Course Description
Culture and Society
Leading Lecturer: Nguyen Luu Lan Anh

**Aim of the course**
The course emphasizes the significance of cultural and historical approach in psychological research. It examines the different social psychological processes in historical context: how people’s personality and attitudes shape society and history, and how social context shapes human behaviour. Social psychological theories will be applied to analyse group violence, scapegoating, genocide, terrorism, collective memory and political attitudes. Besides presenting concepts and dimensions of culture, it briefly introduces cross-cultural and cultural psychology and gives an insight into those theories which interpret human behaviour and development with a focus on culture. It provides students with culture-awareness and culture sensitivity and calls attention to the inherent impact of culture in all human behaviours.

**Learning outcome, competences**

knowledge:
- Understanding the significance of cultural and historical approach in psychological research
- Understanding the role of different social psychological processes in historical context
- Understanding of social psychological mechanisms influencing group violence, scapegoating, genocide, terrorism, collective memory and political attitudes.
- Knowledge and understanding of the main characteristics of the values of different cultures
- Understanding the interrelationships between human behavior, human development and culture.

attitude:
- Openness to accepting the values of other cultures
- Recognition of cultural differences, the importance of individual cultural identities and the complexity of everybody’s identity
- Openness to exploring and understanding how people’s personality and attitudes shape society and history, and how social context shapes human behaviour

skills:
- Ability to reflect on the hidden assumptions of one’s own culture and group
- Ability to identify and critically relate to someone’s own prejudices and ethnocentric views
- Ability to contribute to the reduction of prejudices and intergroup hostility, to improve intergroup relations.

**Content of the course**

Topics of the course
- Culture and its dimensions
- Approaches: Cross-cultural, cultural psychology, indigenous psychology
- Socialization and enculturation: acculturation, cultural transmission and individual development
- Self-development and multicultural identities
- Gender relations
- Childrearing in families and communities
- History, politics, and social psychology
- Personality and politics
- Political violence: protest, revolution and scapegoating
- Political violence: genocide and terrorism
Learning activities, learning methods
Attendance and active participation in classes, reading compulsory and supportive materials.

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

- Attendance and active participation in classes,
- Reading compulsory and supportive materials.

Mode of evaluation:
- 2 written tests during the semester (dates to be designated at the beginning of the course), the average result of these two tests will be offered as the grade for the course or written exam during the examination period. Both midterm tests and written exam are based on lecture materials and readings.

Criteria of evaluation:
- understanding the topics and connections between different topics, concepts discussed in the course,
- the capacity to place them in a broader background.

Reading list
Compulsory reading list

Recommended reading list