

**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**  
**M.A. Psychology**  
*Structure-I (2- Year PG Program)*  
**DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE**  
**SEMESTER II**

**DSC 201: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY: ADVANCES IN THEORY AND PRACTICE**  
**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITE OF THE COURSE**

Course Title & Code	Total Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility Criteria/ Prerequisite
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical	
DSC 201 Social Psychology: Advances in Theory and Practice	4	3	0	1	Graduation from any stream

**Marks:100**

**Hours: 60**

**Credit: 4 (Lectures + Internal Assessment + Practical)**

**Course Objectives**

The course aims to

1. Orient students towards the emerging perspectives and cutting-edge research advances in the field of social psychology.
2. Train students of social psychology to understand the complex interactions of biological, individual, social and societal factors in shaping human behaviour.
3. Impart critical insights into the application of social psychological theories for understanding personal, relational and societal issues.

**Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

1. Analyse contemporary social issues and other societal phenomena using social psychological theories and concepts.
2. Describe, compare and contrast the different research methods used to understand social behaviour and be able to design research studies.
3. Demonstrate competence in applying knowledge of applied social psychology for designing interventions for prejudice reduction, building positive intergroup relations.

**Course Contents:**

**UNIT 1: Introduction to Advanced Social Psychology: History, theory and methods:** Brief History of Social Psychology: crises and re-emergence; Approaches to Social Psychology: social cognitive; social exchange; social comparison; symbolic interactionist frame; social constructionism; social representations; language and social interaction; discursive social psychology. New Developments in Research methods in Social Psychology; Emerging fields: Evolutionary social psychology; evolutionary social neuroscience; social psychology and law; social psychology and politics. **(10 Hours)**

**UNIT 2: Self, Identity and Social relationships:** The social self: self as social; Individual self; Relational self and Collective Self; Motives and emotions around the self; self and identity in online settings/ digital media; Functions of the Self in interpersonal relationships and applications in the context of diverse interpersonal relationships. **(10 Hours)**

**UNIT 3: Human Behaviour and Social context:** Aggression in society: Bio-social foundations; development of aggression; social psychological explanations of aggression across contexts: road rage, cyberbullying, workplace micro-aggressions; Group Behaviour: Stereotyping and Prejudicial behaviour in society, Social Stigma and Discrimination; Social Influence in Groups: Crowd behaviour, psychology of rumour and Implications for Crowd management and rumour management; Collective behaviour & social movements. **(10 Hours)**

**UNIT 4: Inter-group Relations in Contemporary Society:** *Classic theories* and their relevance for understanding aggression; violence in society; Realistic conflict theory; Relative Deprivation; Self-categorization and Social Identity Theory; Norm Violation theory; Social Dominance; System Justification; Terror Management theory; *Contemporary theories:* Intergroup emotions theory; Collective memories and collective victimhood in intergroup relations; conspiracy theories and intergroup relations; Building positive Intergroup relations. **(10 Hours)**

**Practicum:** At least 2 (two) practicals Based on the above units **(20 Hours)**

**Essential Readings:**

1. Biddlestone, M., Cichocka, A., Žeželj, I., & Bilewicz, M. (2020). Conspiracy theories and intergroup relations. In *Routledge handbook of conspiracy theories* (pp. 219-230). Routledge.
2. Bushman, B.J. (2017) *Aggression and Violence: A social psychological perspective*. Routledge.
3. DeRidder, R., & Tripathi, R. C. (Eds.). (1992). *Norm violation and intergroup relations*. Clarendon Press/Oxford University Press.
4. Difonzo, Nicholas & Bordia, Prashant. (2007). Rumor Psychology: Social and Organizational Approaches. 10.1037/11503-000.
5. Drury, John. (2020). Recent developments in the psychology of crowds and collective behaviour. *Current Opinion in Psychology*. 35. 10.1016/j.copsyc.2020.02.005.
6. Dunn, S. Dana. (2012). *Research Methods for Social Psychology* (2nd Ed). Wiley.
7. Ireland, J., Birch, P., & Ireland, C. (Eds.). (2018). *The Routledge International Handbook of Human Aggression: Current Issues and Perspectives* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315618777>
8. Kelman, H.C., Fisher, R.J. (2016). Social-Psychological Dimensions of International Conflict (2007). In: Kelman, H., Fisher, R. (eds) *Herbert C. Kelman: A Pioneer in the Social Psychology of Conflict Analysis and Resolution*. *Pioneers in Arts, Humanities, Science, Engineering, Practice*, vol 13. Springer, Cham.
9. Leary MR. (2007). Motivational and emotional aspects of the self. *Annu Rev Psychol.*, 58:317-44. doi: 10.1146/annurev.psych.58.110405.085658. PMID: 16953794.

10. Mackie, D. M., Mainer, A. T., & Smith, E. R. (2009). Intergroup emotions theory. In T. D. Nelson (Ed.), *Handbook of prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination* (pp. 285–307). Psychology Press.
11. Mazzara BM, Leone G. Collective memory and intergroup relations. *International Journal of Social Psychology*. 2001;16(3):349-367. doi:10.1174/021347401317351080
12. Nera, K., Douglas, K. M., Bertin, P., Delouvée, S., & Klein, O. (2024). Conspiracy Beliefs and the Perception of Intergroup Inequalities. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.
13. Neuberg, S. L., Kenrick, D. T., & Schaller, M. (2010). Evolutionary social psychology. In S. T. Fiske, D. T. Gilbert, & G. Lindzey (Eds.), *Handbook of social psychology* (5th ed., pp. 761–796). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
14. Noor, M., Vollhardt, J. R., Mari, S., & Nadler, A. (2017). The social psychology of collective victimhood. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 47(2), 121-134.
15. Pandey, J., & Singh, P. (2005). Social psychology in India: Social roots and development. *International Journal of Psychology*, 40(4), 239–253.
16. Schellhaas, F. M., & Dovidio, J. F. (2016). Improving intergroup relations. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 11, 10-14.
17. Van Lange, P. A., Kruglanski, A. W., & Higgins, E. T. (2012). *Handbook of theories of social psychology: volume 1*. (Vols. 1-1). SAGE Publications Ltd.
18. Van Lange, P. A., Kruglanski, A. W., & Higgins, E. T. (2012). *Handbook of theories of social psychology: volume 2*. (Vols. 1-2). SAGE Publications Ltd, <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446249222>