

Social Psychology (PSYC 260.001)

Summer 2018

Course Information and Purpose

1. Instructor Information:

Dr. Kristen Lindquist

Kristen Lindquist has a PhD in Psychology (Boston College, 2010) and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University where she trained in neuroscience. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she researches the psychology and neuroscience of emotion and directs the Carolina Affective Science Laboratory. For more about Dr. Lindquist, see her webpage: <http://www.kristenalindquist.com>

Dr. Kurt Gray

Kurt Gray has a PhD in Psychology (Harvard, 2010). He is currently an Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he researches morality and directs the Morality and Mind Perception Laboratory. For more about Dr. Gray, see his webpage: <http://www.kurtjgray.com>

Guest Lecturers:

Andreas Olsson is an Associate Professor at the Karolinska Institute, Sweden. He is a Swedish native but completed his PhD at New York University and was a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University. He directs the Emotion Lab at the Karolinska Institute, where he studies emotional learning and regulation in social situations.

<http://www.emotionlab.se/people/andreas>

Simone Setterberg teaches at DIS and is a researcher at the Karolinska Institute. She studies cultural differences in development, including early adulthood.

<http://www.su.se/english/profiles/pgran-1.186804>

Ebba Karlsson teaches at DIS and the University of Stockholm. She studies political psychology and how cognitive biases affect political behavior. She is the co-founder of Poplar, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving political civility.

<http://www.ebbakarlsson.org/political-psychology/>

2. Course Description and Justification to be Abroad:

Prerequisite: one semester of Introduction to Psychology at the university level, including AP credit for Psyc 101

Social psychology studies the way in which individuals' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are affected by actual or imagined others. In other words, social psychology explores the way in which the social environment affects us. In this course, you will learn about the basic themes and findings of social psychology, as well as the way in which social psychological knowledge is generated scientifically.

This course offers a particularly unique opportunity as it is taught abroad. Human behavior is powerfully influenced by its context, and there is no more important context than culture. Different cultures respond to social pressures differently, have different views of gender and morality, and may even have different emotions. By studying the bases of human behavior while being immersed in a new culture, students will have a special opportunity to reflect upon the role of the social environment and how it affects what we do and who we are.

Moreover, Stockholm offers a number of additional exceptional opportunities. Both the Karolinska Institute and Stockholm University are nearby and will provide enriching experiences through a research exploration visit to the Karolinska and guest lectures from leading researchers at Stockholm University. These lectures will complement the course and the student's cultural introspection as they concern religion and gender, two topics that may differ across American and Scandinavian contexts.

Finally, this study abroad program provides a unique opportunity to take social psychology—a very popular course—in a small setting with two award winning instructors.

3. Objectives:

Learning objectives for the course:

1. Describe the main theoretical perspectives in social psychology
2. Describe common research methods, and their uses, in social psychology
3. Understand scientific studies and their findings from within the field of social psychology
4. Apply social psychological theory to understanding real-world human behavior
6. Describe cultural differences (especially comparing Scandinavia to North America) that contribute to differences in values, norms, or behavior

Course Components

1. Required Textbook:

- *Social Psychology*, by Elliot Aronson, Timothy Wilson, and Robin Akert (9th edition), Pearson/Prentice Hall Publishing. The 8th edition is also acceptable.

2. Articles and Other Media on Canvas:

- See reference list at end of syllabus, as well as citations throughout the course schedule

3. Approach to Teaching: A variety of teaching methods will be used, including lectures, class discussions and interactive classroom activities to facilitate the understanding of theory, research and their cultural implications.

4. Field Studies:

Visit to Karolinska Institute: May 28, 2018. Students will observe the Karolinska Institute, one of the largest and most prestigious medical institutes in the world. The Karolinska Institute is the location of the Nobel assembly that awards the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Students will visit the Division of Psychology to understand how psychological research is conducted at a research institute.

