



# Social Psychology

*David G. Myers*

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## **Social Psychology** David G. Myers

Reflecting your students and their world.

How many of the students in your Social Psychology course are Psychology majors? Business? Sociology? Education? In the 11th edition of "Social Psychology," David Myers once again weaves an inviting and compelling narrative that speaks to ALL of your students regardless of background or intended major. And with Connect Social Psychology and LearnSmart, students are able to create a personalized learning plan helping them be more efficient and effective learners. With LearnSmart, students know what they know and master what they don't know and faculty are able to move to more in-depth classroom discussions.

Through examples and applications as well as marginal quotations from across the breadth of the liberal arts and sciences, Myers draws students into the field of social psychology.

At the same time, Myers is also in tune with the ever-changing state of social psychology research. Research Close-Up and Inside Story features throughout the book provide deeper exposure to key research and researchers. Marginal quotations, examples and applications throughout each chapter, and the concluding "Applying Social Psychology" chapters all ensure that regardless of your students' interests and future plans, Social Psychology will engage them. This 11th edition also features the contributions of Jean Twenge, author of Generation Me and The Narcissism Epidemic, further bolstering the direct connection to today's students.

## **Social Psychology Details**

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## From Reader Review Social Psychology for online ebook

### Suzan Clark says

Great insight and understanding of behavior\*

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### Henri Tournyol du Clos says

I wish this kind of intelligent, wide-ranging (800pp) and eye-opening textbook had been around when I was studying business some 35 years ago. I would have devoted more time since then to following the developments of psychology, instead of just deducting from the ineptitude of what was taught to us that it was all just a waste of time. But then, I suppose psychology has changed a lot since 1980, with charlatanistic mumbo-jumbo being gradually replaced with a corpus of *nearly* scientific results. Anyway, it is a pleasure to catch up in this opus.

The main fault of this book is that it seems to consider nearly all published psychology results as trustworthy, although psychological research is notoriously oversold [see: Fanelli & Ioannidis - *US studies may overestimate effect sizes in softer research* - PNAS, August 2013 ] and mostly based on experiments on small, non-significant numbers of a population itself non-significant, US undergraduates... [see: Henrich, Heine & Norenzayan - *The Weirdest people in the world?* - 2009] What this book thus lacks, and needs, is a rigorous screening between what is well established and what is not.

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### Jessica says

For a text book this one is well written and almost entertaining to read. Psychology is a fascinating subject and when you study things about human tendency, it makes you realize just how much you fall in that category. The book has large margins with vocabulary definitions next to where the word is used in the text, lots of pictures and captions to illustrate the point, and plenty of comics to read. It is a readable text book, if you're into that sort of reading... I would recommend Myers to any Psych student.

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### Gita says

This textbook really is not only for psychology students. It has details that keep you reading and an entertaining quality you rarely get from a textbook. Myers became my favorite and, I imagine, is a great educator.

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### Vasundhara says

It's a good book

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## Johnny Wilson says

I have very little to say in criticism to this book. I really enjoyed the layout and the structure of the material. There's only a single thing I want to point out.

Some of the evolutionary proposals in this book are highly dubious. It seemed to me that the evolutionary structure assumed in this book was an old 80s view that involves game-centered and gene-centered approaches. This view has largely been done away with and a pluralistic view has been adopted. Natural selection is no longer the necessary center of evolutionary theory. Also, traits aren't assumed to be adaptive. It's considered null at the outset. In evolutionary psychology, we can look at traits and work our way back to wondering "why?" And we can offer evolutionary explanations. We can conjure up reasons of how some trait could assist in survival or reproduction. However, this isn't sufficient for proof and it's not scientific. We can offer sociocultural explanations just as easily as evolutionary ones. That being said, evolutionary explanations in psychology aren't entirely without merit; however, I'm suggesting to take them with a grain of salt. In philosophy of biology, when we just slap some possible evolutionarily \*adaptive\* explanation onto things, this is along the lines of "explanatory adaptationism," which is more aesthetic-based than scientific. Moreover, adaptationism is no longer, as mentioned, central. A pluralistic view has been adopted. So, I'm really suggesting that there may be a disconnect between the psychologists and the biologists/philosophers of biology insofar as evolutionary ideals go.

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## Vlad says

I feel like the textbook is biased towards Christianity, which is not surprising, for the main author of this textbook has written a few books about Christianity. In addition, the author paints Mother Theresa as this grandiose, altruistic individual, which is a fatuous thing to believe; as she is a petty, malevolent, immoral charlatan.

Apart from that, it is a well structured textbook

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## Nikolay Korablev says

Very readable, a lot of studies cited, mostly neutral point of view. A more substantial criticism would entail a thorough analysis of these source studies, so if something in the field is overblown or ignored on the pages of this volume, I'm really in no position to say. Still, pondering over the implications of some of the things discussed has given me more than a few happy hours.

