

Course Description

Comprehensive Exam in Social Psychology

Aim of the course

Aim of the course: the exam gives a chance to summarize the content of previous courses in social psychology (Social Psychology 1-2, Lecture and Practical)

Learning outcome, competences

knowledge:

- Demonstrate a structured knowledge of the most important terms and theories of social psychology
- Solid understanding and critical examination of research methods used in social psychology

attitude:

- Able to restructure previous knowledge from a different perspective
- Sensitive to perceive social psychological phenomena and problems

skills:

- Able to communicate in an effective and convincing way
- Approaches the literature of social psychology from a methodological perspective

Content of the course

Topics of the course

TOPICS A

1. Foundations of social psychology: principles, methodological and ethical issues
2. Social cognition: attributions and forming impressions
3. Social aspects of the self: self-concept, self-esteem, social comparison, self-presentation, self-monitoring and self-regulation
4. Group perception: establishing, using and changing stereotypes
5. Attitudes: concept, measurement, functions, attitudes and behavior, persuasion
6. Interpersonal relations: from initial attraction to close relationships
7. Helping and aggression, cooperation and competition
8. Group influence: group norms, group decision making, conformity, group consensus, groupthink, minority influence
9. Group processes: group dynamics, power, leadership, obedience and resistance, interdependence, group performance, social dilemmas
10. Intergroup relations: social identity, prejudice, intergroup conflict, and conflict resolution. Social dominance, collective action

TOPICS B

1. The roots and history of modern social psychology. Dominant approaches in Europe and in the US
2. Gestalt School in social psychology
3. Behaviorism in social psychology
4. Cognitive social psychology: information processing and motivated social cognition
5. Economic approach in social psychology: rational choice, social exchange and game theory
6. Societal, cross-cultural and cultural social psychology
7. Evolutionary approach in social psychology

Learning activities, learning methods

Evaluation of outcomes

Learning requirements, mode of evaluation, criteria of evaluation:

requirements

- The comprehensive exam consists of two parts: a written and an oral part. The two parts of the exam take place on the same day. A successful written exam is valid until the end of the given exam period, but cannot be carried over to the next semester. During the oral exam the student draws one topic from the A list and one topic from the B list, and both topics need to be presented to the committee following some preparation time.
- Topics B cover the main schools and approaches of social psychology. Your task will be to place these into the context of the history of social psychology, and explain their relevance to studying particular topics within the field. List the main authors, theories and empirical results that can be linked to the particular approach.

mode of evaluation: five grade mark

criteria of evaluation:

- The exam grade reflects the overall presentation, and failing to answer either one of the topics results in grade 1.

Reading list

Compulsory reading list

Smith, E.R., Mackie, D.M, Claypool, H.M. (2015) *Social Psychology*. Fourth Edition, Psychology Press

Besides the textbook you are required to be acquainted with the materials covered during lectures, practicals and methodology classes.