

Vanguard University
School for Professional Studies
Degree Program

**“SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
PSYCHOLOGY”**
PSYD #432

Student Guide

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social and Cultural Psychology examines interpersonal behavior as it is influenced by social processes, culture, face-to-face interactions, and personality characteristics. Among the topics covered are interpersonal and group behavior in relationship to social values, diversity issues, norms, attitudes, roles, and social needs.

CLASS OVERVIEW

Social and Cultural Psychology examines how people think about, influence, and relate to one another across various social settings. How such processes are influenced by social mores, culture, face-to-face interactions and personality is also examined.

The Student will accomplish the following **learning outcomes**:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the social psychology and cultural aspects of psychology, their place among related disciplines, and the role of human values and research strategies in science and practice of social psychology, as demonstrated by performance on objective test and in class discussion.
2. Develop an understanding and application of the concepts related to social thinking, defined as the self in a social world, including concepts such as self-concept, self-efficacy, self-serving bias and self-presentation as demonstrated by performance on objective test and in class discussion and activities.
3. Develop an understanding of social and cultural psychological processes from both Christian and secular worldviews as demonstrated by performance on objective tests, in class discussion and activities, and in "The Hiding Place" paper assignment.
4. Develop an understanding of the development of social beliefs and judgments, behavior and attitudes from both Christian and secular worldviews, and ability to think critically about relevant social psychological and popular media arguments as demonstrated by performance on objective test and in class discussion and activities.
5. Develop an understanding of the concepts and issues related to social conformity, including acceptance, compliance, obedience, persuasion, and group influence as demonstrated by performance on objective tests, in class discussion and activities, and in "The Hiding Place" paper assignment.
6. Develop an understanding of issues and concepts relevant to interpersonal and intergroup relations, including issues related to prejudice, aggression, attraction and intimacy, altruism and conflict resolution, and appreciation of practical steps essential to healthy relationships between individuals and groups, including diverse social and cultural groups. Understanding of cultural and social aspects

of social relations will be demonstrated by performance on objective tests, in class discussion and activities, and in experiential multicultural cultural paper and oral presentation assignment.

The above Social and Cultural Psychology Student Learning Outcomes also contribute to accomplishment of overall SLOs of SPS Psychology program, especially SLO 1 (Knowledge Base in Psychology) and SLO 7 (Socio-Cultural and International Awareness), as well as SLO 3 (Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology), SLO 4 (Application of Psychology), SLO 5 (Values in Psychology), SLO 6 (Communication Skills) and SLO 8 (Personal Development).

Social and Cultural Psychology class also reflects Vanguard University ETGs:

Intellectual Engagement: Social and Cultural Psychology will help students understand the world we live in on a macro level

Spiritual Formation: Social and Cultural Psychology will address issues of integration of psychology and the Christian faith as they relate to secular social theories as well as assisting students to distinguish between culture and Christian doctrine.

Professional Excellence: Social and Cultural Psychology will help students develop an understanding of how as Christians and those working in the helping professions we can better understand and thus accommodate individuals in a holistic manner.

Sociocultural Responsiveness: Social and Cultural Psychology will help students learn to appreciate cultural diversity through an examination of cultures' differing norms, or expectations, that guide behavior. Additionally, students will learn to appreciate differences of race, ethnicity, gender, and age within the biblical vision of inclusiveness and the equal value of all people.

Responsible Stewardship: Social and Cultural Psychology will help students learn the importance of developing a lifestyle of personal health and well-being by examining the ways in which the various aspects of human nature (cognitive, behavioral, biological, social-cultural, and spiritual) work together on a macro and micro level in our population.

TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Required texts:

Myers, D. G. (2010). *Social Psychology* (10th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Ten Boom, C. (1971/1984). *The Hiding Place*. Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen/Baker Books.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Students in this course will be evaluated by the College's 4.0 grading system. You should refer to the Student Handbook for further details on the grading system.

The following criteria will be used in determining the student's grade:

<u>Assignment/Grading</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Date Due</u>
Take Home Examination 1	100	Week 2
Take Home Examination 2	200	Week 5
Book Report	200	Week 4
Multicultural Assignment/Oral Presentation	250/50	Week 5
Attendance/Participation	200	Weeks 1-5
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS:	1000	

STUDENT EVALUATION

<u>Percentages</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>GPA</u>
93-100%	930-1000	A	Exceptional	4.00
90-92.9%	900-929	A-		3.67
87-89.9%	870-899	B+		3.33
83-86.9%	830-869	B	Above Average	3.00
80-82.9%	800-829	B-		2.67
77-79.9%	770-799	C+		2.33
73-76.9%	730-769	C	Average	2.00
70-72.9%	700-729	C-		1.67
67-69.9%	670-699	D+		1.33
63-66.9%	630-669	D	Below Average	1.00
60-62.9%	600-629	D-		0.67
00-59.9%	000-599	F	Failure	0.00

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS AND POLICIES

Take-Home Examinations: Two multiple choice style examinations will be given to cover the reading in Social Psychology. The first exam (of 50 items), covering chapters 1-6, will be given to students on week 1 of the course and is to be returned on week 2. The second exam (of 100 items), covering chapters 7- 16, will be given to students on week 3 of the course and is to be returned on week 5. These multiple choice exams are to be done independently by each student, and it is recommended that students be sure to allot an adequate amount of time to complete these exams, as they may be quite time-consuming. Notice that there are alternate forms of exams (A and B). Please find out which forms were used during the previous session, and use a different form.

