0.1



Open Inquiry Policy

Questions and course feedback are encouraged throughout the duration of this curriculum.

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0.2

PSYC 215 B: Brief Social Psychology Overview

Format: A concise library overview + 6 short lectures (~1 hour total).

Explain Social Influence

How other people shape what we think, feel, and do.

Describe Classic Experiments

Understand the foundational research of the field.

Spot Judgment Errors

Identify common cognitive and social errors in judging people.

Apply Findings

Translate psychological principles into everyday life.

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Social Psychology: The scientific study of how the thoughts, feelings, and behavior of individuals are influenced by the presence of others.

Actual Presence

- Real people physically present in the room.

Imagined Presence

- People we picture in our minds (e.g., a parent whose opinion matters to us).

Implied Presence

- Social norms and roles that dictate how to act, even when completely alone.

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Everyday Choices

- ✓ Whom to trust
- ✓ Whether to join in
- ✓ What to believe
- ✓ How to treat someone who is different

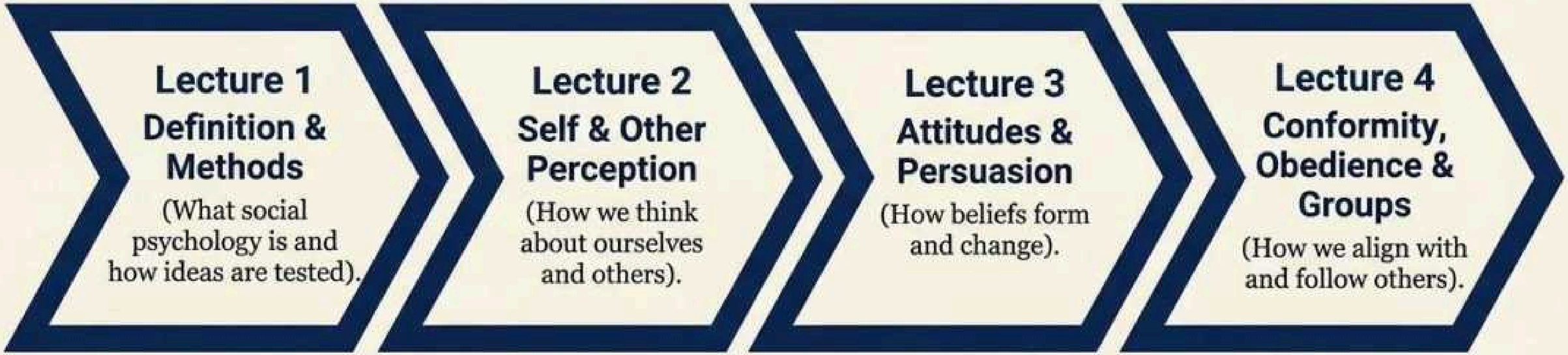


Surprising Events

- Why bystanders sometimes fail to help in emergencies.
- Why highly intelligent groups can make exceedingly poor decisions (groupthink).

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0.6

Lecture 5
Stereotypes, Prejudice & Conflict
(Intergroup friction and reduction strategies).

Lecture 6
Attraction, Aggression & Helping
(Prosocial vs. antisocial action, plus an application plan).

Evidence-Based Foundation

All lectures reference verifiable, historical studies, including specific researchers and publication years for further independent reading.

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Core Idea	Key Mechanism	Scientific Reality
Power of the Situation	Situations frequently overpower personal character	Behavior is highly context-dependent, contrary to typical assumptions.
The Role of Construal	Subjective interpretation overrides objective reality	What dictates behavior is how a person interprets an event.
Empirical Testing	Ideas require rigorous experimental evidence	Famous historical results are sometimes proven weaker than their popular reputations.

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Data Presentation	Data Interpretation
• Findings are reported as they originally appeared. • Disputed or contested later studies are explicitly flagged. • Dates and numerical figures are approximate due to differing historical sources.	• Results describe averages across groups of people. • Results do not predict what any one specific individual will do.

Warning: Psychological data should never be used as a basis for judging an individual.

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Prerequisites

None required. (General psychology, such as PSYC 101 B, is helpful but strictly optional).

Course Breadth

A map, not the territory.

This is an introductory overview; detailed references are provided in each lecture for deep-dive reading.

Objective Science Only

This course strictly describes scientific mechanisms. It does not prescribe personal beliefs, political ideologies, or voting choices.

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Study Method

Pause the content and actively attempt each exercise yourself before proceeding.

Navigation & Tracking

The course utilizes a Numbered Paragraph System.
Example: 3.5 indicates Lecture 3, Paragraph 5.
(Quiz answers link directly back to these coordinates).

Evaluation

Module Quizzes: 5 questions per lecture.
Final Exam: 50 comprehensive questions.
Tripos Paper: 6 essay questions with provided model answers.

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Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
AI-Assisted Development	→ Human Direction & Oversight	→ Fact-Checked against authoritative reference works.

Note: Psychological research is an evolving field. Figures provided are rounded summaries. If you discover an error, please report it using the specific paragraph numbering system.

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Continuous Improvement

Ongoing inquiries, critical questions, and rigorous feedback are essential to the continuous refinement of this curriculum.

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Commencing Lecture 1

Defining Social Psychology & Scientific Testing

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