

Sabancı University
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
PSY 501: Trends in Psychological Sciences
Fall 2021

Course Description: PSY 501 is a graduate seminar designed to provide students with background in contemporary topics across different areas of psychology and related disciplines. We designed this seminar with three aims in mind. First, complementing other graduate seminars in our program focusing on providing specialization and academic depth, PSY 501 aims to build academic breadth. Second, we want all of you to get acquainted to ongoing research across different labs in our program. Third, this course is for us faculty too 😊 We would like to get to know you and exchange ideas with our new colleagues-in-training on topics that we think currently shape our field.

Meetings: Tuesdays 12:40-15:30. Depending on availability of faculty due to pandemic conditions, meetings will be either in-person (at FASS G052) or online. Faculty members will take turns in moderating discussions on current trends, advances, debates, and research directions in their field of expertise.

Required Readings: Faculty members will upload assigned readings a week before each meeting.

Thought Papers: You will submit a thought paper each week based on the week's assigned reading. Please upload your papers by Monday noon before each meeting. We expect your papers to provide a critical evaluation of the assigned readings. Faculty may provide additional guidelines and expectations specific to their week.

End-of-semester Presentations: You will give a short presentation (7-8 min talk + 2-3 min Q & A) at the end of the semester. Usually, students present a project they work on in their lab. The project does not have to be finished. You can present up-to whatever stage you're in (even a vague study idea is totally fine). You will receive full grade from this activity as long as you present. The main purpose of this presentation is to help you experience and internalize the research atmosphere characterizing our program as soon as you join us. It is also a nice way of celebrating the completion of your first semester as a graduate researcher. Program faculty will also join the presentations.

Course Assessment:

Thought papers: 8% each (80% total)

Submitting discussion questions: 1% each (10% total)

End-of-semester presentation: 10%

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	100-90	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 Integrity: Every student is expected to abide by the Sabancı University Academic Integrity Statement. Please see <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement>

Tentative Course Outline

Please note that the emphasis is on tentative. Faculty may change their topic. Make sure to check SUCourse for the most up-to-date information about each meeting.

Week 1 (September 28th): Introductions and course overview (Emre Selçuk)

Week 2 (October 5th): Why is it so hard to decide? Judgment and decision-making in everyday life (Gül Günaydın)

Week 3 (October 12th): Recent trends and debates in attachment theory (Nebi Sümer)

Week 4 (October 19th): Tried but Failed? The Curious Case of Relationship Interventions (Emre Selçuk)

Week 5 (October 26th): Collective narcissism: The dark side of ingroup love (Çiğdem Bağcı)

Week 6 (November 2nd): Relationships during the Covid-19 pandemic (Asuman Büyükcan Tetik)

Week 7 (November 9th): Robots and the mind: Introduction to human-robot interaction for psychologists (Junko Kanero)

Week 8 (November 16th): Remembrance of the Things Past: Autobiographical/Event Memory (Çağla Aydın)

Week 9 (November 23rd): What are the chances of that happening? Delusional risk estimation in healthy vs. not- so-healthy individuals (Robert Booth)

Week 10 (November 30th): Why do we remember our past as discrete events even though we experience the world continuously? (Eren Günseli)

Week 11 (December 7th): Mind over body: The search for a stronger understanding of the biological mind (Nihan Alp)

Week 12 (December 14th): Professional Development I: Graduate school & academic career (Emre Selçuk)

Week 13 (December 21st): Professional Development II: Navigating the world of publishing (Emre Selçuk)

Week 14 (December 28th): End-of-semester presentations