

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Prague

Course Title: Social Psychology

Course Code: PR/PSYC 365

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Psychology / Sociology

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None



Description

Social psychology is the study of human interactions within groups and how groups behave and the effect groups have on the individual psyche. It focuses on the factors of what makes a society and a culture, i.e. conformity and various norms that are part of the human experience. For foreign students coming to study in the Czech Republic studying social psychology with an emphasis on Czech culture and specifically the transition from a dictatorial communist system to a liberal “western” style republic is a unique experience for cultural enrichment as well as understanding the social and historical context.

The course will give an introduction to the field and concepts of social psychology as well as putting these concepts in the Czech context and with a broader cultural understanding. Social psychology covers a wide range of topics to allow students to find a deeper interest in the field and initiate some insight and awareness in one's own life.

Objectives

During this course, students:

- Are introduced to all the major concepts of social psychology
- Cover some of the most famous social psychology experiments that have shed light into human behavior and human nature
- Enhance cultural understanding
- Gain an understanding of contemporary theories and research in social psychology
- Become aware of many of the sociological and historical influences on the Czech population to lessen some of the possible culture shock
- Identify psychological challenges that arise from cultural differences,
- Explore cultural self-awareness, other culture awareness and the dynamics between them,
- Enhance adaptability to new cultural situations
- Increase understanding of what tyranny is, the importance of human rights and democracy for the good of humanity.
- Inspire positive and helpful ways to better oneself and society
- Will have a dynamic learning environment with discussions and activities.

Course Requirements

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- Participation: Participation extends beyond mere attendance. It involves active contribution to role plays, cultural activities and discussions
- Power Point presentation: 10-15 minutes oral presentation on chosen topic, using expert literature
- Homework
- Midterm exam
- Final Essay, will be based on themes from the class. Students should show a grasp of the introductory topics of psychology as well as a wider understanding of cultural and social influences in the field
- Students are expected to abide by CET's Attendance Policy

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Participation	20%
Homework	10%
Power Point presentation	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Final essay	30%

Primary Texts

Hogg, M. Vaughan, G. (2010). *Essentials of Social Psychology*. Edinburgh. UK: Pearson Educational Press.

Nier, J. (2012) *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Social Psychology*.

Supplementary Texts

Case studies and readings will be provided.

Havel, Vaclav "The Power of the Powerless" and other essays

Klicperova-Baker, Martina: articles and excerpts

Marlin, Olga: articles on the social unconscious in communist Czechoslovakia and post-communist society

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1 – Introduction to the course: What is social psychology? Social psychology: measurement tools in the field, methods and ethics

Topic 2 – Social thinking; social cognition and everyday social and cultural influences

Topic 3 – Cognitive shortcuts; bias and stereotypes

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Topic 4 – Identity: Individual “I” vs. social “I”; exchanges between cultures and groups

Topic 5 – History and its relationship to the cultural psyche: “the Czech Nation”

Topic 6 – Influence of culture: attitudes and persuasion/social norms and conformity

Topic 7 – Group think, freedom of association in democracy

Topic 8 – Effects of Humanism and the Holocaust on Czech society and the West

Topic 9 – Vaclav Havel and the transition from communism to liberal democracy

Topic 10 – Psychoanalytic interpretations of communism in Czechoslovakia

Topic 11 – Globalization, traditionalism and nostalgia as part of group identity

Topic 12 – Human rights and democracy

Topic 13 – Populism and democracy

Topic 14 – Controversial issues in contemporary Czech society