

**American University of Beirut  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Psychology**

**PSYC 212: Introduction to Social Psychology**



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Office hours- : 12.30-2pm TTh**

## **1. Course Learning Outcomes**

The aims of the course include introducing students to the field of social psychology, its key concepts and methodologies. Furthermore, students will be developing their presentation, essay writing and research skills.

Consequently, by the end of this course you should:

- 1- Have acquired a basic but rigorous grounding in the areas of social psychological knowledge (5a), its relation to social and natural sciences (1a, 1b), and its focus on context to understand social and interpersonal behavior (2a, 2b and 2c).
- 2- Have developed your skills in forming coherent and logical arguments, being open to and able to evaluate competing viewpoints and theoretical positions, demonstrating independence of thought and, in particular, respecting and being able to evaluate empirical evidence (3d, 3e).
- 3- Have experience of preparing and delivering PowerPoint presentations of peer reviewed articles (6a).
- 4- Have developed some skills in writing effective academic essays, and the proper use of relevant academic resources (e.g. PsychLit, PsychInfo, library catalogue 6b).

## **2. Resources Available to Students**

The core text that will be used throughout the course is:

Title: An Introduction to Social Psychology – 6<sup>th</sup> edition 2015  
Edited by: Miles Hewstone, Wolfgang Stroebe, & Klaus Jonas  
Publisher: Wiley (BPS)

During the course, we will be covering a selection of chapters and sections from the above text (see detailed schedule below). Because the text is based on mostly Western research, extra time will be devoted to examine cross-cultural findings, especially those that pertain to the Arab region.

The course will not rely solely on the text above. You will be provided with suggested reading lists and some key articles (available online via Moodle). Although the core text is quite helpful, it is the added material (e.g. academic articles, online databases, library research etc.) that will allow you to excel in this course.

### **3. Grading Criteria**

Your final grade in this course will be the result of your grades on the midterm exam, final exam, written assignment, and presentation as presented below:

Exam	Type	percentage
Midterm	80% multiple choice, 20% open ended questions	25%
Final Exam	80% multiple choice, 20% open ended questions	25%
Written Assignment	2000 words essay or 3000 word group project (see Moodle for details on each)	35%
Presentation	Individual presentation	10%
Class participation	Attendance and class participation/MOODLE	5%

Detailed guidelines and grading criteria for essay writing, presentations and group projects are available on Moodle. The criteria are so detailed that marking your written assignment is almost subjectivity proof: by reading them carefully, you will be able to predict the grade you will be getting.

### **4. Course Policy**

Please be aware that AUB regulations related to academic dishonesty are quite clear (see AUB webpage for details). Cheating at exams, plagiarism<sup>1</sup>, presenting work you did not do, violating rules of proper academic conduct and other related matters will be dealt with according to strict AUB recommendations. Academic dishonesty may produce an automatic and irreversible fail.

Furthermore, missing an exam or failing to present on the assigned date will lead to a rescheduling or make up exam **only** if the student provides an adequate AUBMC medical note, or excuse letters that are acceptable by the AUB administration.

Emails and Moodle are core element in our communication: Suggested reading lists, lecture abstracts, seminar outlines and other relevant material will be regularly emailed to you. Consequently, regular access to your email accounts/Moodle are crucial elements if you are to keep up with the developments in this course.

If you have documented special needs and anticipate difficulties with the content or format of the course due to a physical or learning disability, please contact me and/or your academic advisor, as well as the Counseling Center in the Office of Student Affairs (Ext. 3196), as soon as possible to discuss options for accommodations. Those seeking accommodations must submit the Special Needs Support Request Form along with the required documentation.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that submitted essays that suffer plagiarism will lead to an automatic zero and referral to the proper administrative committee. There is a zero tolerance for plagiarism. All students need to be familiar with Turnitin.com.

## 5. Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>General introduction</b>	Syllabus	
<b>1</b>	<b>C1-2: introduction to social psychology and research</b>	Readings and discussions	
<b>2</b>	<b>C5: the self</b> (self-concept, self-esteem, self-presentation, regulation,...)	Readings and discussion	presentations
<b>3</b>	<b>C3 &amp; 4: Social Perception, Attribution, and cognition</b> (Attributions, cognitive biases, social categorization...)	Readings and discussion	presentations
<b>4-5</b>	<b>C14: Prejudice and Intergroup Relations</b> (stereotypes, discrimination, sexism, racism...)	Readings and discussion	presentations
<b>6</b>	<b>C6 &amp; 7: Attitudes &amp; Attitude Change</b> (persuasion by communication ...)	Readings and discussion	presentations
<b>7</b>	<b>C8: Social Influence</b> (conformity, compliance and obedience)	Readings and discussion	Presentations Midterm
<b>8</b>	<b>C11: Attraction and Close Relationships</b> (Love, physical attraction )	Readings and discussion	Presentations
<b>9</b>	<b>C10: Prosocial Behavior</b> (altruism, situational influences...)	Readings and discussion	Deadline for final essay submission
<b>10</b>	<b>C9: Aggression</b> (origins, situational influences, media, intimate...)	Readings and discussion	Presentations
<b>11</b>	<b>C15: Cultural Social Psychology</b>	Readings and discussion	presentations
<b>12</b>	<b>Review sessions</b>	General discussion	Final