



## UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN PRAGUE

**Course:** PSY210 Social Psychology (6 ECTS /3 US credits)  
**Semester:** Spring 2024  
**Prerequisites:** C- or better in General Psychology or Intro to Sociology  
**Instructor:**  
**Contact:**  
**Class meets:**  
**Office hours:**

### 1. Catalogue Description

This course examines human thoughts, feelings and behaviors as they are influenced by and have influence on other people through their actual, imagined or implied presence for individuals and groups, and explores the field of social psychology from a range of perspectives. Theories and research are examined and explored regarding social behaviors such as conformity, prejudice, social identity, attitude-formation, group dynamics and the psychosocial processes on the internet.

### 2. Course Purpose

We will explore the various ways people think about, affect, and relate to one another. The goals of this course are to improve your understanding of social psychological explanations for social influence and interaction and to improve your understanding of the research methodologies commonly used to understand social influence and interaction. This course will also help you learn more about yourself.

Though it will certainly be important to memorize some specific terms, concepts, and sections of the text and lectures, rote memorization is not the sole focus of this course. Rather, making connections across descriptions and critical thinking will be our higher learning goal.

### 3. Required Readings

Hogg, M. A., & Graham, A. V. (2018). *Social Psychology* (8th Ed.). Pearson. ([Available on Perlego.com](https://www.perlego.com))

**It is up to you to access this book before the class. We will be using it from the first day of class onwards.**



### 4. Additional Readings

These articles or books will expand your knowledge in the studied areas and enhance your abilities to discuss some of the related topics. Below is a list of optional readings.

Myers, D. G. (2009). *Social Psychology*, 11th Edition. McGraw-Hill.

- Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. (2010). *Social psychology*, 7th Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Baron, R. A., & Byrne, D. (2003). *Social Psychology*, 10th Edition. Allyn and Bacon.
- Zimbardo, P. (2008). *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*. Random House Trade Paperbacks
- Jetten, J., Hornsey, M. J. (2011). *Rebels in Groups: Dissent, Deviance, Difference, and Defiance*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Joy, M. (2011). *Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, and Wear Cows: An Introduction to Carnism*. Conari Press.
- Moscovici, S. & Personnaz, B. (1980). Studies in social influence: V. Minority influence and conversion behavior in a perceptual task. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* 16(3), 270–282. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-1031\(80\)90070-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-1031(80)90070-0)
- Mainieri, T., Barnett, E. G., Valdero, T. R., Unipan, J. B., & Oskamp, S. (1997) Green Buying: The Influence of Environmental Concern on Consumer Behavior. *Journal of Social Psychology* 137(2), 189-204. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00224549709595430>

## 5. Learning Outcomes

### Knowledge gained

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

- Summarize and contrast the main fields of social psychology.
- Explain basic research designs and methods in social psychology
- Generate an appropriate approach to a given set of questions from a specific field of social psychology
- Be aware of the critiques and debates within social psychology, the assumptions and beliefs underlying different approaches and be able to analyse competing claims

### Skills gained

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

- Assess and critically analyze theories, research methods and findings, and applications developed by psychologists and made available through textbooks, newspapers, professional and lay periodicals, and the internet.
- Apply a cross-disciplinary approach to social psychological phenomena
- Critique social psychological research in any given area covered during the course
- Predict the outcomes of various social situations through application of social psychology principles (for example, attributions, cognitive dissonance, in-group/out-group behavior, etc.).

