DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

PS 4427 SOCIAL INTERACTION – LEVEL 6 3/0/3
(Revised Fall 2015) UK CREDITS:15

PREREQUISITES:  PS 1000 Psychology as a Natural Science
                 PS 1001 Psychology as a Social Science
                 PS 2147 Analysis of Behavioral Data – Level 4
                 PS 3318 Research Methods in Psychology – Level 5

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Systematic presentation of theoretical constructs, principles,
and processes of social psychology with emphasis on their application to contemporary life.
Topics include: persuasion, attitude and attitude change, prejudice, stereotypes, aggression, altruism, conflict and social aspects of legal and court procedures, in addition to the psychological aspects of affiliation, attraction and love.

RATIONALE: This course covers social-psychological principles and concepts as they apply to contemporary life. Designed primarily for psychology majors and for students from other areas who want to know how social-psychological theories apply to modern day life and across cultures. In addition this course is applicable for those who may consider social psychology and its sub-disciplines for postgraduate studies can benefit.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Relate social-psychological research and theory to issues of everyday modern life and demonstrate understanding of ethical issues in relation to social and cultural differences
2. Discuss and compare the various definitions of attitudes and describe how attitudes are formed and maintained. In light this, critically discuss the issue of attitude change and persuasion.
3. Define the concepts of prejudice and discrimination held in everyday life in western societies. Scientifically evaluate the issues concerning stereotypes, discrimination and prejudice.
4. Critically evaluate how different social-psychological principles and theories apply in courtroom procedures, with an emphasis on understanding the complexity of social and cultural diversity.
5. Discuss the social psychological theories and various intervening factors involved in the process of affiliation, attraction and love.
6. Compare and Contrast the influence of prosocial behaviour on one hand, and aggression on the other. Apply this knowledge to the principles of conflict and peacemaking.

METHOD OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING: In congruence with the learning and teaching strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Class lectures, interactive learning (class discussions, group work) video presentations, and practical problems solved in class.
- Exercises and primary source documents are assigned as homework, the solutions of which are reviewed in class.
- Blackboard site
- Office hours

ASSESSMENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In class</th>
<th>Non Formally Assessed Practical – formative</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>Problems (choice 3 out of 5).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Research Project (3,000 words) - Summative</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Literature review/design/analysis of results/discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class final examination (2 hours, comprehensive) - Summative</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>Essay questions (choice 3 out of 5)</td>
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The formative test aims to prepare students for the examinations. The Individual Research Paper will test learning outcomes 1 and optional 3 4 or 5. The Final Examination tests learning outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

READING LIST:

1. **Required Textbook:**

2. **Further Reading:**


RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: British Journal of Social Psychology
British Journal of Psychology
Time Magazine (weekly).

WWW RESOURCES: British Psychological Society
www.bps.org.uk
American Psychological Association
www.apa.org
Cengage Learning – Higher Education
www.cengage.com/psychology/kassin

INDICATIVE CONTENT: 1. Social Interaction in Perspective
1.1. The History of Social Psychology
1.2. Social Psychology Research and Theories
1.3. Research Theories Applied to Everyday Life
1.4. Social Interaction in Relation to Diversity

2. Attitudes and Behaviour
2.1. Definitions of Attitudes
2.2. Attitude Formation
2.3. Attitude Change
2.4. The Role of Persuasion

3. Stereotypes, Discrimination and Prejudice
3.1. The History of Perceiving Groups
3.2. The Formation of Stereotypes and How Stereotypes Distort Perception
3.3. Discrimination and Prejudice: Issues in Western Societies
3.4. Intergroup Conflict and Social Identity Theory

4. Applying Social Psychology
4.1. Social Psychological Principles in Relation to the Courtroom Procedures
4.2. The Social Psychological Principles of Jury Selection
4.3. Death Qualification – Social and Cultural Differences
4.4. Social Psychological Issues of the Courtroom
4.5. Jury Deliberation
4.6. The Sentencing Process and Justice

5. Attraction and Close Relationships
5.1. Being with Others: A Human Motive
5.2. The Initial Attraction
5.3. The Elements of Familiarity
5.4. Physical Attractiveness and Cultural Issues
5.5. Close Relationships
5.6. Relationship Issues

6. Social Relations
6.1. Helping Others – Evolutionary and Motivational Factors
6.2. Situational versus Personal Influences: When and Who is likely to Help
6.3. Social Relationships and Aggression
6.4. Aggression Defined
6.5. Cultural and Gender Differences in the Study of Aggression
6.6. Reducing Violence and Promoting Pro-Social Behaviour