Information list of a subject

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| **University:** Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts (BISLA) | |
| **Faculty:** | |
| **Subject code: PS-401** | **Subject name:**  Foundations of Psychology for Social Scientists |
| **Type, scope, and method of educational activities:** Two weekly meetings of 90 minutes each, amounting 42 hours total. Every week, the first meeting takes the form of a lecture and the second, of a seminar. (full-time form) | |
| **Number of credits:** ECT | |
| **Suggested semester:** . semester | |
| **Level of studies:** 1 | |
| **Conditional previous subjects:** | |
| **Requirements for the course:**  Course evaluation (%): A – excellent: 100-93%, B – very good: 92-84%, C – good: 83-74%, D – satisfactory: 73-63%, E – sufficient: 62-51%, Fx – fail: 50-0%.  Passing the course assumes that student was not absent at more than 4 class sessions. Late arrival is marked as a “tardie”. Three tardies equal one absence. Missing more than 15 minutes of the class is considered an absence.  **Assessment & Evaluation**  • Participation & Engagement (40%) – Contribution to discussions, case studies, and experiential exercises.  • Empirical Project Proposal (10%) – Research question, methodology, and expected outcomes.  • Final Empirical Project (40%) – Research study (survey, experiment, case study or observational study).  • Final Presentation (10%) – Summary of findings and implications. | |
| **Learning outcomes:**  By the end of the course, students will be able to:  1. Understand foundational psychological theories and research relevant to social sciences.  2. Analyze the role of psychological factors in decision-making, social interactions, and mental health.  3. Apply psychological concepts to real-world contexts, including leadership, teamwork, and well-being.  4. Design and conduct a small-scale empirical project (e.g., survey, experiment, case study or observational study).  5. Critically evaluate the application of psychology in social science fields. | |
| **Brief outline of the course:**   1. **Introduction to Psychology for Social Sciences**    * Fundamental principles of psychology    * Research methods and ethical considerations 2. **Psychological Development and Personality**    * Theories of development (Piaget, Erikson, Vygotsky)    * Personality theories (Big Five and others) 3. **Social Influence and Group Dynamics**    * Social cognition, stereotypes, and prejudice    * Conformity, obedience, and group behavior 4. **Emotions and Decision-Making**    * Emotions and their impact on behavior    * Cognitive biases and behavioral economics 5. **Cognitive Psychology: Thinking and Decision-Making**    * Heuristics, risk perception, and critical thinking 6. **Cognitive and Social Neuroscience**    * Neurobiologic mechanisms of social behavior    * Neuroscience of emotions and moral decision-making 7. **Work and Organizational Psychology I: Leadership and Motivation**    * Theories of leadership and motivation    * Team communication 8. **Work and Organizational Psychology II: Conflict and Stress**    * Conflict resolution and stress management 9. **Counseling Psychology: Mental Health and Resilience**    * Principles of well-being, stress management strategies, and psychotherapy 10. **Applied Psychology in a Social Context**  * Misinformation, behavior change, and ethical di**lemmas** | |
| **Reaccommended readings:**  Stanovich, K. E. (2013). How to Think Straight About Psychology. Pearson.  Aronsson, E. (2011) The Social Animal (11th edition). Worth Publishers.  Roberts, B. W., & Mroczek, D. K. (2008). Personality trait development in adulthood. Current Directions in Psychological Science.  Fiske, S. T. (2018). Social Beings: Core Motives in Social Psychology. Wiley.  Barrett, L. F. (2017). How emotions are made. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*  Kahneman, D. (2011). Thinking, Fast and Slow. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.  Lieberman, M. D. (2013). Social: Why Our Brains Are Wired to Connect. Crown.  Cacioppo, S., & Cacioppo, J. T. (2020). Introduction to social neuroscience. Princeton University Press.  Damask, A. R. (1994). Descartes’ Error: Emotion, Reason, and the Human Brain. Putnam.  Gazzaniga, M. S. (2018). The Consciousness Instinct: Unraveling the Mystery of How the Brain Makes the Mind. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.  Goleman, D. (1995). Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ. Bantam Books.  Hackman, J. R. (2002). Leading Teams: Setting the Stage for Great Performances. Harvard Business Review Press.  Deci, E. L., & Ryan, R. M. (1985). Intrinsic Motivation and Self-Determination in Human Behavior. Springer.  Seligman, M. E. P. (2011). Flourish: A Visionary New Understanding of Happiness and Well-being. Atria Books.  Frankl, V. E. (2006). Man’s Search for Meaning. Beacon Press.  Neff, K. D. (2011). Self-Compassion: The Proven Power of Being Kind to Yourself. HarperCollins. | |
| **Language of the course:** English | |
| **Notes:** | |
| **Evaluation**  Total number of evaluated students:   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | A | B | C | D | E | FX | | (percentage of students who got A) | (percentage of students who got B) | (percentage of students who got C) | (percentage of students who got D) | (percentage of students who got E) | (percentage of students who got FX) | | |
| **Instructor:**  Jana Bašnáková, PhD  Eva Vavráková, PhD | |
| **Date of the last change:** 20.02.2025 | |
| **Approved:** | |