



## Social Psychology PSY 255a & PSY 255b

### Course Description

This course is designed to offer a comprehensive view of Social Psychology and its most important phenomena, examining them from theoretical basis as well as in our daily lives. To combine these two perspectives in our classes we will complement the theoretical dimension with materials such as films, scientific articles, conferences or project presentations.

### Course Goals and Methodology

In general, this course addresses the following learning objectives:

- Understand what social psychology consists of, and why it is useful
- Understand the general dynamics of behavioural and cognitive tendencies connected to social processes
- The most important goal is to enable you to bring the theory you learn into concrete use, facilitating your understanding of everyday phenomena from the perspective of social psychology, and granting you a different view on daily life.

Inspired by recent contributions in the field of educational psychology, this course will promote a type of learning based on a practical approach to theoretical contents. Stemming from this, classes will combine lecturing with presentations in which students will present real-life examples, explaining and discussing them in class. Discussions and presentations will be essential, as well as student's participation in them, as they provide students with feedback and assure correct understanding.

### Learning Objectives

We will tackle Social Psychology as the scientific study of how people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others.

Taking off from this definition, this course sets the following learning objectives:

You will be able to define what characterizes Social Psychology as a discipline, i.e. its methodologies, and its applicability.

You will learn about some of its most relevant phenomena, becoming able to understand their dynamics

You will be able to recognize these phenomena in real life elements such as short films, music clips, films, and TV programs, among other options.

You will be able to use theoretical notions to explain these elements, applying what you learn to the reality of your daily life and to yourself.

You will become familiar with an accurate and professional vocabulary that will permit you to properly discuss social phenomena.

### Required Texts

Social Psychology, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (2008). Bordens, K.S., Horowitz, I.A. Freeload Press, ISBN 1-930789-04-1 (material available online).

### General Course Policies

Please do not hesitate to ask about anything that may not be clear to you. You can always ask me in class (or either after, or before), or just pop by my office during office hours. In order to facilitate communication and make it more efficient, please try to avoid emails. Use of mobile telephones during class is not allowed. The use of computers and tablets will be strictly limited to learning purposes. The use of social networks during class is not allowed.

### Course Requirements and Grading

Students will be evaluated on their ability to articulate and critically apply the terms, concepts and theories from class and readings verbally, during class discussions, as well as in writing, on exams and in written assignments. The final grade for the course is comprised of the following:

Participation	25%
Research project	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

**Participation (25%):** To actively engage in discussions and learn while being in class you need to prepare yourself by reading the contents due for each session. Class presentations will be provided ahead of lessons to guide your reading. Contributing to the discussions and to the presentations of examples with your views and your questions will significantly benefit your learning process, as it favors the assimilation of theoretical notions. Active participation will also facilitate preparation for the exam (as active reading is already learning), and for the work on the research project (as there you can apply thoughts stemming from class discussions).

There are two types of grades regarding participation:

**In-class participation (10%):** This refers to regular participation in class discussions with illustrations of theoretical notions with examples, and contributing with your views and questions to debates.

When discussing, students will be expected to listen attentively to others' views, respectfully express their own and make meaningful and active contributions to class discussions and lectures.

**Presentations of examples (15%):** Each thematic unit starts with lecturing sessions devoted to explain a selection of theoretical contents. In the last session of each unit (except in the first one) students will present examples connected to these contents, explaining and discussing them with the class. These presentations will foster active learning, as you need the appropriate theory to find examples and discuss them. Additionally, they are meant to create a solid base of knowledge, assuring your understanding with guided discussions and feedback provided when necessary. There are five units, each of which will count up to 3% (summing up a maximum of 15%). Please check dates in the schedule below.

**Research Project (25%):** In this project students will work in groups to explore in depth an object of study selected by them or proposed by the professor. This research provides students the opportunity to articulate and apply key terms and concepts from the course, and to use them to discuss topics in which they are interested.

This project includes:

**Essay (15%):** In your research essay you will select theoretical concepts, case studies, an example from real life, or a topic in which interests you. The objective here is to “use” theory to understand reality, and to delve deeper into those theoretical notions that you find interesting.

**Format:** Research essays will be 5 pages in length, 1.5 spaced, with 12pt Garamond font. Essays should contain a Bibliography of academic source materials, using APA style.

**Keep in mind:** Essays will be evaluated by the student’s ability to critically apply terms and concepts from the course, and also by the tenets and principles of formal academic writing.

**Presentation (10%):** During the last classes these essays will be presented and discussed in class. This will allow us to wrap up our course with sessions in which we will revise theoretical contents connected to the topics explored in your research essays, discussing previous materials and their use.