Visit to Fotografiska: June 1, 2018. Students will visit the Fotografiska, a cutting-edge museum of photography. Students will gain an appreciation of how photography can express social psychological themes. Students will take pictures of 10 pictures, each of which are expressing an important social psychological concept. They will then write a paper outlining which concepts can be observed in each photograph.

Catalog Cultural Differences: Panel of young Swedes. As a class, students will come up with a questionnaire with 10 open-ended questions about cultural experiences that they may take for granted (e.g., 1. In your culture what are the differences between men and women? 2. In your culture, how early should you get married, and why? 3. In your culture, is it acceptable to spank children? 4. In your culture, which emotions are the most important or most commonly experienced?). With a partner, students will write down what they both think the answers to these questions are based on their own culture and Swedish culture. Then students will ask the panel of young Swedes these questions. We will host a class-based discussion of students' anticipated and observed answers.

5. Class Representatives:

Each semester DIS looks for class representatives to become an official spokesperson for their class group, addressing any concerns that may arise (in academic or related matters), suggesting improvements and coming up with new ideas. Class representatives are a great way for DIS faculty to ensure better and timelier feedback on their courses, assessments and teaching styles, and as such perform an invaluable role in connecting student needs with faculty instruction during term time. Class Representatives will be elected in class at the beginning of the semester.

Assignments and Evaluation

Detailed assignment descriptions and/or rubrics will be made available on Canvas and/or in class.

Methods of Evaluation	How evaluated (individual or group)	Due Date	Percentage of grade
Active class participation	Individual	Ongoing	5%
Field Study 1	Individual	May 28	15%
Midterm exam	Individual	May 30	25%
Field Study 2	Individual	June 1	15%
Field Study 3	Individual	June 5	15%
Final exam	Individual	June 8	25%

Evaluation: A number of diverse tasks will be given throughout the semester to address learning objectives.

Active class participations (5%): Students must be active in discussions and group work. Active participation and engagement includes asking questions related to readings and material presented in the class and taking part in discussions and being active during field trips and guest lectures. See Canvas for a class participation grading rubric (#4).

Field study 1 (15%): Following the visit to the Karolinska Institute, students will write a research paper outlining a hypothetical study using one of the empirical methods discussed in class or observed at the Karolinska Institute. Hypothetical studies must cover social psychological concepts discussed in class or approved by the instructors. 3-5 pages.

Midterm exam (25%): Students will complete a multiple-choice exam covering concepts from the first half of the course.

Field study 2 (15%): Following your visit to the photography Museum, take the 10 photos you took of photos, and for each describe the social psychological concepts it expresses (e.g., prejudice, aggression, attractiveness). Discuss whether each is an effective demonstration of your chosen concepts. 3-5-pages.

Field study 3 (15%): Pick a topic covered in the conversation with the panel of young Swedes. Compare your answers about US culture, your anticipated answers about Swedish culture, and the actual answers about Swedish culture that the panel revealed. Highlight interesting similarities and differences, and suggest what they tell you about both cultures in general. 3-5-pages.

Final exam (25%): Students will complete a multiple-choice exam covering concepts from the second half of the course.

To be eligible for a passing grade in this class you must complete all of the assigned work.

Policies

Attendance:

You are expected to attend all classes when scheduled. If you miss a class for any reason please contact the faculty no later than the day of the missed class. Absences will jeopardize your grade and your standing. Allowances will be made in cases of illness, but in the case of multiple absences you will need to provide a doctor's note.

Academic Honesty, Plagiarism, and Violating the Rules of an Assignment:

As a member of this course, you are expected to follow the UNC Honor Code (<http://honor.unc.edu>). All exams and assignments must represent your own independent work. Any violation of academic integrity (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, non-independent work etc.) will be reported to the Honor System following a discussion with the student (http://honor.unc.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=67)

Policy on Late Papers:

There will be a grade deduction of half a letter grade for each day the assignment is late.