

PSYB17-125 Social Psychology 2.

Aim of the course

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The course continues to present the basic principles of social psychology by discussing topics related to social behavior on (1) an interpersonal level, such as intimate relationships, helping, and aggression; (2) group level processes, such as group formation and dynamics, decision-making in groups and questions of leadership. Finally, the course discusses social psychological questions about (3) intergroup relations, intergroup conflict and conflict resolution. The topics are introduced by offering an overview of social psychological research in these particular interpersonal, group level and intergroup topics, discussing classical theories as well as the newest developments in the field. Broader societal implications and applied aspects of the topics are discussed. During the practical classes the topics of the lectures are covered in a practical manner with opportunities for gaining first hand personal experiences, allowing students to become more familiar with the topics of the lectures.

Learning outcome, competences

knowledge:

- Knowledge of basic principles, important experiments, and research fields in the areas of interpersonal attraction, helping behavior, interdependence, group processes, social identity, social norms, and intergroup relations
- Ability to connect the above listed concepts to the basic motivational and cognitive processes described by social psychology
- Knowledge of the related methodological questions

attitude:

- Openness to social psychological interpretations of various psychological issues
- Sensitive to social psychological interpretations of social and societal phenomena

skills:

- Ability to apply social psychological knowledge to various real life situations
- Acquire a comprehensive understanding of social influence on behavior and mental processes
- Knowledge and application of methodological questions related to the above listed issues

Content of the course

Topics of the course

1. Attraction, liking, loving and sexuality
2. Helping and co-operation
3. Interpersonal aggression
4. Interdependence, and social dilemmas
5. Group development, group performance and leadership
6. Group norms, conformity, groupthink
7. Minority influence and the dynamics of change
8. Social identity and intergroup relations
9. Negative group membership
10. Social norms
11. Obedience and resistance
12. Intergroup conflict and prejudice

Learning activities, learning methods

Lecture

Practical classes
Individual assignments
Group presentations
Critical reading of the literature

Evaluation of outcomes

Learning requirements, mode of evaluation, criteria of evaluation:
requirements

- Written exam (passing is min. 50% of points) 50%
- Home assignments (30%)
- Group presentations (20%)

mode of evaluation: seminar grade

criteria of evaluation:

- Quality and quantity of the theoretical knowledge and ability to apply this knowledge

Reading list

Compulsory reading list

- Smith, E. R., Mackie, D. M., & Claypool, H. M. (2015) *Social Psychology*, New York: Psychology Press

Recommended reading list

- Hewstone, M. E., Stroebe, W. E., & Stephenson, G. M. E. (1996). *Introduction to social psychology: A European perspective*. Blackwell Publishing.