**Social Psychology**

PSY - 211.1

ID 3233

**Spring 2023**

**Instructors:** Olga Yarova, MA

**Office:** Psychology Department

**Course time:** Lecture: Thursday, 10.50-12.05; Seminar: Tuesday, 10.50-12.05

**Credit hours:** 6

**Course status:** Required

**Office hours:** Tuesday, Thursday, 12.15-13.15

**Pre-requisites:** General psychology or Introduction to Psychology

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**Enrollment Key:** social2023

**Required textbooks**:

**Textbooks:**

Myers, D. G., Twenge J. M. (2016). Social psychology (4th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Aronson E. (2008). Social animal (10th edition). Worth Publishers

<https://www.socialpsychology.org/social.htm>

<http://jfmueller.faculty.noctrl.edu/crow/>

<https://www.all-about-psychology.com/social-psychology.html>

For each seminar you are also expected to read additional articles that are available on the e-course.

**Course goals**

There are several goals that I want to pursue during this class. Firstly, I hope that you will get excited about social psychology because it is a fascinating discipline! It is about how people’s thoughts, feelings and behavior are influenced by other people. I like this area of psychology a lot, I do it a lot and I think about it a lot. Therefore, I anticipate that by the end of the course you will like it as much as I do. Secondly, I would like to refute a general misconception about psychology such as the belief that psychology is nothing but counseling. No, counseling is only one applied and small part of psychology. Nowadays, psychology is a multidimensional field with strong quantitative methods that are comparable to those used in physics and mathematics. Therefore, I hope that I will help you to understand and critically interpret psychological data. In order to achieve this goal, I will provide you with introduction to many research areas within a framework of social psychology. And finally, I want you to start applying social psychology methods, concepts and theories into practice. You will have two projects in this course that will help you to explore the field of social psychology deeper.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Understand research methods used in social psychology and know the most famous experiments in the field;

2. Describe and explain research studies conducted in major areas of social psychology

3. Recognize and evaluate social, cultural, spiritual and other types of diversity

4. Apply psychological concepts and theories and research to address societal issues and solve every day problems

**Resources to Support Student Learning**

• Library Help, eReserves and research tools: <https://library.auca.kg/>

• Writing Center: <https://warc.auca.kg/>

• Academic Advising Office: <https://auca.kg/en/academic_advising/>

• Psychological Counseling Services: <https://auca.kg/en/psycons/>

• AUCA Student Code of Conduct <https://auca.kg/uploads/Students_life/Docs/Code%20of%20Students%202019.pdf>

• AUCA Bylaws of the Academic Appeals Committee <https://auca.kg/uploads/Faculty%20Senate/Academic%20Appeals%20Committee%20Bylaws.pdf>

Accommodation policy (for students with special educational needs)

<https://auca.kg/en/p5732652484/>

**Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to follow the AUCA ACADEMIC HONESTY code. All types of plagiarism are strictly prohibited. “Papers may appear to be plagiarized if students: occasionally use the words of another scholar without quotation marks and proper reference, with the result that it appears that the words are the student’s own; occasionally use the ideas of another scholar without proper reference; inadequately paraphrase the words or ideas of another scholar; or fail to include the bibliographic citation for all sources used in the process of completing the assignment. Self-plagiarism is also dishonest, it is not appropriate to hand in the same work for assignments given in more than one class, without the permission of every instructor”[[1]](#footnote-1).

If a student fails to observe this requirement, the instructor may assign an “F” for the work or an “F” for the whole class, depending on the type of assignment and relevant circumstances. Students are expected to read and follow the section on Student Academic Dishonesty of the AUCA Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct.

● On the first occasion you are caught plagiarizing, you fail that assignment.

● The second time, you fail the course.

● The third time, you may be subject to more severe penalties.

The Registrar, your academic advisor, and the FYS Director will all be informed of your plagiarism. You will also be required to arrange a session with a WARC tutor, who will review your paper with you and help you avoid making the same mistake in the future.

**Course requirements:**

**A. Attendance (20 points)**

The attendance is mandatory, and will be marked. Please try not to be late more than 15 minutes as it would automatically be counted as an absence. Unjustified absences (without supporting documents) negatively affect your final grade. More than 6 absences may lead to withdrawal or failure of the course.

