

Instructor: Gül Günaydın, Ph.D.

TA: Övgün Ses

E-mail: gul.gunaydin@sabanciuniv.edu

E-mail: ovgunes@sabanciuniv.edu

Office Hours: email to make an appointment*

Office hours: Tue 13:40-14:30 (or by appointment)*

Course Overview

This course aims to provide you with a rigorous training in theories and research of social psychology—the science of how the real, implied, or imagined presence of others can influence our thoughts, feelings and behaviors. The course is organized around four general themes: 1) Methods and Critical Thinking in Social Psychology—how social psychological research is conducted and common pitfalls we should be aware of as researchers, 2) The Surprising Power of the Situation—how the situations we find ourselves in (including social situations) influence us, 3) Emotion—universality and cultural specificity of our affective reactions and how they might go awry, and 4) Person Perception—the ways that we make sense of others' behavior and relate to others.

As we survey these topics, our overarching goals will be to: (a) provide you with a firm background in classic and contemporary social psychological ideas, theories, and research, (b) begin to develop your skill at effectively evaluating psychological research methodology, (c) work toward an understanding of what makes for “good” social psychological research and why, and (d) develop your ability to apply social psychological research to daily life.

Course website:

The syllabus, readings, lecture outlines (slides), and assignment guidelines will be posted on the course website on SUCourse. Video lectures will be available via Google Shared Drive. The lecture outlines will be available when each video lecture is posted.

Course requirements:

Lecture Videos. Lecture videos will be available asynchronously via the course's Google Shared Drive. You will be able to view these lectures throughout the semester (*Please email IT if you have problems accessing video lectures*). I will be lecturing in the videos on either assigned readings, or on new material, or both. Because I typically will be introducing new material and not simply going over assigned readings, it is essential to carefully watch the lectures. You will be responsible for material covered in lectures **and** assigned readings. Please note that lecture outlines do **not** contain all the details. So reading them is not a substitute for watching lecture videos and vice versa!

Readings. Assigned readings will be journal articles and book chapters posted on the course website. It is very important to do the readings **on a weekly basis** to follow the lectures and to do well in this course. Note that not all readings will be covered during lectures. It is your responsibility to read through all assigned readings and to pose any questions that you might have during Q&A sessions.

Exams. There will be a midterm and a final exam, which will be take-home exams submitted via SUCourse. You may find **post and due dates of exams in the Course Outline**. Further details will be provided before each exam.

Q&A Sessions. The question-and-answer (Q&A) sessions will take place on Tuesdays at 11:40-12:30 (see SUCourse for the link). We will **not** meet every week. Please see the course outline for the dates on which meetings will take place. The aim of these meetings is to answer **your** questions about the lectures, readings, assignments, and exams.

Videomaking Assignment. One important aspect of learning about social psychology is developing your ability to relate it to the real world. To this end, you will shoot a short video, in which you will delineate a day-to-day example of a social psychological phenomenon. Given that considerable amount of communication now takes place online, you will shoot the video using Zoom. The deadline of this assignment may be found in the Course Outline below.

You will complete this assignment in **groups of 6**. So, working on the videos will also be a great exercise in collaborative work—a central requirement of both the scientific and professional world. Please note that it is entirely **your** responsibility to manage within-group relations and division of labor.

It is your responsibility to choose your group members. One member in each group should email the TA who the group members are **by the deadline indicated in the course outline below**). If you do not know your classmates or are unable to find six people for your group, email the TA about your situation so that we can assign you to a group.

Later in the semester, I will post guidelines about this assignment on the course website. We will also hold meetings with each group to provide feedback on their plans for the videomaking assignment ahead of the submission deadline.

Late submission policy: You will lose 10 points for each day you fail to submit the video after the due date.

Research Participation (Extra Points). Students can optionally serve as participants in research that is run by Sabancı University researchers. By participating in research (*including online surveys*), you can get extra points. For this course, you will be able to earn up to 3 extra points. Six research points (1 research point equals ~30 minutes of research participation) will be converted to 3 bonus points added to your overall total at the end of the semester. More information on the available research projects will be provided during the semester. You will be able to sign up for the experiments and get your research participation points through the online Sona system at <http://sabanciuniv.sona-systems.com> Please carefully read the Guide for Students: Sabancı University Experiment Credits System (Sona).

Course Assessment

Midterm: 35%

Final exam: 40%

Videomaking Assignment Preparation: 5%

Videomaking Assignment: 20%

Grades

The following grading scheme is used to assign the final grade for the course. **No changes can be made to your final grade unless there has been an arithmetical error.**

A	90-100	B	79.99-75	C	64.99-60	D	49.99-45
A-	89.99-85	B-	74.99-70	C-	59.99-55	F	44.99-0
B+	84.99-80	C+	69.99-65	D+	54.99-50		

Academic Honesty

Every student in this course is expected to abide by the Sabancı University Academic Integrity Statement. Please see <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement>

Academic dishonesty, or plagiarism, is the act of taking someone else's work or ideas and presenting them as your own. Academic dishonesty can be deliberate or it can also result from carelessness; **you will be held responsible for academic dishonesty regardless of whether you meant to do it.**

Plagiarism can include anything from copying another student's work to using journal articles or an internet source (e.g., Wikipedia) in an assignment without describing them in your own words **and** referencing them. Please note that making small changes in a sentence (e.g., changing "a great deal" to "a lot" and "revealed" to "showed") does **not** mean that you paraphrased an existing idea and it is now your original claim. If you are unsure as to whether a certain act would fall in the category of academic dishonesty, please contact me for clarification. Any form of academic dishonesty in this course (e.g. plagiarism, cheating, etc.) will not be tolerated.

