

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

Psyc 310: Advanced Social Psychology



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Office hours- TTr 12.30-2pm

1. Course Learning Outcomes

The course aims to provide you with an in-depth view on some core domains of social psychology, its key concepts and where research in the field is at. Of special interest is the cross-cultural validity and universality of the many claims made in mainstream social psychology. Furthermore, students will be developing their presentation, team work, essay writing and research skills.

Consequently, by the end of this course you should:

- 1- Have acquired a firm and rigorous grounding in the areas of social psychological knowledge listed in the course summary.
- 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, being able to evaluate empirical evidence.
- 3- Have excellent skills in searching the literature, including the use of relevant data sources such as PsychLit, library catalogue and the World Wide Web.
- 4- Have developed your skills in writing effective academic essays.
- 5- Have experience of preparing and delivering presentations, including the use of PowerPoint presentations.

2. Resources Available

There is no core text for this course, but the titles listed below will help you have a general perspective on the specialized concepts we will cover. Keep in mind that these sources are “basic”, in that they do not necessarily address the needs of postgraduate students.

3. Grading Criteria

Your final grade in this course will be the result of your grades on the essay, take home exam, presentations, and seminar participation. The distribution follows the table presented below:

	Type	Percentage*
Presentations	1.5 hour presentation + discussion	25%
Seminar participation	Weekly 1 page assignment + discussion participation, attendance etc.	15%
Essay	5000 words in depth essay	40%
Take home final	Take home final exam (Open ended questions)	20%

*Note: these percentages are subject to change

You will be required to present on a one of the topics listed below, and cover core and up to date material on the topic. Grading and presentation requirement details for this 1.5 hour presentation session will be forwarded to you at the start of the academic term. For each class session, there will be main readings for the class as a whole. Your assignment is to do the main readings and then turn in comments on them by the day on which the topic is covered. The comments should include a few sentences summarizing the readings (do not copy-paste the abstracts!), and also your reactions to the readings. These would include the most interesting idea you found in the readings or had about the topic, or an example of something you experienced in Lebanon (or any other Arab country) that is relevant to the topic etc. you may take one “get out of comments free” days without penalty.

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, 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 excuse letters that are acceptable by the AUB administration.

Emails 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 and familiarity with the internet 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.

5. Schedule

please note that the schedule presented below is temporary and changes are likely to be made.

Week	Theme	Topic	Assignments
0		General introduction	
1	General	Introducing social psychology: historical development, milestones and classic experiments	none
2	Social Cognition	self-concept	presentations
3		social self and cognitive biases	presentations
4		Stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination	<u>Deadline for essay outline/draft submission</u>
5	Intergroup Group Processes & dynamics	SIT, SCT	Presentations
6		Polarization, decision making, etc	Presentations
7		Political Psychology (SDO, RWA, CA etc.)	Presentations
9	Culture & Evolutionary Psychology	conceptions of culture, cultural and cross-cultural psychology.	<u>Deadline for final essay submission</u>
10		Measuring cultural dimensions; Arab culture; CCP findings	Presentations;
11		Evolutionary psychology	Presentations
12	General discussion	General discussion	<u>Take home exam</u>
Optional topics		Attitudes and persuasion	
		Interpersonal relations, altruism, aggression	