



UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN PRAGUE

Current Topics in Social and Personality Psychology

Course:	PSY501 Current Topics in Social and Personality Psychology
Semester:	Fall 2019
Instructor:	Simon Weissenberger, Ph.D.
Contact:	sweissenberger@faculty.unyp.cz
Class meets:	October 19 th , November 15 th , January 4 th , January 18 th

1. Catalogue Description

The course aims to provide students with a deeper insight into current research and issues related to personality psychology and social psychology. These provide a theoretical basis to be applied in the clinical realm to better understand individuals holistically, in terms of traits and environmental influences. The emphasis is on knowledge based on current scientific literature and therefore recommended literature will always be based on recent findings and professional work. A substantial part of the course is self-study. For each thematic unit, students get to study several scientific studies and subsequent interpretation will be based on a discussion of knowledge acquired by students studying the texts provided. The course requires critical thinking and an open mind, along with effort.

2. Course Purpose

This course aims to increase the familiarity with social and personality psychology concepts, studies and their important relation to understanding the human psyche and more specifically to apply to clinical populations. We will look at various psychometric tools associated with personality testing, along with the latest research in social psychology, personality psychology and their related sub-fields. The course emphasizes the importance of understanding personality and behavior from an interactionist perspective with looking at the great importance of the environment and social settings along with innate parts of the human psyche. One important point is to understand both the social and innate as an holistic model and raise self-awareness of personal biases to be a better psychologist.

3. Required Readings:

Readings will be assigned in class as handouts and will be posted on E-Learning.

4. Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the students should be able to:

- Have a good understanding of personality theories and personality testing methods
- Understand the importance of social psychology and how it ties to the clinical field
- Be familiar with biases and mental limitations that arise in day to day life which influence communication and understanding between people
- Get a deeper understanding of human nature through social psychology studies
- Use the tools of social and personality psych for self-improvement

5. Course Schedule:

October 19: Course overview, personal introductions. Review of important social psychology concepts and their current interpretations. Modern connections between personality theory and social psychology theories. Introducing theories of personality from various schools of psychology.

November 15: Continuing the major theories of personality and the newest research and controversies within social and personality psychology. Biases and heuristics. . Quiz 1 and Paper 1 due

January 4: Midterm Exam. Transactional analysis, discourse analysis and its use within social and personality psychology Paper 2 Due

January 18 : Student Presentations – Final Exam

7. Course Requirements and Grading – the course will be graded on the basis of:

Participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Papers	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Presentation	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Grading scale

Letter Grade	Percent (%)	Generally Accepted Meaning
A	95-100	Outstanding work
A-	90-94	
B+	87-89	Good work, distinctly above the average
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable Work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet the minimum standards for passing the course

8. Key UNYP Policies

Attendance:

-It is your responsibility to show up to class on time. If you are late you will be marked as absent for that hour. **If you miss more than 8 (eight) hours of class for any reason, you will automatically fail the entire course. Pay strict attention to this. This class policy is standard UNYP policy.**

Academic Honesty

- The university's rules on academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the **student honor code** or ask your instructor for clarification.
- For examinations: copying from your neighbor, communicating with another student, using a phone or anything similar will result in you failing the test or quiz.
- On written papers, properly note your sources with academic citations. Cutting and pasting from the Internet without accurately citing the source may be considered plagiarism. Students may be required to submit papers electronically, which could mean an automated check for plagiarism via the Turnitin resource. Students may also be required to defend the content of a paper orally to an instructor as a check on authorship.
- If you have questions about any of the above, please consult with the instructor.

9. General Requirements

- Students are expected to attend each class session and participate in a positive way.
- Students are expected to come to class fully prepared to discuss homework readings, projects or cases.
- Students are expected to turn in homework assignments at the beginning of the class period on the day they are due.
- Students are expected to leave their mobile phones, beepers, pagers, and so forth switched off.
- Students may not use laptops or netbooks for any reason other than taking notes. **Do not** surf the Web during class time. If you do, you will lose the privilege to use a laptop or netbook.
- In the event of illness or emergency, contact your instructor **in advance** to determine whether special arrangements are possible.

10. European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)

- Students who complete the course will receive 4 ECTS credits, which are the equivalent of 2 American credits. (In other words, 2 ECTS credits equal 1 American credit hour.)
- Further, 1 ECTS credit corresponds to 25-30 hours of work. Thus, a 4-credit ECTS course (equivalent to a 3-credit American course) will total 100-120 projected work hours. For this course, students are expected to spend time in the following course-related activities:

Class Lectures and exams	30 hours
Reading class-related material	40 hours
Exam preparations	20 hours
Team preparation	10 hours
Final project preparation	20 hours
TOTAL	100-120 hours

11. Technology Expectations

Assignments, excluding those that are carried out exclusively in class, must be completed on a computer. Students are assumed to be familiar with the use of the Internet and in particular with the gathering of data from the Worldwide Web. This will be a necessary tool for carrying out some of the course assignments (i.e., long essay or class presentations).

Revised : Weissenberger, October 2019