Book Report: All students will complete a 5-7 page paper on the book The Hiding Place. This paper is to be in APA-format and should include the following points:

- A Brief Summary of the Book
- An analysis of the book from a Social Psychology theoretical perspective (i.e., what theories were in action, how core principles of social influence, social conformity, etc. apply to situations described in the book). You must include, define and discuss at least 2 relevant social psychological principles/concepts.
- Describe how God's commandments challenge us to combat such principles (i.e., social influence, Cognitive Dissonance Theory, Social Conformity, Persuasion, Obedience to Authority, etc.).
- Describe what you see as the main point the author is trying to communicate to the reader.

APA Style - 50 maximum points possible

Summary - 50 maximum points possible

Social Psychological Analysis - 50 maximum points possible

God's Influence - 25 maximum points possible

Author's Main Point - 25 maximum points possible

Multicultural Assignment – All students will attend a multicultural event (event must be approved by the professor), which will challenge the student's previously-held assumptions about a particular race. Examples include spending the day in China town, attending a church service of another culture, eating at an ethnic restaurant in an ethnic neighborhood, spending time with a co-workers family, etc. Students will write a 4-5 page paper on this adventure, which will include the following:

Assumptions/Stereotypes held before - 25

Appropriateness of event for meeting assignment goals - 25

Detailed description of event - 50

Description of personal experience (reflection) - 50

Theoretical integration (you can relate your experience to some theory/ies) - 25

Discussion and summary - 25

Writing style (grammar, style, clarity, organization) - 50

Oral presentation – 50

The length of the oral presentation may vary based on the number of students in the cohort, and will be announced by the professor (generally 5-10 minutes).

While this paper will not have the structure of APA research paper, standard APA requirements regarding formatting (e.g., margins, font, page numbering) still apply.

The oral presentation should include an introduction, body (consisting of personal reactions and one main point about what you wish to convey), and conclusion, allowing time for class questions and brief discussion.

The main point being communicated should be clear to both the speaker and the audience, and should clearly relate to the course content.

Student Assignments due by week:**Week 1:** Read *Social Psychology*, Ch. 1-3**Week 2:** Read *Social Psychology*, Ch.4-6
Take home exam #1 due**Week 3:** Read *Social Psychology*, Ch.7-9**Week 4:** Read *Social Psychology*, Ch.10-13
Book report due**Week 5:** Read *Social Psychology*, Ch. 14-16
Take home exam #2 due
Multicultural assignment due
Oral presentations**LOGISTICS CHART**

Hour	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
1	Social Psychology: Introduction	Behavior and Attitudes	Persuasion	Agression	Applied Social Psychology
2	Basic Concepts and Research	Genes, Culture, and Gender	Group Influence	Attraction Optional Video	Presentations
3	The Self Video	Conformity	Prejudice	Altruism	Presentations
4	Social Beliefs and Judgments	Video	Video	Conflict and Peacemaking Hiding Place Discussion; Optional Video	Presentations

WEEK ONE

TOPICS: **INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**
 Social Thinking

Social Psychology: Basic Concepts and Research

The Self

Social Beliefs and Judgments

Video

ASSIGNMENTS DUE: ***Social Psychology, Chapters 1-3***

WEEK TWO

TOPICS: **Social Thinking (cont.) and Social Influence**

Behavior and Attitudes

Genes, Culture, and Gender

Conformity

Video

ASSIGNMENTS DUE: ***Social Psychology*, Chapters 4 – 6**
Take-home Exam #1

WEEK THREE

TOPICS: **Social Influence (cont.) and Social Relations**

Persuasion

Group Influence

Prejudice

Video

ASSIGNMENTS DUE: ***Social Psychology, Chapters 7-9***

WEEK FOUR

TOPICS: **SOCIAL RELATIONS (cont.)**

Aggression

Attraction

Helping

Conflict and Peacemaking

Discussion of *The Hiding Place*

Optional Video

ASSIGNMENTS DUE: ***Social Psychology*, Chapters 10-13**
Book Report

WEEK FIVE

TOPICS: **Applied Social Psychology**
ORAL PRESENTATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS DUE: ***Social Psychology*, Chapters 14-16**
Take-home Exam #2
Multicultural Assignment
Oral Presentations