

Social Psychology
2020-2021 Fall Semester

Course Code:	PSY 340 Section B
Lecturer:	Asuman Buyukcan Tetik (asuman.buyukcan@sabanciuniv.edu)
Credits:	3

1. Course Hours and Structure

Main Question: The course is scheduled for Tuesdays 2:40-4:30 pm in the system, and the last hour is coded as TBA (to-be-announced). What does this mean? What is the structure of the course?

- a) This course will be composed of both synchronous and asynchronous parts.
- b) These course hours do NOT mean that we will meet regularly every week between 2:40 and 4:30. This time period is reserved in case we need to have long meetings. Other than such cases, we will generally meet only for an hour to have discussions.

Asynchronous sections: The instructor will upload the power point file and its presentation to the Course Website every weekend.

Synchronous sections: We will meet every week for around an hour for online discussions. Unless announced otherwise, these meetings are planned to take place between 3:40 and 4:30 every Tuesday.

2. Brief Introduction

The goal of this course is to introduce one of the subfields of psychology, namely social psychology. The theories, scientific findings, and discussions covered in this course will not only advance your scientific knowledge of social psychology, but also help you to develop your abilities and skills in understanding yourself, people around, relationships, and social environment in general. Topics of this course include, but are not limited to, social perception, attitudes, attraction, aggression, and group dynamics (please see below for the list of all topics).

3. Course Goals and Learning Objectives

Although the general goal of this course is teaching main social psychological concepts, theories, and findings, developing your skills in the following broad areas is also among learning objectives of this course:

- a) **Communication and Discussion:** You are expected to read (in Discussion forums) not only the instructor's, but also your classmates' ideas, comments, and opinions. Being able to respect and discuss different opinions is one of the main components of this course.
- b) **Critical Thinking:** Even though you are expected to learn theories, findings, and the literature covered in this course, please do not forget that science is a matter of progress. Therefore, please do not hesitate to discuss current findings, and have a critical and open mind. When you do this, however, please consider communication and discussion goals of this course. Discussions should be done in a respectful manner.
- c) **Not intuition, but science:** Please do not forget that science is based on research methods. Your daily observations and experiences of course are important to understand many social psychological concepts. Nevertheless, do not forget that your ideas and opinions may not be in line with scientific findings.
- d) **Research methods:** Although we will focus on different social psychological topics, it is important to notice that similar research methods may be used to conduct research across different topics. To get familiar with how scientists in social psychology conduct their research is one of the learning objectives of this course.

- e) **Implications and Applications:** You are also expected to think about the implications of social psychological topics for society in general. Discussions on possible applications of social psychological findings are welcome.

4. Course Materials

I will mostly benefit from *An Introduction to Social Psychology (6th Edition)* edited by **Miles Hewstone, Wolfgang Stroebe, and Klaus Jonas**.

The textbook also has a website which provides some useful resources. You can access that website from this link: <http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=1118823532&bcsId=9000>

Nevertheless, course materials uploaded to the Course Website and attendance to the discussion sessions would be sufficient to learn the most important aspects. For details, I'd refer to the book mentioned above.

Supplementary readings may be provided during the semester. You will be notified in advance in case additional readings are assigned.

5. Assessment

The summary of grading is as follows:

Type of assessment	% of total grade
Online Quizzes	40%
Video (Group Work) (Take-home exam status)	40%
1 Data blitz Presentation (Take-home exam status)	20%
Total	100%

5.1. Online Quizzes

Online quizzes will include a mixture of different types of questions (e.g., essay, fill-in, free-response, and/or multiple-choice questions). Questions in the exam are based on everything (i.e., slides, handouts, discussions, videos etc.) covered in lectures and on all the reading materials (i.e., assigned chapters in the textbook, assigned articles (if any)).

There will be online quizzes with a few questions every week. **Time of the quiz of that week will NOT be announced beforehand.** It can be sent at any time during the week. The quizzes will be open for 5-15 minutes based on the number of questions. **Considering that there may be some problems such as internet connection problems that can create an obstacle for your availability at these time intervals, you will be expected to attend only 8 of the 11 or 12 online quizzes until the end of the semester.**

If the number of online quizzes you took is less than 8 at the end of the semester, you will get zero as many as the number of missed online quizzes (e.g., if you attended only 1 online quiz, you will get seven zeros). In case you take more than 8 online quizzes, the 8 online quizzes with the highest grades will be counted in your final grade calculation.

5.2. Video (Take-home exam)

This will be a group work. Each group will be composed of **3** individuals (this number may change according to the number of registered students) and record only one video as the group work. This video will be **maximum 5 minutes long**.

You can watch some examples here: <http://nobaproject.com/student-video-award/winners> You will be expected to record a video similar to the videos in this link. I will let you know about the topic of videos and detailed instructions.

You are free to create your own group. However, I may change the members of your group and/or assign additional individuals to your group too.

5.3. Data blitz Presentation

Data blitz presentations are known as **very short (around 5 minutes)** presentations. You are expected to give a data blitz presentation about a published article. This will be an individual work. You will be notified about the expectations and detailed instructions during the semester.

5.4. Research points (Extra credits)

Students can optionally serve as participants in research that is run by Sabanci University researchers. By participating in research, you can get research points. For this course, you will be able to earn up to 6 research points (1 credit equals ~ 29 minutes of research participation). These 6 RP points will be converted to 3 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 points through the online Sona system at <http://sabanciuniv.sona-systems.com>

Please, carefully read the Guide for Students: Sabanci University Experiment Credits System (Sona), which will be uploaded to the Course Website.

6. Grading

>=90	A
85-89	A-
80-84	B+
75-79	B
70-74	B-
65-69	C+
60-64	C
55-59	C-
50-54	D+
45-49	D
0-44	F

7. Timetable

Week	Week starting with	Content
1	October 5th	Syllabus & Introduction to Social Psychology (C 1)
2	October 12th	Research Methods (C 2)
3	October 19th	Social Perception and Attribution (C 3)
4	October 26th	Social Cognition (C 4)
5	November 2nd	The Self (C 5)
6	November 9 th	Attitudes (C 6)
7	November 16th	Strategies to Change Attitudes and Behaviors (C 7)
8	November 23rd	Social Influence (C8)
9	November 30th	Student Presentations
10	December 7th	Aggression (C9)
11	December 14th	Prosocial Behavior (C10)
12	December 21st	Group Dynamics & Group Performance and Leadership (C12-13)
13	December 28th	Prejudice and Intergroup Relationships (C14)
14	January 4th	Wrap Up

8. Other announcements

- a) I may slightly change this syllabus throughout the semester. I will let you know in case I make any changes.
- b) You are expected to read the power point slides before each online quiz.
- c) Please do not forget that as a university policy, all students have to behave according to the academic principles mentioned here: <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement>. Please read all those principles.
- d) Plagiarism from either external resources or your classmates' work, or any type of fraud (e.g., cheating, copying) will not be tolerated. Students who engaged in these types of behaviors will fail in this course and be a subject of a discipline inquiry.
- e) Any type of work that will be graded (presentations, videos, response/reaction papers, online quiz etc.) have an exam status and any kind of "intihal" (plagiarism) in homeworks will be categorized as cheating.
- f) Make-up exams can be allowed only in case of an emergency (e.g., medical emergency). The student should email me as soon as possible in this type of situations.