

PSY 530 Final Project Guidelines and Rubric

Overview

The focus of social psychology is to understand how a person's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the real or imagined presence of others. Unlike sociology, social psychology takes the perspective of the individual rather than the group and examines what makes us engage in behaviors such as aggression, attraction, altruism, self-justification, social cognition, and social perception. With its roots in Gestalt psychology, social psychology puts its emphasis not on physical reality, but rather on an individual's perception of the world around them. Historically, this field has played an important role in understanding the causes of, as well as treatments for, social issues such as reducing violence, increasing helping behaviors, and assisting people in living healthier and safer lives.

The purpose of this assessment is to recognize the value of social psychology on society throughout its history as a field. You will also analyze research for how it changes or does not change based on the time period when it was conducted.

This assessment addresses the following course outcomes:

- Analyze social psychological research for how the field has changed over the course of its history
- Assess the impact of social psychological research trends for their influence on human behavior
- Analyze elements of social psychological research for their influence on improving social welfare
- Evaluate the influence of social psychological research on society for its efficacy for social change
- Analyze ethical issues in social psychological research for determining appropriate strategies for use in scientific research

The project is divided into **three milestones**, which will be submitted at various points throughout the course to scaffold learning and ensure quality final submissions. These milestones will be submitted in **Modules Three, Five, and Seven**. The final product will be submitted in **Module Nine**.

Prompt

Research in social psychology has changed a great deal in the past 100 years. An examination of modern research, as opposed to classic research, shows differences with regard to the theoretical orientation (e.g., genetics, sociocultural approach, and social learning theory), ethics, and the basic versus applied nature of the research. There are also differences between the classic and current research with regard to its influence on social behavior.

The task of this assignment is to select one classic research study in social psychology from a provided list. You will then locate a modern (within the last 10 years) peer-reviewed research study in the same subject area. The article you locate will be submitted for instructor approval. You will analyze these studies for their approach to social psychology, the influence of theories, research trends of the different time periods, the influence of the research on society, and how issues of ethics and ethical strategies differ across time.

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

- I. **Introduction:** For this part of the assessment, you will:
 - A. Briefly **summarize** the research question, results, and conclusions reached by the authors of each study you have chosen.
 - B. Describe the social psychological **approaches** used in each of the chosen studies and justify why you believe that authors of the studies used these approaches.
 - C. Analyze the studies for the **theories and past research** you believe were used by the authors of the studies that informed their approach.
 - D. Analyze the approaches used by the authors in each of the chosen studies for how they do or do not demonstrate how the field of social psychology has **changed over time**. In other words, how are the approaches used by the authors in each of the chosen studies similar or different? How do they demonstrate how the field has or has not changed over the course of its history?

- II. **Human Behavior:** For this part of the assessment, you will analyze each of your chosen studies for how they might have influenced the development of human behavior in society.
 - A. Explain how the research trends in social psychology in the **different time periods** of both studies may have informed the direction of the research. In other words, how did the research trends of the time influence the researchers in developing their study? Be sure to support your response with appropriate evidence.
 - B. Assess how, once published and conveyed to the public, the **results and conclusions** reached by the researchers of the chosen studies may have influenced human behaviors.
 - C. Assess how the chosen studies were or were not aligned with the established **research trends** of the time, and how that may have affected how they were received by the public. Be sure to support your response with appropriate evidence.

- III. **Influence on Society:** For this part of the assessment, you will evaluate the impact of the chosen studies in terms of how they have instigated social change and how they have benefited society. You should consider researching the historical context of the chosen study to support your responses.
 - A. Analyze the chosen studies for elements of the research that you believe may have been a **benefit to society** at any point in time and be sure to justify your response.
 - B. Analyze the chosen studies for elements of the research that you believe may have had a **negative impact** on society at any point in time and be sure to justify your response.
 - C. Explain possible ways that the results or conclusions of the studies could be applied to **everyday life** in modern society.
 - D. Evaluate the chosen studies for how they may have influenced events of **social change** (positively or negatively). Be sure to provide examples to support your response.
 - E. Describe a **personal or professional experience** in which elements of social psychological research could be applied to help influence change.
 - F. Explain how **influential** you believe social psychological research has been on changing behavior in society. If you believe it is not influential, explain why.

- IV. **Ethical Considerations:** For this part of the assessment, you will analyze each of the chosen studies for ethical issues that might be present, and examine how the time period may have influenced the ethical strategies of the researchers.
 - A. Analyze each of the chosen studies for any potential **ethical issues** that may be present in their research design. If there are no potential ethical issues, explain why. Be sure to consider issues with research design as well as the impact of the experiment on the participants.