* Office Hours

During the office hours, we will start an online session via Zoom, which you will be able to access via weblinks posted on SUCourse (**under Office Hour Zoom Links**). Note that my office hours are by appointment only, whereas the TA's office hours are both via weekly sessions held during a specific time and by appointment.

To make an appointment, you may email us a few days in advance. In your email, please list all hours you are available within the upcoming seven days so that we can find a time that fits our schedule and email you back with an appointment time. **Note that we may not be able to accommodate appointment requests that are sent at the last minute.**

****** I reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus throughout the semester.

Course Outline

METHODS & CRITICAL THINKING IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Week 1 (February 22nd-26th)

February 23rd: Introductory Zoom meeting

Introduction to Social Psychology
Course Overview

Week 2 (March 1st-5th)

Methods in Social Psychology

Assigned reading: Chapter on Research Designs (pg. 6-17 from Selected Readings in Social Psychology)

Week 3 (March 8th-12th)

The Perils of Common Sense

Chapter on Social Cognition & Attitudes - (pg. 21-26 from Selected Readings in Social Psychology)

THE SURPRISING POWER OF THE SITUATION

Week 4 (March 15th-19th)

March 16th: Q&A session on your questions about lectures

Introduction to the Power of the Situation

Doliński, D., Grzyb, T., Folwarczny, M., Grzybała, P., Krzyszycha, K., Martynowska, K., & Trojanowski, J. (2017). Would you deliver an electric shock in 2015? Obedience in the experimental paradigm developed by Stanley Milgram in the 50 years following the original studies. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 8, 927-933.

Week 5 (March 22nd-26th)

Situational Construal

Liberman, N., & Trope, Y. (2008). The psychology of transcending the here and now. *Science*, 322, 1201-1205.

Week 6 (March 29th-April 2nd)

Compliance: Perceiving (and misperceiving) norms

Goldstein, N. J., Cialdini, R. B., & Griskevicius, V. (2008). A room with a viewpoint: Using social norms to motivate environmental conservation in hotels. *Journal of Consumer Research*, 35, 472-482.

Week 7 (April 5th-9th)

April 6th: Q&A session on your questions about lectures

Social facilitation

Jun, Y., Meng, R., & Johar, G. V. (2017). Perceived social presence reduces fact-checking. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 114, 5976-5981. (**read Introduction, Experiment 1 (pg.5976-5977) & Experiment 4 (pg. 5978)**)

Week 8 (April 12th-16th)

[MIDTERM: Questions will be posted on SUCourse by 12:00 on April 12; Answers due via the Turnitin Assignment on SUCourse by 17:00 on April 16]

Week 9 (April 19th-23rd)

Deindividuation & individuation

Video on the Zimbardo Prison Experiment

Le Texier, T. (2019). Debunking the Stanford Prison Experiment. *American Psychologist*, 74, 823-839. **(read pg. 1-10)**

EMOTION

Week 10 (April 26th-30th)

Universality & Cultural Specificity of Emotions

Affective Errors & Biases

Talhelm, T., Zhang, X., Oishi, S., Shimin, C., Duan, D., Lan, X., & Kitayama, S. (2014). Large-scale psychological differences within China explained by rice versus wheat agriculture. *Science*, 344, 603-608.

Week 11 (May 3rd-7th)

May 4th: Q&A session on your questions about lectures

Cognitive dissonance

[Email the TA who your group members are by May 3rd]

Week 12 (May 10th-14th)

No class – Eid al-Fitr (Ramazan Bayramı)

PERSON PERCEPTION

Week 13 (May 17th-21st)

May 18th: Videomaking Assignment Preparation Meeting

Attribution

Dunning, D., Johnson, K., Ehrlinger, J., & Kruger, J. (2003). Why people fail to recognize their own incompetence. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 12, 83-87. **(read pg. 83-85)**

First impressions

Gunaydin, G., Zayas, V., Selcuk, E., & Hazan, C. (2012). I like you but I don't know why: Objective facial resemblance to significant others influences snap judgments. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 48, 350-353.

Week 14 (May 24th-28th)

May 25th: Q&A session on your questions about lectures

Stereotyping & Prejudice

Payne, B. K. (2006). Weapon bias: Split-second decisions and unintended stereotyping. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 15, 287-291.

Conclusions & course wrap-up

[Videomaking assignments due on June 3 by 17:00]

[FINAL EXAM: Questions will be posted on SUCourse by 12:00 on June 4; Answers due via the Turnitin Assignment on SUCourse by 17:00 on June 8]