

Courses for Social and Cultural Psychology Students

In addition to courses required by the Department (PSYCO 502, 531, 532), the following courses are recommended for graduate students in Social and Cultural Psychology (SCP):

PSYCO 541	Advanced Social and Cultural Psychology I
PSYCO 542	Advanced Social and Cultural Psychology II

PSYCO 541 covers major theoretical and empirical contributions to our understanding of social behavior. While PSYCO 541 is largely (but not exclusively) focused on theory and research born out of the classic experimental approach, PSYCO 542 acquaints students with various meta-perspectives that guide psychological inquiry with an emphasis on critical analysis of current theoretical and methodological frameworks and consideration of how other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences can inform psychology. Both PSYCO 541 and 542 are offered every other year and (normally) alternate with each other such that one of them is offered each year.

Graduate students in SCP are expected to have a solid background in the relevant research methodologies and techniques, which may include experimental and quasi-experimental methods as well as phenomenological, hermeneutic, discursive and historical analysis. Students are also expected to be able to articulate, evaluate, and clarify the theories and philosophies that ground these methods. For convenience we list courses both inside and outside the department that SCP students have considered valuable in their methodological training:

PSYCO 402	Recent Advances in Experimental Psychology (taken as PSYCO 505 with permission of instructor)
PSYCO 412	Quantitative methods in Sociocultural Psychology (taken as PSYCO 505 with permission of instructor)
PSYCO 415	Qualitative Methods in Sociocultural Psychology (taken as PSYCO 505 with permission of instructor)
SOC 616	Structural Equation Modeling with LISREL
EDPY 605	Multivariate Statistical Methods in Education Research

Given that the study of human social behavior is inherently interdisciplinary, some students may desire further training in other areas or departments. Students should therefore consider, in consultation with their supervisor, taking courses in other departments on topics relevant to their research interests and questions. Some courses outside the department that SCP students have found beneficial are listed below.

ANTHRO 536	Ethnography of Communication
ANTHRO 589	Oral History: Seminar on Life Story Methods

The array of available and relevant course offerings makes it easy to fulfill the minimal departmental requirements for one course in the student's focal domain of knowledge and two courses in related areas. With careful planning, courses beyond the minimal requirements will provide SCP students with a strong background that will enhance their careers.

Recommendations adopted by the SCP faculty, January 2010.