**B. Participation (20 points)**

An important requirement is your active participation in class discussions. Strong participation can be built only on the bases of devoted preparation for the class. Please, be prepared for each class having read the required reading assignments as your ‘to the point’ participation would significantly increase your final grade. Basically, for each reading you should be able to:

* Discuss the methodology and main findings of scientific articles
* Understand the main concepts and key terms of the chapter
* Relate the main points to your own experience
* Come up with own examples of the concepts discussed in chapter

**C. Presentation (20 points)**

Grading criteria for material presentation are the following:

* Maximal exposition of the topic with examples of research in the area (6 points)
* “illustrations” of social psychological concept of your topic from film, news, journal (4 points)
* Delivery within an assigned time (15 minutes) (2 points)
* Ability to provoke active critical discussion by addressing min 2 questions to the audience (4 points)
* Ability to answer relevant questions (4 points)

**D. Group presentation experiment in social psychology (10 points)** For this project you will need to come up and conduct an experiment that explores some social psychological phenomenon. You can do the experiment as part of a group or individually. The detailed guidelines will be provided later on the e-course.

**E. Individual paper– experiment in social psychology (30 points).** Write individual papers that describe the experiment you conducted

**(10 points)** Experiment description:

-Clearly stating the research question.

-Describe how you conducted your experiment. Be very detailed to explain exactly what you did.

-State hypothesis.

-Name the dependent and independent variables.

-Describe the control and experimental groups

**(10 points)** Literature review (5 sources)

-Use at least 5 scientific sources to describe the result of previous studies related to your research question.

-Use proper references.

-Write in your words.

-Include reference list in apa style.

**(5 points)** Describe in detail the conclusions you can draw from this study.

-Show a graph of the data.

-Describe any extraneous variables or problems that might have interfered with your experiment.

-What would you suggestion next year’s class do differently?

Did you learn anything from doing this? -Final comments?

**(5 points)** Structure and grammar

-have at least 4-5 paragraphs per page

- have a clear structure of the paper

-no grammar mistakes

**F. Final and Midterm Exams (50 points+40 points)**

There will be two exams in this course: midterm and final. I will give you a set of questions few weeks before the exam. During the exam you will receive multiple-choice questions and essay questions based on the home readings. The final exam is not going to be cumulative: it will cover only the second part of the course.

**Grading**

**Course evaluation criteria:**

Attendance (20 points)

Participation in discussions (20 points)

Class presentation (20 points)

Group presentation on Experiment in social psychology (10 points)

Individual paper on Experiment in social psychology (40 points)

Mid-term in-class exam (50 points)

Final in-class exam (40 points)

**Grading system:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percentage Score Range** |
| A | 95-100 |
| A- | 90-94 |
| B+ | 85-89 |
| B | 80-84 |
| B- | 75-79 |
| C+ | 70-74 |
| C | 65-69 |
| C- | 60-64 |
| D | 55-59 |
| D- | 50-54 |
| F | 0-49 |
| I | Case-by-case decision; Incomplete grade is usually assigned because of health issues |
| W | Student may request Withdrawal grade from the course grade to avoid failure or low grade |
| X | X grade specifically denotes non-attendance;  X grade cannot be requested by students and is only given at the discretion of a faculty member; |

**Class rules**

* **Come on time.** Please come before the class starts not to distract the attention of your colleagues and instructor. If you are late than 15 min this will be counted as absence.
* **Find a clean, quiet space and dress appropriately.**
* **Inform your housemates about your classes.** Make sure your housemates do not walk behind you during the class.
* **Turn off/silence cell phone and close other windows on your computer.**
* **Pay attention! Maintain eye contact with the speaker on the screen.**
* **Be prepared to take notes.**
* **Use the chat only to discuss things related to class topic.**
* **Have light on and sit in a way that your face can be seen.**

**Class Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | Topic | Reading | Presentation |
| Week 1 | Course introduction |  |  |
| Week 2 | Introduction to Social Psychology | Chapter 1 | Ethics in social psychology research |
| Week 3 | The Self | Chapter 2 | Self-serving biases |
| Week 4 | Social Perception | Chapter 3 | How do we judge social world consciously and unconsciously? |
| Week 5 | Attitudes | Chapter 4 | When and why does our behavior affect attitudes |
| Week 6 | Persuasion and Attitude Change | Chapter 7 | Subliminal messages |
| Week 7 | Gender | Chapter 5 | Gender differences  Gender stereotypes |
| Week 8 | Social Influence | Chapter 6 | Cult development |
|  | **Midterm exam** |  |  |
| Week 9 (March 16-20) | Break |  |  |
| Week 10 | Prejudice and Discrimination | Chapter 9 | Stereotypes. how they develop? consequences of stereotypes |
| Week 11 | Aggression | Chapter 10 | How can aggression be reduced? |
| Week 12 | Interpersonal Attraction | Chapter 11 | What makes love stronger? |
| Week 13 | Intimate Relationship | Chapter 11 | Friendship  How do relationship ends? |
| Week 14 | Prosocial behavior | Chapter 12 | Who will help? How to increase helping? |
| Week 15 | Group Behavior | Chapter 8 | Group decision making |
| Week 16 | Presentations of experiments |  |  |
| Week 17 | **Final Exam** |  |  |

1. AUCA Student Handbook [↑](#footnote-ref-1)