

STOCKHOLMS UNIVERSITET  
Psykologiska institutionen

Course Syllabus

**Group Processes and Intergroup Relations**

Code: PS1GRP  
Credits: 7.5 ECTS

Course Leader

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## **Introduction**

The course provides an introduction to social psychological theories and research on intergroup relations related to topics that concern, for instance, prejudice, discrimination, intergroup conflict and peace building. Implications of these topics lead to questions such as: how and why are social groups created; how do members of different social groups relate to each other; why and how do groups enter into conflicts; and how can social psychological theories and research be utilized to improve intergroup relations using interventions? Understanding these questions is important, timely and necessary. Using a combination of lectures and seminars, the course will first cover topics related to social identity, intergroup biases and emotions, and then move on to topics related to intergroup conflict and interventions aimed at improving intergroup relations.

## **Learning Outcomes**

In order to pass the course, students are expected to:

- Demonstrate understanding of social-psychological theories and concepts that explain group processes and intergroup relations
- Give an account of empirical evidence within the field of intergroup relations
- Demonstrate an understanding of how intergroup relations research can contribute to cohesive and peaceful societies
- Give an account of scientific methods used to scientifically study group processes and intergroup relations

## **Course Structure and Attendance**

Instruction is given in the form of lectures and seminars. All teaching sessions take place remotely (via zoom). Teaching is conducted in the English language. In total, we will meet eight times, each time lasting for four hours. In addition to an introduction and review session, we will have eight lectures and three seminars. Attending the introductory session is mandatory. Seminars will include group work and oral presentations. Participation in seminars is also mandatory. Absence from a maximum of two required and scheduled sessions (which include seminars and the introductory session) can be compensated. Compensation is done by submitting a written assignment specified by the teacher in charge of the course.

## **Compensation Task**

Students are required to attend the introductory session and three scheduled seminars. Absence from a maximum of two (out of four required) sessions can be compensated by writing and submitting a short reflection paper on one of the assigned reading. The short reflection paper should be about 800 words long and should demonstrate that the student has read, understood and reflected on the assigned reading.

## Course Schedule (at a glance)

03.10.2024 (Thursday 13-17): Introduction and Social Identity Theory: SCC  
08.10.2024 (Tuesday 13-17): Intergroup Biases: Stereotypes and Prejudice: SCC  
10.10. 2024 (Thursday 13-17): Intergroup Emotions and Seminar 1: SCC  
15.10.2024 (Tuesday 13-17): Threat Learning: AO  
17.10.2024 (Thursday 13-17): Intergroup Conflict: SCC  
22.10.2024 (Tuesday 13-17): Negotiations and Conflict Resolution: PH  
24.10.2024 (Thursday 13-17): Improving Intergroup Relations and Seminar 2: SCC  
29.10. 2024 (Tuesday 13-17): Improving Intergroup Relations and Seminar 3: SCC  
07-08 11.2024: online oral examination

\*SCC: taught by Sabina Čehajić-Clancy (Associate Professor of Social Psychology at Stockholm University)

AO: taught by Andreas Olsson (Professor of Psychology at Karolinska Institutet)

PH: taught by Per Henrik Hedberg (Research Fellow at Stockholm School of Economics)

## Examination

The course is examined through an oral examination. Students have to complete all compulsory assignments (seminar attendance and oral examination) in the course in order to receive a course grade. In order to pass the course, the student must receive a minimum grade of E on the oral examination task and complete all mandatory tasks such as seminar attendance and participation.

At the start of the course, a course leader will share a pool of sample questions, Questions will be categorized in three categories: A, C and E level questions. Student can receive 0, 0.5 or 1 point for each question, from each category. In total, each student will be asked one question from each category which amounts to three questions in total.

### Grading scale

A = Excellent (3 points)

B = Very good (2.5 points)

C = Good (2 points)

D = Satisfactory (1.5 points)

E = Adequate (1 point)

Fx = Failed, some more work is required (0.5 points)

F = Fail, much more work required (0 points)

## Literature and Resources

The Blackwell Handbook of social psychology: Intergroup Processes is the main textbook for this course. The full reference: Brown, R., & Gaertner, S. (Eds.). (2003). *Blackwell handbook of social psychology: Intergroup processes*. John Wiley & Sons. The book is available as a free E-book from the Stockholm University Library. Other required literature will be posted on Athena and made available to students prior to the start of the course. See below the list of required and recommended readings.