**Midterm and Final Exams (25 % each):** Exams will include a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and short essay questions. Students must demonstrate that they have mastered the theories, concepts and terms from lecture, class discussions, videos and readings. A pre-test exam is scheduled before the mid-term to get familiar with the format (we will correct it in class, and check possible doubts).

Spanish grades and their equivalences:

Spanish grades	10	9,9	9,4	8,9	8,4	7,9	7,4	6,9	6,4	5,9	5,4	4,9
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		9,5	9	8,5	8	7,5	7	6,5	6	5,5	5	0
USA	A	A	A-	B+	B	B	B-	C+	C	C	C-	F
ECTS	A	B	B	C	C	C	C	D	D	E	E	F

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Attendance is mandatory. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the final grade. Students with more than 2 such absences may not challenge the final grade received. Punctuality is required.

If you miss class due to medical reasons, please do not forget to request a note from the doctor to justify your absence.

### **Missed or Late Work**

If you fail to participate in class on a regular basis, or if you miss assignments (e.g. essays, class presentations, or exams) your final grade will be affected (as you will not be able to sum up the grades of missed activities). Please keep this in mind.

### Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Pablo de Olavide University. Cheating on exams and plagiarism (which includes copying from the internet) are clear violations of academic honesty. A student is guilty of plagiarism when he or she presents another person's intellectual property as his or her own. The penalty for plagiarism and cheating is a failing grade for the assignment/exam and a failing grade for the course. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly (using footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography).

### Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that requires special academic accommodation, please speak to your professor within the first three (3) weeks of the semester in order to discuss any adjustments. It is the student's responsibility to provide the International Center with documentation confirming the disability and the accommodations required (if you have provided this to your study abroad organization, they have most likely informed the International Center already but please confirm).

### Behavior Policy

Students are expected to show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner at all times. A student's attitude in class may influence his/her participation grade. The professor has a right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is unruly or appears intoxicated. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, that day will count as an absence regardless of how long the student has been in class.

### Class Schedule

Session	Topic	
	<b>Course presentation</b>	
	<b>1: Introduction to Social Psychology</b>	What is Social Psychology? How does it explain human behavior? How does it study it? In this chapter we will take off from these questions to introduce Social Psychology as a field, having a look at its methodological possibilities.
	<b>2. Social-Self</b>	What is the self? And how do we know our selves? To tackle these two questions we will revise the contributions of the most relevant theories in the field of Self-Studies.
	<b>Social-Self</b>	
	<b>Social-Self</b>	This class may include some students' presentations of examples
	<b>Social-Self</b>	Students presentations of examples
	<b>3. Social Perception</b>	How are our impressions formed? How do first impressions work? Do we always

		perceive the others consciously? Do we control how we process information? Here we will explore what influences (not always consciously) our perceptions. We will discuss how we “read” situations, people, elaborating impressions that reach our behaviors and our emotions.
	<b>Social Perception</b>	This class may include some students' presentations of examples
	<b>Social Perception</b>	Students presentations of examples
	<b>Pre-exam</b>	Exercise to self-check your level of learning and to get familiar with the exam format
	<b>Mid-term exam</b>	
	<b>Class to get started with project topic, and structure</b>	
	<b>4. Prejudice and Discrimination</b>	When considering prejudice we come across two other interrelated concepts: Stereotypes and discriminations. Taken together these three make up a triad of processes that contribute to negative positions, emotions, and behaviors directed at members of certain social groups. Here we will look into the definitions of these concepts and into their dynamics
	<b>Prejudice and Discrimination</b>	This class may include some students' presentations of examples
	<b>Prejudice and Discrimination</b>	Students' presentations of examples
	<b>5. Close Relations</b>	What is love and how do we feel attracted to others? In this section, we explore these and more questions connected with love, need of affiliation and intimacy.
	<b>Close Relations</b>	
	<b>Close Relations</b>	This class may include some students' presentations of examples
	<b>Close Relations</b>	Students' presentations of examples
	<b>6. Aggression</b>	
	<b>Aggression</b>	Students' presentations of examples
	<b>Project presentations 1</b>	

	<b>Project presentations 2</b>	
	<b>Project presentations 3</b>	
	<b>Project presentations 4</b>	
	<b>Project presentations 5</b>	
	<b>Finals Week</b>	

**CALENDER:**

Deadline for research essay: you need to hand it one day after your presentation: If you present on Monday, it needs to be sent before Wednesday, and if you present on Wednesday, it needs to be sent before Friday.

Midterm Exam

Presentations (readers and focus essay): to be scheduled in class

Final Exam

Holidays:

Holy Week

Seville's April Fair

This syllabus is subject to change