



SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Course Description

This social psychology course introduces students to theory, research methods and empirical findings of how people think, feel and behave in social situations. It builds a contemporary understanding of the field and study of social psychology. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on developing critical and integrative ways of thinking about theory and research in social psychology. Topics covered include research methods, the social self, cognition, perception, persuasion, conformity, prejudice, aggression, intimate relationships and group dynamics. Students cultivate skills to analyze social situations and events encountered every day. In addition, students explore how social psychology informs our understanding of culture and society, with special attention to comparative cultural influences.

Aims

To offer the student from different levels of analysis a suitable reflection of the psycho-social bases of behaviour.

Study the original version of the classical and most modern models and theories about Psychology and Social Psychology in particular.

Program

1. Concept and theoretical perspectives of Psychology
2. Methods and techniques in Social Psychology
3. Cognition and Social Attribution
4. Social perception (and Mind perception)
5. The self and social identity
6. Attitudes (and values)
7. Psycho-social bases of emotions
8. Interaction and interpersonal communication
9. Prosocial behaviour

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Define Social Psychology and its application to understanding human behavior.



- Draw on current concepts, theory and experimental findings to build a contemporary scientific understanding of how people think, feel and behave in social situations.
- Explain social cognition, attitude formation, decision making, group processes, pro-social behavior, aggression, conformity/obedience, and stereotyping/prejudice.
- Connect human behavior to such social factors as groups, authority figures, in-group bias, gender roles and cognitive dissonance.
- Predict and critique outcomes of social situations through application of social psychology principles (e.g. attributions, cognitive dissonance, in-group/out-group behavior, etc.).
- Relate major concepts and methods of the field to understand interpersonal and group relationships.
- Describe and assess the basic psychological theories, principles, and concepts explaining social cognition, attitude formation, decision making, group processes, pro-social behavior, aggression, conformity/obedience, and stereotyping/prejudice.
- Articulate how social psychology informs our understanding of local culture, regional identity, and actions of our global society.

Skills

CG1: Know and understand the functions, characteristics and limitations of the different theoretical models of Psychology.

CG2: Know and understand the basic rules of the different psychological processes.

CG5: Know and understand the psychosocial principles of the functioning of groups and organizations.

CG6: Know and understand research methods and data analysis techniques.

CG9: Identify the relevant characteristics of the behavior of individuals and groups.

Methods of Instruction

Students will attend interactive lectures, problem-solving workshops, discussions and related, cocurricular excursions. Lectures will emphasize experiential learning, participation, and applications. Students will use critical thinking to connect recent literature, historical perspectives, experimental findings and theory. Discussions and written assignments help develop a personal understanding of Social Psychology, as well as its use in understanding culture and society.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course.

Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have



engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Weekly Quizzes (6) 30%
2. Lecture Activity Worksheets (15) 20%
3. Social and Culture Essays (2) 10%
4. Intensive Topic Investigative Report 20%
5. Participation 20%
- TOTAL 100%

References

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