Social Psychology

Social Psychology is the scientific study of the way individuals think, feel, and behave in social settings. Thus, social programs focus on a wide variety of basic and applied topics. For example, social psychologists at ISU study: the effect of media violence on aggression; psychological processes related to health risk behaviors such as unprotected sex and alcohol use and abuse; the overconfidence of eyewitnesses; the consequences of parents’ expectations on childrens’ behavior; and the ways culture and self-concept influence behavior.

Courses that are useful include those that help develop a background in basic and applied psychology, statistics, and social psychology, along with research experience.

Most graduate programs will look for evidence of research experience. Therefore, Psych 491 (Research Practicum), even if not in your area of interest is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

PSYCH 280 - Social Psychology - Individual behavior in social contexts. Emphasis on social judgments and decisions, attitudes, perceptions of others, social and group influence, relationships, stereotyping, aggression and helping.

PSYCH/W S 346 - Psychology of Women - Survey of psychological literature relating to the biological, developmental, interpersonal, and societal determinants of the behavior of women.

PSYCH 380 - Social Cognition - How people make sense of other people and themselves, biased processing strategies (attribution theory, schemas, impression formation, stereotyping, etc.).

PSYCH/SOC 381 - Social Psychology of Small Group Behavior - Survey of small group research and theory (exchange, equity, status consistency), and major areas of research such as leadership, power, etc.

PSYCH 450 - Industrial Psychology - Content and methods of industrial psychology. Selection and placement techniques, performance appraisal, training, testing in industry, techniques of interviewing, human error, and job analysis.

PSYCH 484 - Psychology of Close Relationships - Issues of interpersonal attraction, close relationships, loneliness, social support and coping, love, and ongoing committed relationships are addressed in a combination of lectures, discussions, and student presentations.

PSYCH 485 - Health Psychology - Introduction to the theoretical and methodological contributions of research to our understanding of the determinants of health promotion, maintenance, prevention and treatment of illness, and identification and antecedents of health and illness.

PSYCH 488 - Cultural Psychology - Focus on cultural factors that influence psychological processes among people living in different parts of the world. Research in the areas of
social, developmental, and cognitive psychology will form the core of the material in the course.

STAT 401 – Statistical Methods for Research Workers - Methods of analyzing and interpreting experimental and survey data. Statistical concepts and models; estimation; hypothesis tests with continuous and discrete data; simple and multiple linear regression and correlation; introduction to analysis of variance and blocking.

For additional information and advice, please visit with your academic adviser and/or graduate advising assistants, faculty adviser, or faculty in the social area. Social professors at ISU include: Dr. Craig Anderson, Dr. Kevin Blankenship, Dr. Susan Cross, Dr. Carolyn Cutrona, Dr. Doug Gentile, Dr. Sarah Greathouse, Dr. Zlatan Krizan, Dr. Stephanie Madon, and Dr. Gary Wells.

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