

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY I– Code: 800150

COURSE INFORMATION

Undergraduate Studies: 0812 – Degree in Psychology (Studies Plan 2009-10)

Type: Compulsory

ECTS: 6.0

Module: Compulsory psychological training

Area: Social bases of behaviour

Year: First

Semester: 1

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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SYNOPSIS

This course will introduce you to the concepts and ideas in the area of social psychology. Social Psychology aims to discover the different ways in which people interact with other individuals, groups, and the larger society as a whole, as well as why people act in certain ways. Social psychologists seek to answer many questions that are relevant to our everyday lives. How are we influenced by our environment and by other people? How do we come to know ourselves? How do we form impressions of the people we meet? How do we explain others' behavior? What causes relationships to begin or to fail? Why are people sometimes helpful, but at other times aggressive or even cruel? What are attitudes and how do they affect us? What leads to conformity and obedience? What leads to prejudice and discrimination and what can be done about this problem?

This course will try to answer these questions by exploring many of the processes that influence and are influenced by our interactions with others, such as attitude formation and change, conformity, and persuasion. We will also use principles of social psychology to understand the ordinary origins of benevolent (e.g., altruism, helping behavior) and malevolent (e.g., aggression, prejudice) aspects of human behavior. Beyond learning the content of the course material, an important goal of the class is to help you think critically about the nature of human behavior and how to apply the information you learn in this course in your daily lives.

COMPETENCIES

General competencies

GC2: Know and understand the basic laws of the different psychological processes.

GC5: Know and understand the main psychosocial principles of the functioning of groups and organizations.

GC6: Know and understand research methods and data analysis techniques.

GC9: Identify the relevant characteristics of individual behaviour.

GC11: Select and manage specific psychology techniques and instruments.

GC14: Prepare oral and written psychological reports in different areas of activity.

GC1: Know and understand the functions, characteristics and limitations of the different theoretical models in psychology.

Transversal competencies

TC1: Analysis and synthesis.

TC2: Preparation and defence of properly reasoned arguments.

Specific competencies

SC7: Know how to describe and measure processes of interaction, group dynamics and group and inter-group structure.

SC8: Be able to identify group and inter-group problems and needs.

SC9: Know how to describe and measure processes of organizational and inter-organizational interaction, dynamics and structure.

SC10: Know how to analyse the context in which individual behaviours and group and organizational processes take place.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Class meetings will consist of a professor presentation as well as discussions from student-generated questions on the second day. Readings will be divided among students, who will be required to do a brief overview to begin our discussions. The purpose of these questions is to guide and stimulate our class discussion of the material. Questions might concern conceptual/theoretical or methodological issues, as well as issues concerning the application of research findings. An ethical issue would also be relevant. We will also dedicate time to other activities (e.g., case studies, group exercises, role-playing, presentation of articles, etc).

There will be a research project involving the collection of data to test a hypothesis. Each group will develop a hypothesis involving at least 3 variables, choose measures for each variable, and collect survey data. You can also choose an intervention study. Both a written report in journal article format and brief presentation are required. The paper should be a brief research report in APA format, including an introduction, method, results and discussion, plus references and tables/figures. This paper can be also a replication of a published research.

ECTS BREAK-DOWN

TEACHING ACTIVITIES	Hours	% of total credits	Attendance
Class sessions	45	30.0%	100%
Tutorials	5	3.3 %	50%
Students' work (class assignments and time of study)	95	63.3%	0%
Assessment activities	5	3.3%	100%

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Classes will be focused on teaching the content of the program and performing practical exercises. Classes will be a mixture of theory and practical work. English will be the only language used for lectures, homework, exercises and projects. Students will be encouraged to participate during each class, especially through the written practice exercises provided along the course.

PRE-REQUISITES

B2 English level

OBJECTIVES

To offer students an updated range of social and group psychology information to complement those concepts studied in Social Psychology I.

TOPICS

1. Introduction to Social Psychology.
2. Research methods.
3. Social cognition and attribution.
4. Attitude Change.
5. Emotions.
6. The social self.
7. Social influence.
8. Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination.
9. Helpful Social Behavior.
10. Liking, loving, and close relationships.

ASSESSMENT

1. EXAMS

There will be two midterm exams and a final one (60% of total grade). The dates of the examinations, and the material covered by each examination, will be posted on the online campus. The exams will consist of multiple choice items, taken from the text, readings, in-class exercises, lecture and discussions.

2. PROJECT AND IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

The final research project will be worth 25% of the grade, whereas in-class activities and discussions will be worth 15%.

Note about research project (25%) on grading system.

- Select topic below (content) & advance our understanding via creative presentation
- Must include presentation (powerpoint, prezi, etc)
- Should be attractive and include visual elements
- 20 minute presentation (followed by 5-10 minutes of Q&A)
- All team members must be present & must actively participate

Note about class participation (15%) on grading system.

You are expected to actively participate in each class. Be prepared to discuss the materials and concepts presented during lectures and readings in an engaged and informed way, to ask questions, and to listen and learn from each other. The participation grade will take into account the quality of your contributions, not merely the quantity. Be awake and responsive.

The readings listed for lecture each week should be completed before class. Please keep in mind that preparation is necessary for effective participation. While doing the readings and attending to lectures, critique the course material carefully and make note of any questions or thoughts that might provoke group discussions. This will help you to adequately prepare for class exercises and discussion.

You are expected to arrive to each class on time and remain there for the entirety of class, as tardiness is disruptive to student learning. Perpetual tardiness will impact your attendance and participation grade. Again, I understand that there are circumstances that may affect your ability to arrive on time. However, please try to keep these instances of tardiness to a minimum.

SUMMARY:

THE FINAL GRADE FOR THE COURSE is summarized below:

ACTIVITIES	WEIGHTING CRITERIA
EXAMS	60%
PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATION IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS	15%
FINAL PROJECT	25%
TOTAL	100%

RESOURCES

- Required text: Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2016). Social psychology (4th ed.). New York, NY: Norton.
- Additional material: All additional readings will be uploaded on the UCM campus online.