What does it mean to be “true to yourself”? What’s a self?

Where do emotions come from? Why do we feel shame? envy? sympathy?

When we break up with someone, do we really want to ‘still be friends’?

What is “risky” behavior?

What makes someone join a cult?

The goal of this course is to immerse you in the puzzles and issues of contemporary social psychology from a sociological perspective. It’s a course about how we become who we are—how our personality, our sense of self—is shaped by the social world we live in. We will apply the ideas of symbolic interaction to understand self-definition, relationships, health and illness, body image, sexuality, deviance, prejudice and discrimination. One important implication of the ideas covered in the course is that we can fight back against social structure and construct the world in which we want to live.

The course meets the elective requirement for Soc. AA-T, the multicultural requirement and is CSU/UC transferable. Students who have taken P/S 120 “Social Psychology” can still take Soc. 165.