

Social Psychology 2016

Experiments with People: Revelations from Social Psychology

(US 27257: Demonstrate understanding of key pieces of psychological research)

Course Contents:

0. General Introduction:.....	01
0.1. What is the mind?	
0.2. Psychology defined	
0.3. What is Social Psychology?	
1. Conformity: how readily do people conform?	07
1.1. FOCUS: Solomon Asch	
2. Obedience to Authority:	69
Is cruel behaviour more to do with the environment or the person?	
2.1. FOCUS: Stanley Milgram	
2.2. FOCUS: Philip Zimbardo: ¹	
3. By-Stander Effect:	17
What factors influence people's willingness to help others? Why are individuals less likely to help someone in need when other people are present?	
3.1. FOCUS: John Darley & Bibb Latané	
4. Memory & Eye Witness testimony:	47
How reliable is your memory?	
4.1. FOCUS: Elizabeth Loftus & John Palmer	
5. Delayed Gratification:	61
What does your level of will-power say about you?	
5.1. FOCUS: Walter Mischel - The marshmallow test	
6. Assessment Task.....	85
7. Appendix: Ethical Issues in Psychological Research.....	87

¹ The Stanford Prison Experiment (%%guest speaker: Ms. Ogden)

Course Structure

Psychology is concerned with human behaviour—why do we behave as we do? The course is split over two Terms:

- In Term 1 we will sample a number of significant psychological studies and experiments.
- In Term 2 you will complete a more in depth inquiry into two of these studies. You will be assessed with a *Unit Standard* from the Psychology Curriculum (27257 Version 1: *Demonstrate understanding of key pieces of psychological research*). You will still be graded with an *Achieved, Merit, Excellence* on your transcript.
- Resources for each experiment will be loaded onto a OneNote class-page for you to research.

Along the way there will be a number of Key Terms. This is where we touch on the Philosophical side of Psychology. This simply means that we will be going through a process of inquiring into the meaning of words we use every day. For example, 'mind' —what is the mind?

What is Psychology?

The word 'psychology' is derived from two Greek words 'psyche' (which translates into English as mind, soul or spirit) and logos (meaning 'knowledge' or 'study of a subject'). Literally, then, psychology is the 'study of the mind'.

Our Focus: Social psychology

Social psychology is the study of the *nature and causes of human social behaviour*. However, before we begin, we have to be clear about what the mind actually is, since, social behaviour is the product of minds making decisions. Social psychologists tend to study the relationship between mind(s) and social behaviours.