

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Prague

Course Code / Title: (PR/PSYC 365) Social Psychology in the Czech Context

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

**CET Academic Programs | 1155 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 300 | Washington, DC 20036
www.cetacademicprograms.com | 1.800.225.4262 | cet@cetacademicprograms.com**

Syllabus of Record

- 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 a chosen topic, using scholarly literature, and leading of a follow-up discussion with the classmates
- Peer review of student presentations, and a self-reflective assessment of one's own presentation
- Four written reflections for a class portfolio on personal encounters during the study abroad and the application of the concepts of social psychology discussed in class
- 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

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

Active class participation	20%
Presentation	20%
Peer review of presentations, 4@2%	8%
Self assessment of one's presentation	2%
Written reflections for a class portfolio, 4@5%	20%
Final essay	30%

Readings

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*.

Havel, Vaclav. (1978). 'The Power of the Powerless' Sections I–VIII.

Serran, J. (2013). *Field Guide to the Czech Psyche*. Prague: Divus.

Articles

Aival-Naveh, E., Rothschild-Yakar, L., & Kurman, J. (2019). "Keeping culture in mind: A systematic review and initial conceptualization of mentalizing from a cross-cultural perspective." *Clinical Psychology Science and Practice*, 26, 1-25.

Dixon, J., Durrheim, K., Stevenson, C., Cakal, H. (2016). "From prejudice reduction to collective action: Two psychological models of social change (and how to reconcile them)." In: Sibley, Chris G. and Barlow, Fiona Kate (Eds.) *Cambridge Handbook of the Psychology of Prejudice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 481–499.

Hofstede, G., Hofstede, G.J. & Minkov, M. (2010). "I, we, and they." In G. Hofstede, G.J. Hofstede, & M.Minkov (Eds.) *Cultures and organizations: Software of the mind: Intercultural cooperation and its importance for survival*, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, pp. 89-134.

Hollingworth, C. Baker, L. (2019) "New frontiers: social norms and conformity", *Opinion* 22 May 2019 online: <https://www.research-live.com/article/opinion/new-frontiers-social-norms-and-conformity/id/5054112>

Syllabus of Record

- Klicperova, M., Feierabend, I. K., & Hofstetter, R. (1997). „In the Search for a Post-Communist Syndrome: A Theoretical Framework and Empirical Assessment.” *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 7, 39-52.
- MacLeod, E. L. (2017). “Unraveling the evolution of uniquely human cognition.” *PNAS*, 113 (23), 6348-6354.
- Nicholson, I. (2019). “A Tale of two Methods: Gustave Gilbert, Stanley Milgram, and the ‘Mysterious Nazi Mind’ (1945-1965).” *Qualitative Psychology* 6, 99-115. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/qup0000098>
- Plous, S. (2003). “The psychology of prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination: An overview.” In S. Plous (Ed.), *Understanding prejudice and discrimination*. New York: McGraw-Hill, pp. 3-48. Available online at <http://www.understandingprejudice.org/apa/english/>.
- Potůček, M. (2000). “The Uneasy Birth of Czech Civil Society. *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 11(2), pp. 107 - 121.
- Roubal, Petr. (2003). “Politics of Gymnastics. Mass gymnastic displays under communism in Central and Eastern Europe.” *Body and Society*, 9(2), pp. 1-25.
- Strnad, A., Marek, J. (2014). “Homelessness in the Czech Republic.” In *Housing, Care and Support*, 17(3), 121-130.

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
- 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 – Totalitarian and post-totalitarian Culture
- Topic 11 – Social change, Individual and collective agency
- Topic 12 – Phylogenetic aspects of social behavior

Syllabus of Record

Topic 13 – Human rights and democracy

Topic 14 – Controversial issues in contemporary Czech society