Course Description
This course offers students a general introduction to social psychology. Social psychology is the scientific study of psychological thought and action at the group or social level. It is a subset of the larger field of psychology and focuses particularly on the influences of social context and group membership on the cognitions and behaviors of individuals. In the course we will cover topics such as social influence, social interaction, group processes and behavior, social cognition, attitudes, stereotypes, persuasion, interpersonal relationships and others. The goal of this course is to understand individual thought and behavior in the context of the larger society in which he/she is embedded.

Course Requirements
Students are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to attending the lecture corresponding to the assignment. Students are expected to participate in the class discussions. Students will take one midterm examination and one final examination. Any student caught cheating on the exams will automatically receive an F in the course.

As per the YISS policies, attendance is mandatory. If you come in late (10 minutes or more), your attendance will not be counted for that day but you are still required to attend. Also, you are expected to read the assigned chapters/articles prior to class so that you can participate fully in the discussions.

Your grade will be based the following:
- Midterm Exam: 40%
- Class Attendance/Participation: 10%
- Final Exam: 50%

Course Reading Materials

Course Schedule
WHAT IS SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY?
July 3: Introduction and Definitions
No reading

July 4: Experimental Methodology
CONFORMITY, OBEDIENCE, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL SYSTEMS

July 5: Conformity
Chapter 2: “Conformity” in The Social Animal
Chapter 3: “Opinions and Social Pressure” in Readings about the Social Animal.

July 9: Obedience
Chapter 4: “Behavioral Study of Obedience” in Readings about the Social Animal.

July 10: Conforming to Social Systems: Capitalism and Inequality
No reading

July 11: Consequences of Inequality
Chapter 5: “From Jerusalem to Jericho”: A Study of Situational and Dispositional Variables in Helping Behavior” in Readings about the Social Animal.

July 12: Consequences of Inequality

PERSUASION AND ATTITUDE FORMATION

July 16: Attitude Formation

July 17: Attitudes and Behavior

July 18: MIDTERM EXAM REVIEW
No reading

July 19: MIDTERM

SOCIAL COGNITION AND SELF JUSTIFICATION

July 23: Social Cognition

July 24: Social Cognition

July 25: Self Justification

July 26: Self Justification
HUMAN AGRESSION AND PREJUDICE

July 30: Human Aggression

July 31: Prejudice

August 1: Racism


August 2: Gender Inequality

INTERPERSONAL ATTRACTION

August 6: Attraction and Interpersonal Relationships

August 7: Attraction and Interpersonal Relationships (continued)
Chapter 34. “‘Playing Hard to Get’: Understanding and Elusive Phenomenon” in Readings about the Social Animal.


August 8: FINAL EXAM REVIEW

August 9: FINAL EXAMINATION