- B. Explain how well each of the studies follow the **ethical guidelines** of their respective time period and justify your response. In other words, how do the ethical guidelines of the time period of the study change, whether the studies should be considered ethical or unethical?
- C. Recommend **ethically appropriate strategies** that could be utilized by the studies in order to address identified ethical issues. In other words, what changes could be made to the studies in order to make them align with more modern ethical guidelines?

Milestones

Milestone One: Study Selections and Summaries

In **Module Three**, you will submit your study selections and summaries, in which you will select a classic and modern research study for your final comparative analysis. **This milestone will be graded with the Milestone One Rubric.**

Milestone Two: Similarities and Differences Chart

In **Module Five**, you will submit your similarities and differences chart to help you begin to compare and contrast your selected classic and modern studies. Use the similarities and differences chart in the Milestone Two Learning Aid document to format your submission. **This milestone will be graded with the Milestone Two Rubric.**

Milestone Three: Rough Draft

In **Module Seven**, you will submit your rough draft of your final paper. **This milestone will be graded with the Final Project Rubric.**

Final Submission: Research Study Comparative Analysis

In **Module Nine**, you will submit your final project. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing **all** of the critical elements of the final product. It should reflect the incorporation of feedback gained throughout the course. **This submission will be graded with the Final Project Rubric.**

Deliverables

Milestone	Deliverable	Module Due	Grading
One	Study Selection and Summary	Three	Graded separately; Milestone One Rubric
Two	Similarities and Differences Chart	Five	Graded separately; Milestone Two Rubric
Three	Rough Draft	Seven	Graded separately; Final Project Rubric
	Final Submission: Research Study Comparative Analysis	Nine	Graded separately; Final Project Rubric

Final Project Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: Your research study comparative analysis should adhere to the following formatting requirements: 8–10 pages in length, with 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins, double spacing, and APA formatting and citations.

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (90%)	Needs Improvement (70%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Introduction: Summary	Meets “Proficient” criteria and summary demonstrates a nuanced understanding of the research question, results, and conclusions reached by the authors of each study chosen	Briefly summarizes the research question, results, and conclusions reached by the authors of each study chosen	Summarizes the research question, results, and conclusions reached by the authors of each study chosen, but summary is cursory or not brief	Does not summarize the research question, results, and conclusions reached by the authors of each study chosen	5
Introduction: Approaches	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description demonstrates how the approach used by researchers influences the research process	Describes the social psychological approach used in each of the chosen studies and justifies why the authors used these approaches	Describes the social psychological approach used in each of the chosen studies but description of the approach is cursory or inaccurate or does not justify response	Does not describe the social psychological approach used in each of the chosen studies	6
Introduction: Theories and Past Research	Meets “Proficient” criteria and analysis demonstrates keen insight into how theories and past research are used in the research process	Analyzes the studies for the theories and past research used by the authors of the studies that informed their approach	Analyzes the studies for the theories and past research used by the authors of the studies that informed their approach but analysis is cursory or inaccurate	Does not analyze the studies for the theories and past research used by the authors of the studies that informed their approach	6
Introduction: Changed Over Time	Meets “Proficient” criteria and analysis demonstrates a nuanced understanding of how the time period in which a study takes place influences the research process	Analyzes the approaches used by the authors of the studies for how they do or do not demonstrate how the field of social psychology has changed over time	Analyzes the approaches used by the authors of the studies for how they do or do not demonstrate how the field of social psychology has changed over time, but analysis is cursory or inaccurate	Does not analyze the approaches used by the authors of the studies for how they do or do not demonstrate how the field of social psychology has changed over time	6
Human Behavior: Different Time Periods	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates a nuanced understanding of how the time period in which a study takes place influences the research process	Explains how the research trends in social psychology in the different time periods of both studies may have informed the direction of the research and supports response using appropriate evidence	Explains how the research trends in social psychology in the different time periods of both studies may have informed the direction of the research, but explanation is cursory or does not support response with evidence	Does not explain how the research trends in social psychology in the different time periods of both studies may have informed the direction of the research	6

