



Module code	CSP	NQF level	6
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

Critical Social Psychology

Module description

In this module students will engage in the study of the social factors that impact on individual's lives. Key themes include healthcare, education, politics, injustice, inequality and discrimination and working conditions. Students will engage in an analysis of the impact of how these contextual influences shape human experience and behaviour.

This module aims to:

- Develop students':
 - appraisal of the extent to which social psychology should be a scientific discipline
 - understanding of the ways in which psychological theories shape society
 - critical thinking of the ways in which contextual factors influence human experience and behaviour
 - proficiency with the role of discourse analysis in social psychology

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- critically evaluate the science of psychology
- demonstrate knowledge of the psychological theories that shape society
- diagnose the extent to which behaviour may be socially mediated
- systematically review information from the public domain and edu-blogs

Syllabus

- The replication crisis in social psychology
- Is scientific knowledge better?
- What is critical social psychology?
- Discursive psychology
- Ethics
- Feminism, Marxism and Psychoanalytic critiques
- Social constructionism
- Prejudice, discrimination and racism
- Emotion, attitudes and politics

Learning and teaching methods

The pedagogical approach for this module is informed through the principles of collaborative enquiry, constructionism and scientific apprenticeship.

Collaborative enquiry is supported through our internet-mediated learning platform that aims to develop a learning community and support dialogue and collaboration between students. This is encouraged through online peer discussion and debate to construct a unique learning experience that enhances students' subject understanding through social interactions and empowers them to explain their understandings, and receive feedback from tutors and peers.

Learning through scientific apprenticeship will take place through the integration of scientific knowledge, principles and experience into the practical application of scientific report.

Teaching will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials that will be provided on the University of Essex Online learning platform, and will be supported by specified discussion forums, pre-recorded lecturecasts and biweekly online question and answer sessions (using synchronous communication software and application sharing facility).

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at relevant websites which are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources (as learning support references) with their fellow students.

The pre-recorded lecturecasts and the online question and answer sessions will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors.

Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students will be given direction on required and indicative reading.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Collaborative learning question: Post a 500-word response to a tutor posed question. Respond to one of your peer's posts (350 words per response). Your answers must be evidence based and supported with psychological literature.	850 words	Continuous	30%
Scientific report	Maximum 3,000 words	End of module	70%