

TRENDS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

PSY 501 (Fall, 2020)

Coordinator: **Olesya Blazhenkova**

Office hour: By appointment

Instructors:

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Class Time and Venue:

Monday 14:40 am - 17:30 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to survey cutting-edge research in psychological sciences. Faculty members take turns in discussing with students' research articles in their area of expertise that reflect current trends, novel research directions, and hot debates in psychological sciences — including social, developmental, and cognitive psychology as well as neuroscience.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to: (a) Demonstrate understanding of recent trends in diverse fields of psychology; (b) Understand the a variety of contemporary research approaches and methods implemented in diverse fields of psychology ; (c) Critically examine theories and empirical findings across subfields of psychology; (d) Discuss the ways that psychological theories are used to assess, predict, or change human behavior and how psychology is applied to influence the lives of humans; (e) Make a research-related presentation.

STRUCTURE

The lectures are delivered by different instructors each week. You will see all psychology faculty members from the psychology program and get a chance to learn and discuss contemporary research in their areas of expertise. This course structure provides a unique opportunity to learn about recent trends and 'hot' topics in different psychology domains from the researchers who specialize in diverse research areas. It also gives the opportunity for students to learn about the psychology instructors and to plan the desired future psychology courses accordingly. You are expected to actively participate in the discussions, and at the end of the semester you will get a chance to give your own research-related presentation as well as to listen to other presentations.

EVALUATION

Thought papers: Thought papers are expected each week before each lecture when the new topic is discussed (total 11). Your works should be criticizing the papers and/or proposing future research directions (the expectations for the specific topic may be specified by the instructor). You should **submit your thought papers ahead of time, by Sunday the latest**. Each of them will be graded by the instructor who is teaching a particular week's topic and is an expert in this field.

Presentation: All students are expected to give one 15 min presentation in the last week of this course. You must present an empirical project you are working on – this can be anything you are involved in your lab. It does not have to be finished or fully designed. You can introduce what you are working on, tell us about your progress, and get feedback from us. All psychology faculty and graduate students will attend this meeting. It will be also a way of celebrating the end of the semester:)

Discussion questions: Please, submit the discussion question(s) to SU Course **before each class, by Sunday the latest** (starting from week 2). These questions should be based on the literature.

Attendance: Attendance is critical for this course. There are no attendance points that will be counted towards your grade, however, **missing 2 classes** w/o considerable reason and official excuse (e.g., health report) means that you **fail this course**.

OVERALL GRADE BREAKDOWN

Thought papers* 8*11= 88%

** The lowest grade from 1 thought paper will be dropped.*

Presentation 10%

Preparing discussion questions 2%

All grades are calculated on a numerical basis and converted to a letter grade scale at the end of the semester. There are no "extra credit" assignments offered at the end of the semester to improve your grade.

Research Participation (up to 4 bonus points = 8 Sona research points):

Students can optionally serve as participants in research that is run by Sabanci University researchers. By participating in research, you can get extra points. For this course, you will be able to earn up to 4 bonus points (1 research point equals ~ 30 minutes of research participation). Eight research points (8PRs) will be converted to 4 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: Sabanci University Experiment Credits System (Sona).

GRADING SCALE

Highest	Lowest	Letter
100.00 %	93.00 %	A
92.99 %	90.00 %	A-
89.99 %	87.00 %	B+
86.99 %	83.00 %	B
82.99 %	80.00 %	B-
79.99 %	77.00 %	C+
76.99 %	73.00 %	C
72.99 %	70.00 %	C-
69.99 %	67.00 %	D+
66.99 %	60.00 %	D
59.99 %	0.00 %	F

READING MATERIALS

Weakly readings will include selected papers (approximately two, but this may vary depending on the instructor, complexity, and length of papers) will be posted on SU Course before each lecture. You are expected to read all the materials, write a thought paper, and submit discussion questions **before the class**.

Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Sabancı University Code of Academic Integrity. There will be zero tolerance for cheating. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit **must be the student's own work**.

SCHEDULE

WEEK	WEEK OF	TOPIC	LECTURER
1	5 October	Introduction, getting to know each other	O. Blazhenkova E. Günseli
2	12 October	Mind over body: The search for a stronger understanding of the biological mind	N. Alp
3	19 October	What are the chances of that happening?: Delusional risk estimation in healthy vs. not-so-healthy individuals	R. Booth
4	26 October	Feels like continuous: rhythmic sampling in perception	E. Günseli
5	2 November	Why is it so hard to decide? Judgment and decision-making in everyday life	G. Günaydın
6	9 November	Do the developmental and social psychology traditions in attachment research converge?	N. Sümer
7	16 November	Tried but Failed? The Curious Case of Relationship Interventions	E. Selçuk
8	23 November	Imagery variability and extreme forms: aphantasia and hyperphantasia	O. Blazhenkova
9	30 November	(Mis)remembrance of the Things Past: Cultural, Social and Clinical Psychological Approaches to Autobiographical Memory	C. Aydın
10	7 December	Collective narcissism: The dark side of ingroup love	Ç. Bağcı
11	14 December	Robots and the mind: Introduction to human-robot interaction for psychologists	J. Kanero
12	21 December	Relationships during the Covid-19 pandemic	A. Buyukcan Tetik
13	28 December	<i>Presentation preparation (no class)</i>	
14	4 January <i>Extended meeting</i>	PRESENTATIONS	all

We reserve the right to modify the content and timing of scheduled topics, readings, and assignments as needed. Changes will be posted on SU COURSE.