Human Behavior: Results and Conclusions	Meets “Proficient” criteria and assessment demonstrates a nuanced understanding of the relationship between social psychological research and its influence on human behavior	Assesses how the results and conclusions reached by the researchers of the chosen studies may have influenced human behavior	Assesses how the results and conclusions reached by the researchers of the chosen studies may have influenced human behavior, but assessment is cursory or inaccurate	Does not assess how the results and conclusions reached by the researchers of the chosen studies may have influenced human behavior	6
Human Behavior: Research Trends	Meets “Proficient” criteria and assessment demonstrates a nuanced understanding of how the time period in which a study takes place influences how research is perceived	Assesses how the research trends of the time may have influenced the impact of the chosen studies on society and supports response using appropriate evidence	Assesses how the research trends of the time may have influenced the impact of the chosen studies on society, but assessment is cursory or does not support response with evidence	Does not assess how the research trends of the time may have influenced the impact of the chosen studies on society	6
Influence on Society: Benefit Society	Meets “Proficient” criteria and analysis demonstrates a keen insight of how social psychological research can influence social change	Analyzes the chosen studies for elements in their results or conclusions reached that may benefit society and justifies response	Analyzes the chosen studies for elements in their results or conclusions reached that may benefit society but analysis is cursory or inaccurate or does not justify response	Does not analyze the chosen studies for elements in their results or conclusions reached that may benefit society	6
Influence on Society: Negative Impact	Meets “Proficient” criteria and analysis demonstrates a keen insight of how social psychological research can influence social change	Analyzes the chosen studies for elements in their results or conclusions reached that may have had a negative impact on society and justifies response	Analyzes the chosen studies for elements in their results or conclusions reached that may have had a negative impact on society, but analysis is cursory or inaccurate or does not justify response	Does not analyze the chosen studies for elements in their results or conclusions reached that may have had a negative impact on society	6
Influence on Society: Everyday Life	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates keen insight into how social psychological research can influence everyday life	Explains possible ways that the results or conclusions of the studies could be applied to everyday life in society	Explains possible ways that the results or conclusions of the studies could be applied to everyday life in society, but explanation is cursory or inaccurate	Does not explain possible ways that the results or conclusions of the studies could be applied to everyday life in society	6
Influence on Society: Social Change	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates a keen insight of how social psychological research can influence social change	Evaluates the chosen studies for how they may have influenced events of social change (positively or negatively) and provides examples	Evaluates the chosen studies for how they may have influenced events of social change (positively or negatively) and provides examples, but evaluation or provided examples are cursory or inaccurate	Does not evaluate the chosen studies for how they may have influenced events of social change (positively or negatively)	6

Influence on Society: Personal or Professional Experience	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates keen insight into how social psychological research can influence everyday life	Describes a personal or professional experience in which elements of social psychological research could be utilized to influence change	Describes a personal or professional experience in which elements of social psychological research could be utilized to influence change, but description is cursory or inaccurate	Does not describe a personal or professional experience in which elements of social psychological research could be utilized to influence change	6
Influence on Society: Influential	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates a nuanced understanding of how the time period in which a study takes place influences the research	Explains how influential you believe social psychological research has been on changing behavior in society	Explains how influential you believe social psychological research has been on changing behavior in society but explanation is cursory or inaccurate	Does not explain how influential you believe social psychological research has been on changing behavior in society	6
Ethical Considerations: Ethical Issues	Meets “Proficient” criteria and analysis demonstrates a nuanced understanding of the ethical issues common in different time periods in the field of psychology	Analyzes each of the chosen studies for any potential ethical issues that may be present in their research design	Analyzes each of the chosen studies for any potential ethical issues that may be present in their research design but analysis is cursory or inaccurate	Does not analyze each of the chosen studies for any potential ethical issues that may be present in their research design	6
Ethical Considerations: Ethical Guidelines	Meets “Proficient” criteria and explanation demonstrates a nuanced understanding of how the ethical guidelines of the time period of a study can inform how ethical a study is perceived	Explains how well the studies follow the ethical guidelines of their respective time period and justifies response	Explains how well the studies follow the ethical guidelines of their respective time period but explanation is cursory or inaccurate or does not justify response	Does not explain how well the studies follow the ethical guidelines of their respective time period	6
Ethical Considerations: Ethically Appropriate Strategies	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates keen insight into how to apply modern ethical guidelines to research both past and present	Recommends ethically appropriate strategies that could be utilized by the studies in order to address identified ethical issues	Recommends ethically appropriate strategies that could be utilized by the studies in order to address identified ethical issues but recommendations are cursory or inappropriate	Does not recommend ethically appropriate strategies that could be utilized by the studies in order to address identified ethical issues	6
Articulation of Response	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	5
Earned Total					100%