



Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2018 Summer Program

PSY 14 Social Psychology

Course Outline

Term: June 4 - June 29, 2018

Class Hours: Monday through Friday, 120 minutes each day, 1000-1200

Course Code: PSY 14

Instructor: Prof. Cecilia Cheng

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Email: ceci-cheng@hku.hk

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions.

Course Description:

Social Psychology will provide students with an overview of the theoretical perspectives, research methods, empirical findings, and everyday applications of Social Psychology, aiming to advance our understanding of how individuals influence, and are influenced by, people in the social environment.

Prerequisites

To be qualified to take this course, students must have successfully completed Introduction to Psychology.

Course Objectives:



The overarching course goal is to allow students to reach a comprehensive understanding of the issues and methods in Social Psychology, in order to have a better understanding of themselves and others. In the process of reaching this goal, our objectives are that each student will:

- Understand prevailing theories and research findings on how individuals are influenced by and influence their social environment
- Apply social psychological theories and constructs in explaining and predicting social behavior
- Develop critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate information and make thoughtful decisions as individuals and members of the society
- Analyze contemporary social issues through the application of fundamental social psychology principles.

Required Textbooks

Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., Akert, R. M., & Sommers, S.R. (2016). *Social Psychology* (9th edition). New York, NY: Pearson.

Grading & Evaluation:

Assignments (20%) – Midterm exam (30%) – Final exam (50%)

Intermediary assignments will be posted throughout the course, to help students assess their needs and to ensure that all the important topics are well understood. Assignments are also an opportunity for students to ask questions concerning unclear notions, as the main objective is not to grade but to help everyone reach an optimal level of comprehension.

Midterm and final exams will target all topics previously covered in class. Lecture notes and assignments are important to succeed in the midterm and final exams, yet some questions will be specifically intended to stimulate students' critical thinking.

Attendance is extremely important for success in this class. It is expected that each student will commit fully to the assignments and readings required. Exams will cover the required texts as well as material presented or discussed in class.



Course Schedule:

Week 1:

Session 1.1: Introduction – Syllabus (Chapter 1)

Session 1.2: Methodology (Chapter 2)

Session 1.3: Social Cognition (Chapter 3)

Session 1.4: Social Perception (Chapter 4)

Week 2:

Session 2.1: The Self (Chapter 5)

Session 2.2: Need to Justify Our Actions (Chapter 6)

Session 2.3: Review of the content covered

Session 2.4: Midterm examination (Chapters 1,2,3,4,5,6)

Week 3:

Session 3.1: Attitudes and Attitude Change (Chapter 7)

Session 3.2: Conformity (Chapter 8)

Session 3.3: Group Processes (Chapter 9)

Session 3.4: Interpersonal Attraction (Chapter 10)

Week 4:

Session 4.1: Prosocial Behavior (Chapter 11)

Session 4.2: Aggression (Chapter 12)

Session 4.3: Review of the content covered

Session 4.4: Final examination (Chapters 7,8,9,10,11,12)

**** This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class**