

Common Course Outline

PSYC 207

Social Psychology

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

PSYC 207 – Social Psychology presents psychological principles and research pertaining to the social influences on behavior and mental processes. This course covers attitude formation and change, conformity, social exchange, prejudice, altruism, the structure and function of groups, persuasion, motivation, aggression, and interpersonal attraction. Finally, this course examines culture's impact on social behavior and human interactions.

3 Credits

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. describe how scientific methodology is applied to social interaction;
2. analyze major theories related to social behavior;
3. describe, analyze, and evaluate research related to social interactions, behavior, and problems;
4. apply social psychology principles to practical issues and real-world problems;
5. describe how maladaptive social ideologies (i.e., racism, sexism, classism) and behaviors (i.e., discrimination, hate crimes, mass shootings) are maintained in the larger society;
6. explain the effects of prejudice on group and individual behavior;
7. analyze social factors that influence interpersonal attraction and sexual behavior;
8. examine and analyze the impact of an individual's unique culture on social behavior and human interactions;
9. discuss research techniques used to investigate social interaction; and
10. analyze the relation between social settings and individual behavior.

Major Topics

- I. History of social psychology
- II. Research methods and statistics
- III. Conformity, social approval, and compliance
- IV. Social exchange
- V. Competition and cooperation
- VI. Racism and bigotry
- VII. Negotiation of behavior and group decisions

- VIII. Attribution theory and cognitive dissonance
- IX. Authoritarianism and obedience
- X. Leadership, aggression, and prosocial behavior
- XI. Interpersonal attraction and sexual attitudes and behavior

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Grading/exams:

- A minimum of three exams (with four or more recommended)
- A minimum of one major written assignment (at least 1,000 word minimum) on a topic in social psychology
- A minimum of one of the following course activities: class presentation, collaborative learning assignment, or portfolio assignment

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is a program elective in the Humanities and Social Sciences Psychology area of concentration.