Course title	*Social Psychology*
Course code	Psih1003
Credit points	2
ECTS creditpoints	3
Total Contact Hours	
Date of course confirmation	28/10/2011
Responsible Unit	

Agita Šmitiņa

Course abstract

In the course "Social Psychology" students will get acquainted with theoretical approaches, research methods and resents researches and investigations of Social Psychology.
The goal of course is to give theoretical and practical knowledge about different themes of social psychology- concept of interpersonal communication in different groups and relationships, social cognition process, social influence and aggression, - main functions, components and mechanisms of social perception and interaction and interpersonal communication.
The task of the course is also to analyze different process and decision making process in groups, to deep knowledge about herd behaviour and crowd psychology.
In theoretical part of course students will increase skills to analyze different social processes and gender roles in the society. The seminars focuses on practical exercises of students' communication skills regarding active listening processes, non-verbal and verbal communication processes as well as on the exploration and improvement of different communication styles and giving effective feedback.
The form of studies: lectures, seminars, practical sessions, case studies Study types: research, literature studies, researches overview, research about themes of social psychology.

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:
–demonstrate an overall understanding of an appropriate scholarly discourse- for example about social cognition, social perception, interpersonal communication, social processes in groups etc;
–analyse and evaluate information on the topic of their study;
–understand and explain topics and conceptions related to the course contents;
–demonstrate their knowledge related to the course topics and show systematic and critical understanding of theories acquired during the course and their practical applications;
–analyse cases and key problems related to the main themes of the course;
–demonstrate their ability to elaborate their own work-schedule, plan and complete a piece of independent work
–make simple research of course themes and demonstrate the data
–demonstrate an overall understanding of professional ethic of social psychology; –increase the ability of self-knowledge, team-building and communication skills

Requirements for awarding credit points

–All the independent assignments should be submitted in a timely fashion.
–They should be fulfilled corresponding to the methodological instructions.

–All the independent assignments should have a positive assessment.
–Active participation in seminars and workshops by taking part in discussions and case studies.
–85% attendance of seminars and practical workshops.
–Adherence to the ViA Statement of Academic Ethics
ExaminationWritten examination
Assessment–Independent work – 20%
–Research and presentation – 30%
–Final (examination) work– 50% Positive assessment for the final work (examination) is a prerequisite for positive final course assessment (minimum grade 4)

Course content

–Concept of social psychology, researches and methods, professional ethic in social psychology;
–The history of social psychology, personality in the view of social psychology;
–Social cognition, automatic believing, mechanisms of social perception, stereotypes and attribution;
–Social influence, conformity, obedience to authority, attitudes and attitude change;
–interpersonal communication, functions, components, verbal and non-verbal communications forms. Barriers in communication;
–Group processes, influence in social groups, social facility, social loafing. Group decision and leadership in groups
–Crowd psychology, panic as phenomena in social psychology
–The understanding the process of frustration and aggression, the reasons and effects of aggressive acts. Conflict resolving. –The gender roles and social behaviour

Compulsory reading

1.Aronson E., Wilson T.D., Akert R.M. Social Psychology. New York, 2009
2.Gilovich T; Keltner D., Nisbett R. Social Psychology. Norton&Company, New York, 2006
3.Reņģe V., Sociālā psiholoģija, Rīga, Zvaigzne ABC, 2002.
4.Pļaveniece M., Škuškovnika D. Sociālā psiholoģija pedagogiem. Rīga: RaKa, 2001
5.Omārova S.,Cilvēks dzīvo grupā. Sociālā psiholoģija .Rīga, 1996. 6.Le Bons G., Pūļa psiholoģija. Rēzekne. 1998

Further reading

1.Vorobjovs, A. Sociālās psiholoģija. Teorētiskie pamati. SIA Izglītības soļi, 2002
2.Alcock J.E., Carment D.W, Sadava S.W., A Textbook of Social Psychology., 4th ed. Prentice Hall Allyn, Scarborough, Ontario, 1997
3.Hewstone, W.Stroebe, G.M.Stephenson. Introduction to social psychology. Eds. Blackwell Publishers, 2000.
4.The Sage handbook of Social Psychology / ed. by Michael A. Hogg and Joel Cooper. – London ,Sage, 2003 5.Zimbardo Philip G. The Psychology of Attitude Change and Social Influence / Philip G.Zimbardo, Michael R.Leippe. - New York : McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1991

Periodicals and other sources

1.Journal of Social Psychology.
2.European Journal of Social Psychology
3.Social Behavior and Personality 4.European Journal of Psychology