



UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID
UNIVERSIDADES NORTEAMERICANAS REUNIDAS

SUBJECT
SUBJECT TITLE: Social Psychology
QUARTER AND ACADEMIC YEAR: 2nd quarter 2025/2026
SCHEDULE: Monday and Tuesday, 17:30-19:00h
PREREQUISITES: none
COMPETENCES- OBJECTIVES (BRIEF 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.

TEACHER
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TUTORING HOURS: Tuesday, 19:00 to 21:00

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, LECTURES AND TASKS ASSIGNED
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 14:30 to 16:00.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY
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.

SUBJECT OBJECTIVES

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 behavior

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.

EVALUATION AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

PARTIAL EXAM: 30%

FINAL EXAM: 30%

WRITTEN WORK OR PRESENTATIONS: 20%
OTHERS: 30%
CLASS PARTICIPATION: 20 %
<p>ATTENDANCE: It is mandatory. It is mandatory. From the second absence without justification, a point will be lowered in the Spanish grading system (for example, an 8 will drop to a 7). In the case of the Spanish Cinema class, missing one class will be equivalent to two absences.</p> <p>Likewise, lateness will also be penalized, more than 15 minutes late will be equivalent to an absence. Excused absences are considered those documented by the appropriate physician or program director.</p>
<p>ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Plagiarism, the use of materials not permitted in exams and tests, copying answers from another classmate, falsification or misappropriation of information for assignments, submission of the same assignment or sections of it in more than one course, helping a student who is cheating, etc. The penalty will be left to the discretion of the subject professor and the student's Program Director, in accordance with their campus policies and procedures.</p>

GUIDE AND INDICATIONS FOR WRITTEN WORK
Students will receive specific instructions for the academic work at the beginning of the course.

MANDATORY BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES
<p>Buunk, A. & Van Vugt, M. (2008). Applying Social Psychology: from problems to solutions. UK: Sage.</p> <p>Fiske, S., Gilbert, D. & Lindzey, G. (2010). Handbook of Social Psychology. 5th Ed. USA.: John Wiley & Sons.</p> <p>Gilovich, T., Keltner, D. & Nisbett, R. (2006). Social Psychology. USA: W.W. Norton & Company.</p> <p>Hewstone, M., Manstead, A. & Stroebe, W. (1997). The Blackwell reader in Social Psychology. UK: Blackwell.</p> <p>Hogg, M. & Cooper, J. (2003). The Sage Handbook of Social Psychology. UK: Sage.</p> <p>Hogg, M. & Vaughan, G. (2011). Social Psychology. UK.: Pearson.</p> <p>Hodgetts, D., Drew, N., Sonn, C., Stolte, O., Waimarie, L. & Curtis, C. (2010). Social Psychology and Everyday Life. China: Palgrave.</p> <p>Kowalski, R. & Leary, M. (2004). The interface of social and clinical psychology: key readings. New York: Psychology Press.</p> <p>Lesko, W. (1993). Readings in Social Psychology: General, Classic, and Contemporary Selections. USA.: Pearson Education.</p> <p>Lesko, W. (2003). Readings in Social Psychology: General, Classic, and Contemporary Selections. USA.: Pearson Education.</p>

Lindesmith, A., Strauss, A. & Denzin, N. (1999). *Social Psychology*. USA: Sage. Philipchalk, R. (1995). *Invitation to Social Psychology*. USA: Harcourt.

Students will be provided with additional bibliography and resources throughout the course.