XIV. Social Psychology (8–10%)

This part of the course focuses on how individuals relate to one another in social situations. Social psychologists study social attitudes, social influence, and other social phenomena.

AP students in psychology should be able to do the following:

• Apply attribution theory to explain motives (e.g., fundamental attribution error, self-serving bias) .

• Describe the structure and function of different kinds of group behavior (e.g., deindividuation, group polarization)

• Explain how individuals respond to expectations of others, including groupthink, conformity, and obedience to authority .

• Discuss attitudes and how they change (e.g., central route to persuasion).

• Predict the impact of the presence of others on individual behavior (e.g., bystander effect, social facilitation) .

• Describe processes that contribute to differential treatment of group members (e .g ., in-group/out-group dynamics, ethnocentrism, prejudice) .

• Articulate the impact of social and cultural categories (e.g., gender, race, ethnicity) on self-concept and relations with others .

• Anticipate the impact of behavior on a self-fulfilling prophecy.

• Describe the variables that contribute to altruism, aggression, and attraction.

• Discuss attitude formation and change, including persuasion strategies and cognitive dissonance .

• Identify important figures in social psychology (e.g., Solomon Asch, Leon Festinger, Stanley Milgram, Philip Zimbardo)