

PSY280 Political psychology and intergroup conflict

Fall 2016

Mondays 17.00-18:30

Room: U43

Study level: Bc. (Undergraduate)

Credits: 3 ECTS

Course is offered to both Masaryk University and exchange students.

Teaching starts on September 26th, 2016.

Course objectives

The purpose of this course is to acquire the basic knowledge of psychological theories and approaches that help to explain politically motivated intergroup conflict, intolerance, and collective action. The course interconnects traditional theories in social and political psychology (social identity, social cognition, socialization) with their recent extensions to the areas of civic identity, civic/political participation of people with minority status, or intolerant online communities. It also emphasizes the applications to current political events in the Czech Republic and other European countries.

Course guarantor and contact person

Dr. Jan Šerek

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Lecturers

Dr. Jan Šerek

Dr. Zuzana Scott

Dr. Hana Macháčková

Course format

Course is conducted in the combined form of lectures and seminars. Active participation of students in lectures and discussions is required. During the semester, students have to submit three assignments and pass a final exam. Students are expected to follow updates in the Information System and check their student e-mail accounts regularly. All required reading materials will be available online in the Information System.

Topics

Intergroup conflict (Šerek)

26. 9. **Theoretical approaches to intergroup conflict**

Lecture

3. 10. **Persistence of intergroup conflict**

Lecture

10. 10. **Symbolic and overt intergroup conflict**

Seminar with reading

Reading: Riek, B. M., Mania, E. W., & Gaertner, S. L. (2006). Intergroup threat and outgroup attitudes: A meta-analytic review. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 10, 336-353.

17. 10. **Extreme forms of intergroup conflict – terrorism and genocide**

Lecture

24. 10. **Reducing, resolving and preventing intergroup conflict**

Lecture

Intolerance online (Macháčková)

31. 10. **Civic life online I**

Lecture

7. 11. **Reading week**

No teaching

14. 11. **Civic life online II**

Lecture

21. 11. **Civic expressions in online environment: What is different?**

Seminar with reading

Reading: Douglas, K. M. (2007). Psychology, discrimination and hate groups online. In A. N. Joinson, K. McKenna, T. Postmes, & U.-D. Reips (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of Internet psychology* (pp. 155-164). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Minority citizens (Scott)

28. 11. **Minority civic participation: Theories and concepts**

Lecture

5. 12. **Reducing prejudice against minority citizens**

Lecture

12. 12. **Perceived discrimination as hindering or fostering civic participation?**

Seminar with reading

Reading: Chrysochoou, X., & Lyons, E. (2011). Perceptions of (in)compatibility between identities and participation in the national polity of people belonging to ethnic minorities. In A. Azzi, X. Chrysochoou, B. Klandermans, & B. Simon (Eds.), *Identity and participation in culturally diverse societies* (69–88). Chichester, United Kingdom: Wiley-Blackwell.

Evaluation and grading

The final grade depends on the following criteria:

1) **Attendance** **maximum 20 points**

Student's attendance at seminars/lectures is awarded with maximum 20 points:

9 or more seminars/lectures = 20 points

8 = 16 points

7 = 12 points

6 = 8 points

5 = 4 points

4 and less = 0 points.

2) **Assignments** **3 x maximum 15 points**

Before each “seminar with reading,” students have to submit an assignment. The assignment must be based on the reading material for the specific seminar (please see above). In the assignment, (1) briefly describe main points of the reading material (100-150 words), (2) evaluate the reading material in terms of its clarity and cogency, pinpoint its strengths/weaknesses and consider its implications – your own opinion (supported by arguments) is highly expected here (200-250 words), (3) ask questions if something from the reading material is unclear (optional). Overall, the assignment must have between 300-500 words. One assignment meeting all criteria and submitted in time is awarded with 15 points. Points will be deducted if the assignment does not meet required criteria, has a poor quality, or is submitted after deadline (4 points will be deducted for every day).

In total, three assignments have to be submitted (6. 10., 17. 11., 8. 12.).

Submit your assignments online in the Information System (see link below).

3) **Exam** **maximum 35 points**

There will be one exam (multiple choice quiz) at the end of the semester, covering the lectures and assigned readings (all presentations and required readings will be available online in the Information System).

Grades will be assigned based on the final summary score:

A 100-95

B 94-89

C 88-83

D 82-77

E	76-71
F	70 and less

Schedule

Date	Time	Teaching format	Task
26. 9.	17:00-18:30	Lecture	
3. 10.	17:00-18:30	Lecture	
10. 10.	17:00-18:30	Seminar with reading	Submit your assignment by Thursday 6. 10.
17. 10.	17:00-18:30	Lecture	
24. 10.	17:00-18:30	Lecture	
31. 10.	17:00-18:30	Lecture	
7. 11.		Reading week (no teaching)	
14. 11.	17:00-18:30	Lecture	
21. 11.	17:00-18:30	Seminar with reading	Submit your assignment by Thursday 17. 11.
28. 11.	17:00-18:30	Lecture	
5. 12.	17:00-18:30	Lecture	
12. 12.	17:00	Seminar with reading	Submit your assignment by Thursday 8. 12.

Important links

Study materials: <https://is.muni.cz/auth/el/1423/podzim2016/PSY280/um/>

Assignment submissions: <https://is.muni.cz/auth/el/1423/podzim2016/PSY280/ode/>

Recommended (optional) literature

Abrams, D., Hogg, M. A., & Marques, J. M. (2005). *The social psychology of inclusion and exclusion*. New York: Psychology Press.

Azzi, A. E., Chrysochoou, X., Klandermans, B., & Simon, B. (2011). *Identity and participation in culturally diverse societies: A multidisciplinary perspective*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

Barrett, M., & Zani, B. (2015). *Political and civic engagement: Multidisciplinary perspectives*. London: Routledge.

Bar-Tal, D. (2011). *Intergroup conflicts and their resolution: A social psychological perspective*. New York: Psychology Press.

Dovidio, J. F., Hewstone, M., Glick, P., & Esses, V. M. (2013). *The SAGE handbook of prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination*. London: SAGE.

Jones, J. M., Dovidio, J. F., & Vietze, D. L. (2014). *The psychology of diversity: Beyond prejudice and racism*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

Loader, B. D. (2007). *Young citizens in the digital age: Political engagement, young people and new media*. London: Routledge.

Nelson, T. D. (2016). *Handbook of prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination*. New York: Psychology Press.

Sullivan, J. L., & Transue, J. E. (1999). The psychological underpinnings of democracy: A selective review of research on political tolerance, interpersonal trust, and social capital. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 50, 625-650.

Tropp, L. R. (2012). *The Oxford handbook of intergroup conflict*. New York: Oxford University Press.