

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL BEHAVIOR – 2331410
METU 2021-Spring - Course Syllabus

Instructor: Emine Tuna Ulaşan Özgüle, PhD. **Contact:** eo zgule@metu.edu.tr
Class hours: Friday – 09:40-12:30 (the classes will be mostly held during these hours)
Office Hours: there can be zoom or Skype meetings upon request

Course Assistant: Gizem Fındık **Contact:** fgizem@metu.edu.tr

Course materials:

Required reading materials:

Myers, David G. & Twenge, Jean M. (2018). Exploring Social Psychology (8th edition). NY: McGraw Hill.

*****You may find the copy of the book at the library reserve department. There are two copies for your use.

Supplementary reading (Voluntary):

Myers, David G. & Twenge, Jean M. (2013). Social Psychology (11th edition). NY: McGraw Hill.
Aronson; E., Wilson, T. D., Akert, R. M. (2013). Social Psychology (8th edition). Pearson Education, Inc.: USA.

ODTU Class: Students can access the course website via ODTU Class. The syllabus, course announcements, lecture outlines, recordings will be posted there. The Big Blue Button/Zoom program will be used to broadcast the class online mostly during the class hours and the class will also be recorded for your later usage. If it is Big Blue Button program, you may see the scheduled time for the lecture, otherwise I will announce the date and the time for the lecture.

Recordings: I will record the lectures and post the link on ODTU Class after the meetings within a week. Please let me know if you cannot access them. In any case, it is forbidden to share these recordings with others, these are **FOR YOUR PERSONAL USE ONLY**.

Course Description:

This course, “Understanding Social Behavior” is designed to present a general introduction to social psychology for undergraduate students from various departments as an elective course. Students will learn general theories and methods of psychology, basic concepts, and recent research findings in social psychology. The format of the course will include lectures, discussions, and in-class activities.

Course Objectives

- To increase the awareness of and knowledge in what the science of social psychology is, what social psychology refers to, what it deals with, which methods it uses, and major research findings.
- To provide students with a general overview about social psychology and have students relate the topics and theories to social issues or their area of study.

Course requirements:

Attendance + Participation: Attendance is **NOT** mandatory. However, for you to review the material and clarify any misunderstanding, you are going to be completing in-class assignments online. This means that I will randomly give you short-assignments (usually during the last 15 minutes of the class hours through the class page), which consist of multiple choice questions (or yes-no questions) related with the subjects we have covered. You will have one-two for each week (a total of 13+) with a worth of 1 point – Since there are ten weeks available for us to lecture, it means some of them will be after hours. This means that you may miss 3 of them to get a full 10 points attendance. In case that you did not miss any, I

will eliminate the ones you got the lowest points. Also, through the lecture, I may ask you some questions, which I expect you to answer, albeit without any points. This will be another way of reviewing the subjects and get ready for the exams.

*****It is the responsibility of the students to keep track of their attendance and assignments. Any internet related problems will be inadmissible since you should have solved any technical problems by now.

Course Assessment:

Attendance-in-class-assignments: 10%

Midterm 1: 30%

Midterm 2: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Course Evaluation:

- **Exams will be on-line and include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blanks, and short essay questions.**
- The students who miss one of the midterms or the final exams should document officially that they had an acceptable excuse to be eligible to take the make-up exam.
- The make-up will include all the topics in the relevant exam and it will be essay type questions (i.e., not multiple-choice).
- There is *no opportunity for extra credit work.*
- The participation for the SONA research for bonus points (5 bonus points) will be announced. (The foreign students that are native in languages other than Turkish SHOULD NOT participate because the instructions and the questions in the questionnaires are in Turkish and your answers may change the results of the study. Thus they will be given other, easy to do assignments, to be able to get the bonus points like the rest of the class)

Grades:

The following grading scheme is used to assign the final grade for the course.

AA	90-100	CB	75-79.99	DD	60-64.99
BA	85-89.99	CC	70-74.99	FD	50-59.99
BB	80-84.99	DC	65-69.99	FF	0-49.99

Academic Honesty:

The class policy on academic integrity states that violations of academic honesty include:

"The use of somebody else's ideas, viewpoints, findings or works in a paper, project report or a similar document which is presented as part of a course requirement, without proper acknowledgement of the source" and

"To cheat during an exam and to submit any homework, project, report, term paper or thesis which has been prepared by someone else as one's own work, to prepare the same for other persons, to submit someone else's work with or without amendments, and to present in a thesis someone else's ideas or findings without due acknowledgment of the source."

Such acts will be penalized accordingly.

Tentative Course Outline:

Please note that this schedule is only tentative, therefore subject to change.

Week 1	March 15 – 19	Overview of the syllabus
Week 2	March 22 – 26	MOD 1-Doing Social Psychology MOD 2-Did you know it all along?
Week 3	March 29 – Apr 2	MOD 3-Self-Concept: Who am I? MOD 4-Self-serving bias MOD 5-Narcissim and the limits of self-esteem <i>[Oct 29th – National Holiday]</i>
Week 4	Apr 5 – 9	MOD 6-Fundemental Attribution error MOD 7-The powers and perils of intuition
Week 5	Apr 12 – 16	MOD 8-The reasons for unreason MOD 9-Behavior and belief
Week 6	Apr 19 – 23	MIDTERM EXAM 1 – place and time to be announced <i>April 23, Friday – National Holiday</i>
Week 7	Apr 26 – 30	MOD 12-Human nature and cultural diversity MOD 13-Gender, genes, and culture
Week 8	May 3 – 7	MOD 14-How nice people get corrupted MOD 15-Two routes to persuasion
Week 9	May 10 – 14	MOD 16-Indoctrination and inoculation MOD 17-The mere presence of others MOD 18-Many hands make diminished responsibility
Week 10	May 10 – 14	<i>May 13th, Thursday– May 15th, Saturday – Ramadan Holiday</i>
Week 11	May 17 – 21	MIDTERM EXAM 2 - will be held during class hours
Week 12	May 24 – 28	MOD 19-Doing together what we would not do alone MOD 20-How do groups intensify decisions
Week 13	June 7 – 11	MOD 21-Power to the person Prejudice MOD 22-The reach of
Week 14	June 14 – 18	MOD 23-The roots of prejudice
Week 15	June 21 – 25	MOD 24-The nature and nurture of aggression MOD 26-Who likes whom? (if we have time)

[FINAL EXAM PERIOD June 28th – July 10th]