

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

M.A. Psychology

Structure-I (2- Year PG Program)

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE

SEMESTER II

DSE 207: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY IN CONTEXT

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	
DSE 207 Social Psychology in Context	4	3	0	1	Graduation in any stream

Marks:100

Hours: 60

Credit: 4 (Lectures + Internal Assessment + Practical)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will:

1. Provide an in-depth understanding of the field of contextual social psychology and enable the learner to extend this knowledge to the world of practice
2. Aim at inculcating a critical awareness of the many societal issues of environment, culture and sustainable behaviour across national and global contexts.
3. Attempt to orient and further develop of a strong grounding in field of psychology, social policy and advocacy and aim at national development

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

1. Describe and theorize from a social psychological perspective, the contemporary concerns around climate change, diverse societies, education and other societal issues.
2. Exhibit skills of professional social psychologists as agents of change and carry out well designed research and design effective interventions for improved group relations and promoting sustainable behaviour.
3. Demonstrate knowledge and competence in applying the knowledge of 'social psychology in context' and strengthening the interface between social psychology, policy and advocacy for sustainable development.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Introduction: Psychology and Societal development; Psychological approaches to sustainable development; Globalization, Self and Society; Culture and Social Behaviour; Emerging Concerns in national and global contexts: Social psychology of inequality; Poverty;

Unemployment; Corruption; Pro-environmental behaviour; Social Psychology and Politics; Workplace Mental Health; Social Psychology and Education. **(10 Hrs)**

Unit 2: Challenges towards Sustainable Society- I: Introduction to Sustainable behavior; Misinformation in society and Countering misinformation: social psychological interventions; Prosocial behaviour: Volunteerism, Community involvement and Civic engagement; Social Psychology of Climate Change; Crime and Social Rehabilitation; Psychology and its role in prisons. **(10 Hrs)**

Unit 3: Challenges towards Sustainable Society-II: Nature of Societal Beliefs and Changes in Societal Beliefs; Plural Societies: Acculturation; Multiculturalism; Displacement; Migration as societal concerns; Resolving Intergroup conflicts: Prejudice reduction; Intergroup Contact: Promise and Challenges; Building trust and Social Capital: Insights from Psychology National development from a social psychological perspective. **(10 Hrs)**

Unit 4: Psychology and Social Policy: Social research, public policy and advocacy; Psychologists in policy arena; Policy failures: Issues and challenges; Domains of Policy Making: Environment and Health; Importance and Challenges of Social policy in the areas of Poverty and other kinds of social disadvantages; Justice; Education etc; Programme Evaluation: Types of Evaluations; Planning an Evaluation. **(10 Hrs)**

Practicum: At least 2 (Two) practicals based on the above units **(20 Hours)**

Essential Readings

1. Anczyk, A., & Grzymała-Moszczyńska, H. (2021). *The psychology of migration: Facing cultural and religious diversity*. Brill.
2. Bar-Tal, D. (2000). *Shared beliefs in a society: Social psychological analysis*. Sage Publications, Inc.
3. Clayton, S. (2024). A social psychology of climate change: Progress and promise. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 63(4), 1535–1546.
4. Eloff, I. (2020). Psychology and the Sustainable Development Goals. *Journal of Psychology in Africa*, 30(1), 86–87.
5. Esses, V. M., Medianu, S., Hamilton, L., & Lapshina, N. (2015). Psychological perspectives on immigration and acculturation. In M. Mikulincer, P. R. Shaver, J. F. Dovidio, & J. A. Simpson (Eds.), *APA handbook of personality and social psychology, Vol. 2. Group processes* (pp. 423–445). American Psychological Association.
6. Gifford, R. (2007). Environmental psychology and sustainable development: Expansion, maturation, and challenges. *Journal of Social Issues*, 63(1), 199-212.
7. Misra, G., & Singh, P. (2025). *Social Psychology in a Globalizing Era: Engaging with Disciplinary and Societal Challenges (1st ed)*. Routledge.
8. Misra, G., Sanyal, N., & De, S. (Eds.). (2021). *Psychology in Modern India: Historical, methodological, and future perspectives*. Springer Nature.
9. Mohanty, A. K., & Misra, G. (Eds.). (2000). *Psychology of poverty and disadvantage (Vol. 2)*. Concept Publishing Company.

10. Nelson, T. D. (Ed.). (2009). *Handbook of prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination*. Psychology Press.
11. Pandey, Janak & Kumar, Rashmi & Thapa, Komilla. (2019). Psychological Perspectives on Diversity and Social Development. 10.1007/978-981-13-3341-5.
12. Rosema, M., Jost, J. T., & Stapel, D. A. (2008). Social psychology and the study of politics. In L. Steg, A. P. Buunk, & T. Rothengatter (Eds.), *Applied social psychology: Understanding and managing social problems* (pp. 291–315). Cambridge University Press.
13. Rotenberg, K.J., Petrocchi, S., Lecciso, F. (2025) Handbook of trust and social psychology. Edward Elgar.
14. Tripathi, R.C. and Sinha, Y. (2014) Psychology, Development and Social Policy in India. Springer.