

Module Details for SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Historic Record

Module Code	PSU12060
Module Name	SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
Module Short Title	None
ECTS weighting	5
Semester/term taught	Hilary Term
Contact Hours and Indicative Student Workload	One semester: 22 lectures; 103 hours independent study
Module Coordinator/Owner	Lecturer and Module Co-ordinator: Dr. Frédérique Vallières
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · identify the main classical and contemporary themes and research domains of social psychology [PO1,2,3,4]; · explain social psychological models and theories used to describe and theorise about the social world [PO1&2]; · critically evaluate social psychological theories and positions [PO4]; · evaluate different types of social psychological research [PO1&2];
Module Learning Aims	<p>This module is designed to introduce students to the field of social psychology and the principles underlying group and individual interaction. It will present the historical and philosophical roots of social psychology in the context of the current state of the discipline. Students will be acquainted with debates and tensions between different schools within social psychology and will be presented with critiques of the discipline. The module aims to present the richness, complexity and variety of human social behaviour and the discipline that studies it in a conceptually integrated way.</p>
Module Content	<p>Social Psychology as a discipline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defining Social Psychology 2. A short history of Social Psychology 3. Experimental vs. Critical approaches 4. Evidence: Methods of Enquiry <p>Evaluating our social world:</p>

5. The concept of Attitude
6. Attitude Change

Perceiving social objects:

7. Constructing the Self
8. Social Perception and Attribution
9. Social Cognition

Understanding our place within the group:

10. Social identity
11. Social influence
12. Social interaction
13. Intergroup relations - Group processes
14. Prejudice and out-group perception

Interacting with others:

15. Aggression
16. Altruism-prosocial behaviour
17. Interpersonal attraction

Broader perspectives in Social Psychology:

18. Language & communication in Social Psychology
19. Social neuroscience
20. Evolutionary Social Psychology
21. Culture in Social Psychology
22. Social Psychology in action

Recommended Reading List

Sutton, R. & Douglas, K. (2013) *Social Psychology*. London: Palgrave Macmillan

Supplementary texts

For classical readings:

Hewstone, M., Manstead, A.S.R. & Stroebe, W. (1997) (Eds.). *The Blackwell Reader in Social Psychology*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Lesko, W. A. (2008). [Readings in Social Psychology: General, Classic, and Contemporary Selections](#) (7th ed.). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

For detailed overviews of main topics:

Gilbert, D.T., Fiske, S.T., & Lindzey, G. (2010). (Eds.). *The Handbook of Social Psychology*. (5th Ed.). NY: Wiley.

Advanced/Critical Readings [Reference]:

Chadee, D. (2011). (Ed.). *Theories in Social Psychology*. London: Wiley-Blackwell.

Gergen, K.J. (2009). *An Invitation to Social Construction*. (2nd Ed.). London: Sage.

Rogers, W.S. (2011). *Social Psychology: Experimental and Critical Approaches*. McGraw-Hill.

Tuffin, K. (2005) *Understanding Critical Social Psychology*. London: Sage.

Websites:

<http://www.socialpsychology.org/>

http://www.bps.org.uk/socpsy/socpsy_home.cfm

Module Pre-requisite	None
Module Co Requisite	None
Assessment Details@I-MOD-ASSM	TBC
Module Website	
Module approval date	
Approved By	
Academic Start Year	2014-2015
Academic Year of Data	2024/25