

Tel Aviv University
Gershon Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences
The Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Social Psychology
Issues on cross cultural research

B.A | M.A Program
Semester B, 2020
Course number 1041.3595.01

Dr. Hugo Simkin

Course date: Tuesday, 16:00-18:00 Room 422

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Course description

The course surveys key topics in social psychology within a cross-cultural perspective. By combining psychology and sociology, we will learn how to use contemporary psychological theories to interpret and evaluate empirical research, and to apply them to everyday life. The course has a strong focus on promoting cross-cultural research connecting students from Tel Aviv University and the University of Buenos Aires through an online learning platform.

Topics to be covered include: historical, philosophical and epistemological perspectives in Social Psychology, attitude formation, conformity and group influence, stereotypes, prejudice and intergroup relations, social identity theory, self, self-esteem and self-concept, prosocial behavior and intimate relationships.

Course format and requirements

This course is a 2-credit course, which means that students are expected to do at least 39 hours of course-related work. Students will have access to a virtual campus through the URL <http://campus.sociales.uba.ar/login/index.php>, where they can find resources and materials. Within the campus, we seek to offer opportunities for discussion that enrich the experience of the students as they intensify the reading of the bibliography, discuss in study groups and consult assistant teachers and professors. Theoretical contents will be accessible there in an audiovisual format. Front classes –which in Tel Aviv University will take place on Tuesdays March 17th, 24th, 31th and April 21th between 16:00 and 18:00- will focus on conducting cross-cultural research jointly among students of the Tel Aviv University and the University of Buenos Aires. The rest of the course -until the end of the semester in June 26th- will be taught online. Students from both universities will have an opportunity to interact live with each other and with

professors, through chat rooms and/or video conferences at their convenience. A high speed internet connection, microphone and speakers will be needed to be able to watch videos and participate in online activities.

Regarding the course requirements, please note:

1. Attending front classes is mandatory. Missing more than 2 front classes will cancel immediately the student's participation in the course.
2. Final exam: submission of a cross cultural home assignment co-authored with students from the University of Buenos Aires at the end of the semester. Students are free to choose any research topic on social psychology; migration related topics are encouraged.
3. Deadline to submit the assignment is August 9th 2020.

The course is lectured in English. International students, bachelor students from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the School of Psychological Sciences and master students from the M.A. in Global Migration and Policy (TAU) are welcomed in the class.

Composition of course grade

Home assignment: 70%

Participation in class: 10%

Participation in online campus: 20%

Course subjects and reading material

1. Historical, philosophical and epistemological perspectives in Social Psychology

Required reading:

- Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H. R. (2014). *Social Psychology* (9th ed.). Wadsworth: Cengage Learning. Chapter 1: What Is Social Psychology?
- Gough, B. (Ed.). (2017). *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Social Psychology*. London: Palgrave MacMillan. Chapter 1: Critical Social Psychologies: Mapping the Terrain

2. Attitudes: attitude formation, attitude change, and behavior

Required reading:

- Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H. R. (2014). *Social Psychology* (9th ed.). Wadsworth: Cengage Learning. Chapter 6: Attitudes
- Gough, B. (Ed.). (2017). *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Social Psychology*. London: Palgrave MacMillan. Chapter 14: Attitudes and Attributions

3. Conformity and group influence

Required reading:

- Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H. R. (2014). *Social Psychology* (9th ed.). Wadsworth: Cengage Learning. Chapter 7: Conformity.
- Gough, B. (Ed.). (2017). *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Social Psychology*. London: Palgrave MacMillan. Chapter 15: Social Influence

4. Stereotypes, prejudice and intergroup relations

Required reading:

- Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H. R. (2014). *Social Psychology* (9th ed.). Wadsworth: Cengage Learning. Chapter 5: Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination
- Gough, B. (Ed.). (2017). *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Social Psychology*. London: Palgrave MacMillan. Chapter 16: Prejudice

5. Social identity theory, self, self-esteem and self-concept

Required reading:

- Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H. R. (2014). *Social Psychology* (9th ed.). Wadsworth: Cengage Learning. Chapter 3: The Social Self.
- Gough, B. (Ed.). (2017). *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Social Psychology*. London: Palgrave MacMillan. Chapter 19: The Self

6. Prosocial behavior

Required reading:

- Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H. R. (2014). *Social Psychology* (9th ed.). Wadsworth: Cengage Learning. Chapter 10: Helping Others
- Gough, B. (Ed.). (2017). *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Social Psychology*. London: Palgrave MacMillan. Chapter 17: Prosocial Behavior

7. Attraction and close relationships

Required reading:

- Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Markus, H. R. (2014). *Social Psychology* (9th ed.). Wadsworth: Cengage Learning. Chapter 9: Attraction and Close Relationships
- Gough, B. (Ed.). (2017). *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Social Psychology*. London: Palgrave MacMillan. Chapter 18: Relationships: From Social Cognition to Critical Social