

Fundamentals of Social Psychology

Introduction:

Social psychology is the scientific study of the nature and causes of human behavior in a social context. This course is designed to introduce the students to the field of social psychology, to explain how social psychologists think about and study human behavior; to introduce the body of knowledge and underlying principles that currently exist in the field and to encourage reflection about the implications of social psychology for the situations we encounter in everyday life.

Course Outcomes

- To help students develop awareness of the concepts, problems and issues in the discipline of social psychology
- To make students understand the individuals and groups in respect to patterns of social behavior and attitudes
- To help students gain insight into the dynamics of intergroup relationships, conflict, prejudice and cooperation.

Unit I: Introduction to Social Psychology and Group Behaviour

- (i) Nature, goal, and scope of Social Psychology; Methods of Social Psychology- Observation; Questionnaire, Interview, and Experiment
- (ii) Group - Group structure and function, Social facilitation, Social loafing; Conformity, Obedience and social modeling

Learning Outcomes

- Know the scope of studying Social Psychology and the methods to gather data in the social context to explain them.
- Understand the significant aspects group behavior and social influence that constitute the core of human relationships.

Unit II: Attitude, Prejudice and Stereotypes

- (i) Attitudes- Nature of attitude; Attitude formation and change; Attitude measurement
- (ii) Prejudice and Stereotypes- Nature and components of prejudice, Acquisition of prejudice, Reduction of prejudice

Learning Outcomes

- Understand the significance of social cognition, attitudes, stereotypes and prejudices in explaining human behavior in the social contexts.

Unit III: Social Behavior

- Pro-social behavior: Meaning and Characteristics, Decision model of helping; Determinants of Pro-Social Behaviour: - personal, situational and socio-cultural; Theoretical Perspectives: Empathy-Altruism Hypothesis, Negative State Relief Model, Kinship Selection Theory
- Aggression: Meaning and Characteristics, Determinants of Aggression: Personal, social and Situational; Theoretical perspectives: Frustration-Aggression Hypothesis and social learning approaches; prevention and control of aggression

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand pro-social behaviour and aggression in different social context.

Unit IV: Practical

- **Ethical Values:** To assess the ethical values of adolescents by using Donelson's Ethical Position Questionnaire (EPQ)
- **Attitude towards Women:** To measure the attitude of college students towards Women by using Spence, Helmrich & Stapps' Attitude towards Women scale.

Text Books:

- ✓ *Baron R. A & Byrne. D. (2003). Social Psychology. 10th Edition, PrenticeHall*
- ✓ *Baron. R.A., Byrne, D. & Bhardwaj. G (2010). Social Psychology (12th Ed). New Delhi: Pearson*
- ✓ *Mohanty, N., Varadwaj, K. & Mishra, H. C. (2014). Explorations of Human Nature and Strength: Practicals in Psychology, Divya Prakashani, Samantarapur, Bhubaneswar.*

Reference Books:

- ✓ *Misra, G. (1990). Applied Social Psychology. New Delhi: Sage.*
- ✓ *Misra, G. (2009). Psychology in India, Volume 4: Theoretical and Methodological Implications*