## 6. Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Social Psychology (Chapter 1)

Week 2: Research (Chapter 1)

Week 3: Quiz; Social cognition (Chapter 2)

Week 4: Processes of attribution (Chapter 3)

- Week 5: Quiz; Self and identity (Chapter 4)
- Week 6: Attitudes and attitude change (Chapters 5, 6)
- Week 7: Mid Term Exam
- Week 8: Social influence (Chapter 7)
- Week 9: Group Processes (Chapter 8)
- Week 10: Quiz; Prejudice and discrimination (Chapter 10)
- Week 11: Aggression (Chapter 12)
- Week 12: Quiz; Prosocial behavior (Chapter 13)
- Week 13: Projects due at the beginning of class; Final Project Presentations I
- Week 14: Final Project Presentations II
- Week 15: Final Exam

## 7. Course Requirements and Grading

This course will be graded on the basis of:

Quizzes	10%
Participation in class	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Project and Presentation	20%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

### Quizzes (10%)

Almost every two weeks (4 times a semester) we will start a class with the quick quizzes therefore I recommend you to be in class on time. Each quiz will have multiple-choice questions and one essay question. They will test your knowledge of fundamental principles of social psychology as well as your ability to apply these principles to examples. These quizzes will inform you about your knowledge before the midterm and final exam. Nonparticipation will be marked as F.

Because students can have a “bad day” (especially early in the course), each student’s lowest quiz grade will be replaced by the average (i.e., statistical mean) of the student’s best and worst quizzes. Grade replacement only applies to quizzes and cannot be applied to the midterm and final exam.

### Participation in class (10%)

I would like to encourage you to participate each week in class discussions. The topics of social psychology derive from everyday life, thus your personal experiences and stories

are relevant. Talking about these topics will certainly help you better understand the material. The purpose of these discussions is to stimulate thought about topics brought up in the text, and to try to go beyond what the text presents. You can get participation points not only by being active in class but also by contributing to online discussions at elearning!

Every week you can get maximum of 10% of your participation grade so do not be surprised that you have only 40% in the 4th week (it is the maximum at that point of the class).

**Midterm Exam (30%)**

The midterm exam will take place in the week 7 and it will cover the material discussed in class and in the required reading. Exam will have multiple-choice and essay questions.

**Project (15%) and presentation (5%) due Week 13**

In groups of two or three, choose a topic in social psychology to research. Each team will discuss the selected topic with the instructor. The final paper from the project should be written on 4-6 standard pages and the presentation should be approximately 5-10 minutes (depending upon the number of participants). Individual input of each member should be recognizable (indicate who wrote which part).

Written work must contain citations in APA format. Papers submitted without proper citations will be considered plagiarism and receive an F. Please ask me if you need clarification.

Students are required to submit the papers electronically (with an automated check for plagiarism via the Turnitin resource). Within the groups only one member uploads.

**Final Exam (30%)**

The final exam will take place in the week 15 and it will cover the material discussed in class since the midterm and in the required reading. Exam will have multiple-choice and essay questions.

*\*Note: Written work must contain citations in APA format. Guidelines and resources for proper referencing will be given to you and links will be put on e-learning. Papers submitted without any citations/references will be considered plagiarism and receive an automatic F.*

**Grading Scale**

Letter Grade	Percent (%)	Generally Accepted Meaning	Notes
A	95-100	Outstanding work	x
A-	90-94		x
B+	87-89	Good work, distinctly above the average	x
B	83-86		x
B-	80-82		x
C+	77-79	Acceptable Work	x

C	73-76		x
C-	70-72		x
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average	Credits for the course will not transfer to ESC
D	63-66		
D-	60-62		
F	0-59	Work that does not meet the minimum standards for passing the course	No credits awarded

## 8. Key UNYP Policies

### Attendance

It is your responsibility to show up to class on time. If you are late by more than 10 minutes you will be marked as absent for that hour. **If you miss more than 12 (twelve) hours of class for any reason, you will automatically fail the entire course. Pay strict attention to this. Additionally, keep in mind that missing more than 9 hours may affect one's participation grade due to the substantial material and interaction missed. 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 6 ECTS credits, which are the equivalent of 3 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 6-credit ECTS course (equivalent to a 3-credit American course) will total 150-180 projected work hours. For this course, students are expected to spend time in the following course-related activities:

Class lectures and exams	45 hours
Reading class-related material	50 hours
Exam preparations	25 hours
<u>Final paper &amp; project preparation (including teamwork)</u>	<u>45 hours</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165 hours</b>

## 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).