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## Holly says

So far, this is my favorite subject in psychology. I love this text book and that probably makes me a huge dork. It was witty and fun. I read chapters I didn't even have to, which makes me a huge nerd too.

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## Debbie says

Clear information, well organized with anecdotes, photos and other examples to help illustrate the concepts.

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## **Kaliseviltwin says**

Oy vey. This textbook is dense. It made me feel dense. And I don't mean because the concepts are so deep. I mean that the pages are HUGE, the typeface is small, and Myers must pack seventy researcher names into every paragraph. Seriously uninteresting presentation of some very interesting concepts.

The textbook is not so well organized. There is a chapter "table of contents" at the beginning of each chapter, but each chapters ends with an "op-ed" piece by Myers on how we as students can make the world a warm and fuzzy place if we use the concepts learned in the chapter. A nice gesture, but after reading 40 pages (of what turns out to be about 70 pages of information if the book was not over-sized), the only thing I want to apply is a cold compress to my aching head and some icy-hot to my sore shoulders.

Myers also inexplicably interrupts the concepts of Prejudice, Aggression, and Helping with a chapter on Attraction and Liking. I would put Attraction and Liking before the chapter on Persuasion, but what do I know? I'm just an undergrad.

Myers literally strings together four or five research studies in a paragraph, which itself might not be so problematic if I didn't then also have a professor who felt the need to randomly select any of the hundreds of cited studies as fair game on his tests. If there are more than two names in a set of parentheses, I have skipped over the whole group of names. If there are a series of parenthetical pairs containing multiple names, I have forgotten what the paragraph was about. But then, that's the APA style, isn't it?

Regardless of my professor's issues, I feel like Myers just wanted to make sure he didn't slight anyone. I'm guessing the world of Social Psychology isn't huge and leaving someone out could mean political turmoil within the discipline (thus lists and lists of names in parentheses). But, that shouldn't have to be my problem as a student. Give me the info I need, and pick one or two representative studies that illustrate why that theory was reinforced or debunked. I don't need the names of every researcher who ever thought about the topic. Seriously, do you think I remember even half of those names? Not helpful.

I did like the index. The glossary is mixed in to the index instead of being a separate section. There is also a comprehensive list of the names of cited researches which is, of course, exhaustive.

This textbook was so boring it makes the baby Jesus cry.

The CD-ROM was useless. I was hoping for some concept-checks and practice tests, but instead it just contains audio and/or video of interviews with researchers that are already verbatim in insets in the textbook (again, more of Myers academic star-f\*\*\*ing I think). There was some helpful info on the website that is listed on the back of the textbook, however. That is where the chapter summaries and practice tests are. I highly recommend the web site as a study aid.

Also, the Study Guide that accompanies the textbook (if you bought it as a package) is helpful.

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## **Šimtakojs says**

Sections concerning influence and court Psychology were good. The rest were boring and I fell asleep.

### **Briana Auclair says**

As far as textbooks go, this one was engaging. While things could seem repetitive for those in the psychology field, I understand the authors were attempting to present the material in multiple ways for maximum understanding. It was well written and I would recommend this book to instructors looking for course text- as a student it gets my thumbs up!

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### **Angelica Reyes says**

the book is accessible, engaging and stimulating. These qualities are needed for students like us!!!!

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### **Lucette says**

I liked this book because it gives a clear meaning on someone's attitude and possible things that can be encountered. I like that you can persuade someone to change their attitude without having to do anything. Also that I can see how to identify and deal with people who have different attitudes all the time. That in most cases, behavior shapes our attitude. Especially any type of social influence. I like that people tend to "stereotype," someone based on the little bit of that specific person. That stereotyping someone can lead to a prejudice person and create a certain image and attitude towards someone. It is crazy to think that anyone can be prejudice and not even realize it because of how the brain works. How one does not realize that everyone is attracted to one person because of how we judge them. Because of how we view them and compare them to ourselves. In some ways, a person can be aggressively full of discomfort just by how they view or judge someone. So much hate or anger will build up and later on become an instinct to act out in an aggressive or dangerous way. It becomes a strange satisfaction to the one performing the action. This is a "fighting instinct," that not only humans, but animals have. Either frustration or observational learning to hurt others triggers that latch in the mind which causes one to act out in ways they did not even know was possible. In other cases, one can be very passionate and go through components to become not only emotionally attracted to this person, but physically as well. Learning to look at the situation and have that willingness to try and help so that nothing dangerous occurs from it. I would definitely recommend this text to anyone interested in any type of interest on how people react in situations. On how everything in the mind happens without it even being aware of it. This will definitely answer any unanswered questions about social psychology. I enjoyed this book very much.

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