

PSY 411/511 – Cognition, Emotion, and Psychopathology

Course Syllabus – Fall Semester 2020 *Updated*

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Synchronous Class Hours: Wed 16:40-17:30, Thu 13:40-15:30

Welcome! This course examines how cognitive theory and methods can be used to understand emotions, and emotion-related disorders. Our focus will be on examining up-to-date literature, to understand relationships between what have traditionally been categorised as ‘cognitive processes’ and feelings, and how separable these really are. We will also look at differences between ‘hot’ and ‘cold’ cognition, and examine instances where cognition and emotion seem to work against each other, and instances where they seem to work together for our benefit. We will also think about how cognitive processes help us understand the causes, maintenance, and treatment of anxiety, depression, and related disorders.

This is an advanced(ish) seminar course. This means the classes will be led by you: each class, students will present that week’s articles and lead discussion; I will simply be guiding the discussions in different directions where necessary. There are no exams; you will make presentations, and prepare an extended essay. There are no real prerequisites to this course: if you’ve taken Emotion, Cognitive Processes, or Abnormal Psychology that will be helpful, but if you haven’t, you’ll be ok.

Schedule:

Week 1 – Simple phobias

Week 2 – Worry

Week 3 – Rumination

Week 4 – Attentional bias (no live classes)

Week 5 – Interpretation bias

Week 6 – Attribution bias

Week 7 – Executive control

Week 8 – PTSD

Week 9 – Discrimination and safety learning

Week 10 – Autobiographical memory

Week 11 – Probability and cost

Week 12 – Decision making and essay-writing

Week 13 – Imagery 1

Week 14 – Imagery 2 and essay-writing

Assessment (PSY411 – Undergraduates, Lisans Öğrencileri)

There are three ways to earn points: a presentation, an extended essay, and class attendance.

You can also earn bonus points by participating in staff research studies – these bonus points are called *Research Points*. I shall use the standard Sabanci University grade catalogue, you can find a copy of this on the syllabus page of our SUCourse.

Presentation and discussion (30%) – Each class will consist of an article presentation, and a led discussion. It will be your responsibility to present one article during the course, for about 10-15 minutes, and then lead class discussion for the rest of that class hour. Presentations will be allocated during class, and will be finalised after add/drop.

Extended essay exam (60%) – By the end of the course, you will write an extended essay (3000-5000 words), summarising the key theories and findings for one of the weekly topics we addressed on the course. The deadline is 17:00, Friday 22nd January. I will share full instructions with you during the course.

This assignment is treated as a take-home exam. *Plagiarism, no matter how limited and no matter the intention, will result in automatic failure of the course.*

Attendance (10%) – Your attendance is mandatory; the success of the discussions depends on having a reasonable number of students participating. You will therefore receive points based on your attendance.

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 3 Research Points (1 Point equals up to 30 minutes of research participation). These 3 Research Points will be converted to 3 points added to your overall total at the end of the semester.

You will be able to sign up for the experiments and get your research participation credits through the online Sona system at <http://sabanciuniv.sona-systems.com>. Please carefully read the Guide for Students: Sabanci University Research Points System (Sona), available on our SUCourse's 'Syllabus' page.

Assessment (PSY511 – Masters Students, Yüksek Lisans Öğrencileri)

There are three ways to earn points: two presentations and an extended essay. I shall use the standard Sabanci University grade catalogue, you can find a copy of this on the syllabus page of our SUCourse.

Presentation and discussion (20% each) – Each class will consist of an article presentation, and a led discussion. It will be your responsibility to present one article during the course, for about 10-15 minutes, and then lead class discussion for the rest of that class hour. Presentations will be allocated during class, and will be finalised after add/drop. Needless to say, I expect masters students' presentations to be of a noticeably higher standard than the undergraduates' presentations.

Extended essay exam (60%) – By the end of the course, you will write an extended essay (5000-6000 words), discussing the possible connections and relationships between two of the topics we have discussed on the course. The deadline is 17:00, Friday 22nd January. I will share full instructions with you during the course.

This assignment is treated as a take-home exam. *Plagiarism, no matter how limited and no matter the intention, will result in automatic failure of the course.*