

CR-Curriculum Development: PSY 121: Social Psychology

Chapter 1: An invitation to Social Psychology

- **Lecture:** Discussion of individualist and collectivists.

What is normal is relative to one's culture. How does this impact alternative views?

Chapter 3: The Social Self:

- **Class Activity:**
"Being Black in America" poem by Laina

<https://allpoetry.com/poem/15424335-Being-Black-in-America-by-laina>

Working in groups, Students will read this and express how their experience differs. They will personalize this poem by relating, and trying to understand how this experience could affect a black person's sense of self. How would this influence how they see themselves compared to others. Pros and cons.

Chapter 4: Social Cognition: Thinking About People and Situations

- Lecture: [Eastern Cultures Cognitive Pattern/Perception Differences](#)

Review article and discuss how Eastern cultures differ in cognitive patterns and perceptions of others:

[Video: Do Asians THINK differently?](#)

- Discussion Board:

Read and respond: [Does Culture influence How and What We Think? Effects of Priming Individualism and Collectivism.](#)

Chapter 5: Social Attribution: Explaining Behavior

- Class Activity:

Read articles prior to class. Students will group up and discuss their readings, their former impressions, something new they learned, and anything that they relate to. They will then research and come up with positive interventions that they will present to the class.

Learned Helplessness and intellectual disability.

<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2017-13134-004>

Attribution Theory and LD learned helplessness.

<https://www.ldonline.org/ld-topics/self-esteem-stress-management/learned-helplessness-and-attribution-success-and-failure-ld>

Chapter 6: Emotion

Class Activity:

The Game of Happiness: Pg. 199

Students will commit to 1 of 10 steps to happiness and will journal and record for the week their experiences. They will discuss with the class what that was like, what they would have changed, continued doing etc.

Chapter 7: Attitudes, Behaviors, and Rationalization

- Class Activity

[Understanding Cognitive Dissonance](#) Activity

- Discussion Board: Watch and respond.

Video: [How the Blind See the World](#)

Chapter 8: Persuasion:

- Lecture:

John Lewis: [Video](#)

Watch and discuss as a class the power of persuasion through Civil Rights Activist, John Lewis' speech.

Pick a persuasive topic and present it with students being assigned pros or cons.

Chapter 9: Social Influence:

- **Class activity: Negative effects of Conformity and Obedience on special populations**

Choose a group that has experienced a historical or recent event that displays instances of hate speech, hate crimes, bullying, minimizing of experiences and trauma, intentional lack of resources, and identify explicit and implicit biases towards that group. Analyze how these issues have been exacerbated and accepted by a larger population and why they may remain an issue presently. How does conformity and obedience play a role in it?

Antisemitism

Pro-life/pro-choice

Asian Hate/Violence
Immigration
Omitting of black culture
LGBTQ+ rights
Gun Violence

Chapter 10: Relationships and attraction

- **Lecture:**

Discuss cultural differences in marriage, compatibility/love vs. arranged marriage/cultural acceptance.

Watch TED talk: [MY ARRANGED MARRIAGE: How I Embraced the Unknown](#)

- **Discussion Board**

[Social Media's impact on relationships](#): Read article and express your personal experience with social media and any impact it has had on your relationships, whether it is with family, friends, yourself, or a partner.

Chapter 11: Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination

- **Lecture:** Add documentary into lecture discussion and write key takeaway from video to share with the class. Student will identify something they didn't agree with, and challenge themselves with an alternative point of view.

Watch [13th video](#)

- **Class Activity:** Peer interviews

Find someone and interview them, asking 3 questions. Has anyone ever judged you based on your looks. Have you felt you have lost out on opportunities because of your age, sex, gender, race? How has being judged affected your views of yourself?

Chapter 12: Groups

- **Discussion Board:**

Listen to [NPR interview](#) and discuss the differences and similarities of the 1992 riots of LA and the George Floyd protests. Given history, do you think that it is necessary for civil unrest or peaceful protests to occur?

Chapter 13: Aggression

- **Lecture:** Focus on Culture of Honor and facilitate discussion-

Regarding the culture of honor, why do you believe there are differences in aggressive behavior, still present today, between people in the northern states and those in the southern states?

- **Discussion Board:** Interpretation of Aggression

We have discussed the cultural differences in aggression and gender. Discuss a time when you have witnessed aggressive behaviors aimed at a certain group or individuals and how that aggression was expressed OR a time when you may have interpreted a person's act of aggression as intentional, but later considered situational factors and changed your mind.

Chapter 14: Altruism and Cooperation

- **Lecture:** [Watch So You Think You Understand Homelessness](#)

Examine preexisting thoughts of individuals who are homeless. Discuss the reality of housing insecure individuals and the lack of empathy they experience. Watch video and revisit initial thoughts.

- **Activity:**

Students will be tasked to find an opportunity to help someone, by volunteering, lending a hand to help, listening to someone who is struggling, providing resources to someone who is without, etc. They will record their experience and write a reflection about the result of their help and support.