CLO5 : Effectively communicate with your peers and teaching staff, including in group settings.
- CLO6 : Understand and apply principles of social psychology to solve problems in everyday life and in society.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Think tank group presentation

Assessment Overview

This group presentation will be a culmination of group-based work in tutorials across the course. You, along with members of your group, will record a 10 minute presentation detailing a research question and proposed study. The presentation will include rationale, research question and hypotheses, methodology, and planned analyses and predicted outcomes.

Viewing of your group's presentation will be followed by a 5-minute live Q&A period, during which you and all group members should be present and prepared to respond to questions from your peers.

Marks will be allocated according to a rubric assessing completion of the required presentation components, the Q&A session, the audio-visual quality of the presentation, and an overall judgment of the coherence of the presentation. Marks will also incorporate peer evaluations from fellow group members.

Comprehensive information on the Think Tank group presentation is provided in an assignment sheet and marking rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Describe, apply and evaluate an advanced knowledge of research methods used in social psychology, enabling you to design and conduct social psychological studies and literature searches.
- CLO3 : Apply advanced critical thinking skills to problems related to social psychology enabling you to use reasoning and evidence to recognise, develop, defend and criticise arguments and persuasive appeals.
- CLO5 : Effectively communicate with your peers and teaching staff, including in group settings.

- CLO6 : Understand and apply principles of social psychology to solve problems in everyday life and in society.

Assessment Length

10 minute presentation + 5 minute Q&A

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

General Assessment Information

Special Consideration: Students who experience circumstances outside of their control that prevent them from completing an assessment task by the assigned due date due can apply for Special Consideration. Special Consideration applications should include a medical certificate or other documentation and be submitted via myUNSW within 3 days of the sitting/due date.

Important note: UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address and advised of the official outcome. If the special consideration application is approved, you may be given an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information about special consideration, please visit: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

Alternative assessments: will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure and Psychology Student Guide.

Supplementary examinations: will be made available for students with approved special consideration application and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy and Psychology Student Guide.

All course assessments have been designed and implemented in accordance with [UNSW Assessment Policy](#).

The APA (7th edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual; it is available in the library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Introduction (Harmon-Jones) • Social Neuroscience (Harmon-Jones)
	Tutorial	Think Tank I - Intro & Topics
	Reading	Social Neuroscience chapter by Ito and Kubota
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive Dissonance 1 (Harmon-Jones) • Cognitive Dissonance 2 (Harmon-Jones)
	Tutorial	Think Tank II - Social Psychology Research Essentials
	Online Activity	Laughter Online Self-Directed Activity
	Reading	Cognitive Dissonance chapter by Harmon-Jones and Mills Cognitive Dissonance Introduction
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terror Management Theory (Harmon-Jones) • Positive Emotions (Harmon-Jones)
	Tutorial	Think Tank III - Operationalisation
	Online Activity	Self-test Quiz #1 - Harmon-Jones Lecture Content
	Other	Lecture Content Q&A #1 with Eddie Harmon-Jones – online live
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 Years of Aggression Research (Denson) • Anger Regulation (Denson)
	Online Activity	Cognitive Dissonance Online Self-Directed Activity
	Online Activity	Pitch Prep Activity (in lieu of in-person tutorials, complete before Week 5 tutorials)
	Reading	Aggression chapter by Bushman Aggression and Violence chapter
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergroup Hatred (Denson) • Hormones & Social Behaviour (Denson)
	Tutorial	Think Tank IV - Presentation Preparation
	Online Activity	Self-test Quiz #2 - Denson Lecture Content
	Other	Lecture Content Q&A #2 with Tom Denson - Live, online
	Reading	Finkel & Hall (2018) Aggression Reading 2 (Finkel & Hall)
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Other	Optional in-person drop-in session for consultations on Presentations during allocated tutorial time.
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonverbal Communication (Szymaniak) • Modern Biases (Szymaniak)
	Tutorial	Think Tank V - Presentations
	Assessment	Think Tank Presentations occur in tutorials this week.
	Online Activity	Hormones Online Self-Directed Activity
	Reading	Prejudice reading by Fiske Prejudice chapter by Fiske
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Relationships 1 (Szymaniak) • Close Relationships 2 (Szymaniak)
	Tutorial	Think Tank VI - Presentation Feedback & Writing Effectively
	Online Activity	Self-test Quiz #3 - Szymaniak Lecture Content
	Reading	Love, Friendship, and Social Support chapter by Brannan & Mohr Love chapter
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narcissism (Szymaniak) • Conspiracy Beliefs (Szymaniak)
	Tutorial	Understanding p values
	Online Activity	Science of Love Self-Directed Online Activity
	Assessment	Written Assessment - Think Tank Write-up Due 5pm Friday 8 November
	Reading	Cichocka et al. (2022) reading Cichocka et al. (2022) reading
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loneliness (Szymaniak)

		• Review for exam and Q&A with Szymaniak, live online
	Online Activity	Self-test Quiz #4 - Szymaniak Lecture Content
	Reading	Barjaková et al. (2023) Risk factors for loneliness: A literature review (Barjaková et al., 2023)

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

Each week, this course typically consists of 2 hours of lecture material, 2 hours of face to face tutorials, and 1-2 hours of online activities. Students are expected to take an additional 6 hours each week of self-determined study to complete assessments, readings, and exam preparation.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

This course does not have a prescribed textbook. Links to assigned readings will be provided in the Course Schedule.

Course Evaluation and Development

At the end of the term, students are strongly encouraged to complete the myExperience survey to provide feedback on the course and teaching. This feedback is used to improve the learning experience of future students.

Past feedback has led to modifications in the structure and design of assessment activities, the sequencing of lecture content, and the role of online activities (self-directed activities, self-test quizzes).

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Lecturer	Tom Denson				By appointment	No	No
	Eddie Harmon -Jones				By appointment	No	Yes
Tutor	Alina Thomas				By appointment	No	No
	Sam Drew				By appointment	No	No
Lecturer	Kinga Szymaniak				By appointment	No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage. At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity, plagiarism and the use of AI in assessments can be located at:

- The [Current Students site](#),
- The [ELISE training site](#), and
- The [Use of AI for assessments](#) site.

The Student Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand

your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Penalty for Late Submissions

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Any variations to the above will be explicitly stated in the Course Outline for a given course or assessment task.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Special Consideration

If circumstances prevent you from attending/completing an assessment task, you must officially apply for special consideration, usually within 3 days of the sitting date/due date. You can apply by logging onto myUNSW and following the link in the My Student Profile Tab. Medical documentation or other documentation explaining your absence must be submitted with your application. Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address to be advised of the official outcome and any actions that need to be taken from there. For more information about special consideration, please visit: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

Important note: UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- [The Current Students Gateway](#)
- [Student Support](#)
- [Academic Skills and Support](#)
- [Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety](#)
- [Equitable Learning Services](#)
- [UNSW IT Service Centre](#)
- Science EDI Student [Initiatives](#), [Offerings](#) and [Guidelines](#)