### Social Identity Theory

#### Required literature:

Oakes, P. (2003). The root of all evil in intergroup relations? Unearthing the categorization process. *Blackwell handbook of social psychology: Intergroup processes*, 3-21. (Chapter 1)

Turner, J. C., & Reynolds, K. J. (2003). The social identity perspective in intergroup relations: Theories, themes, and controversies. *Blackwell handbook of social psychology: Intergroup processes*, 133-152. (Chapter 7)

Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1986). The social identity theory of intergroup behavior. In S. Worchel & W. G. Austin (Eds.), *Psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 7-24). Chicago: Nelson-Hall.

#### Additional suggested readings:

Brown, R. (2020). The social identity approach: Appraising the Tajfellian legacy. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 59(1), 5-25.

Xiao, Y. J., Coppin, G., & Van Bavel, J. J. (2016). Perceiving the world through group-colored glasses: A perceptual model of intergroup relations. *Psychological Inquiry*, 27(4), 255-274.

Brown, R. (2019). *Henri Tajfel: Explorer of identity and difference*. Routledge.

Van Bavel, J. J., & Packer, D. J. (2021). *The power of us: Harnessing our shared identities to improve performance, increase cooperation, and promote social harmony*. Little, Brown Spark.

## **Intergroup Biases: Stereotypes & Prejudice**

### **Required literature:**

Operario, D., & Fiske, S. T. (2003). Stereotypes: Content, structures, processes, and context. *Blackwell handbook of social psychology: Intergroup processes*, 22-44. (Chapter 2)

Devine, P. G., Plant, E. A., & Blair, I. V. (2003). Classic and contemporary analyses of racial prejudice. *Blackwell handbook of social psychology: Intergroup processes*, 198-217. (Chapter 10)

Spencer, S. J., Logel, C., & Davies, P. G. (2016). Stereotype threat. *Annual review of psychology*, 67(1), 415-437

Paluck, E. L., Porat, R., Clark, C. S., & Green, D. P. (2021). Prejudice reduction: Progress and challenges. *Annual review of psychology*, 72(1), 533-560.

### **Additional suggested readings:**

Allport, G. (1954). The nature of prejudice.

Alexander, M., Brewer, M. B., & Herrmann, R. K. (1999). Images and affect: A functional analysis of out-group stereotypes. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 77, 78-93.

Ellemers, N. (2018). Gender stereotypes. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 69, 275-298.

Maass, A. (1999). Linguistic intergroup bias: Stereotype perpetuation through language. In *Advances in experimental social psychology* (Vol. 31, pp. 79-121). Academic Press.

## **Intergroup Emotions**

### **Required literature:**

Mackie, D. M., & Smith, E. R. (2015). Intergroup emotions. In M. Mikulincer, P. R. Shaver, J. F. Dovidio, & J. A. Simpson (Eds.), *APA handbook of personality and social psychology, Vol. 2. Group processes* (pp. 263–293).

Cottrell, C. A. & Neuberg, S. J. (2005). Different emotional reactions to different groups: A socio- functional threat-based approach to ‘prejudice.’ *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 88, 770-789.

### Seminar readings (required):

Brown, R., González, R., Zagefka, H., Manzi, J., & Čehajić, S. (2008). Nuestra culpa: collective guilt and shame as predictors of reparation for historical wrongdoing. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 94 (1), 75.

Čehajić-Clancy, S., Jamshed, N., Olsson, A., & Momčilović, A. (2024). From Inspiration to Restoration: moral elevation as a catalyst for improving intergroup relations in contexts of conflict. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

### **Additional suggested readings:**

Brewer, MB (1999). The psychology of prejudice: Ingroup love and outgroup hate?. *Journal of social issues*, 55 (3), 429-444.

Giner-Sorolla, R. (2013). *Judging passions: Moral emotions in persons and groups*. Psychology Press.

Penić, S., Mostovoy, N., & Halperin, E. (2024). Beyond personal emotions: How emotion norms shape policy support in the context of violent conflict. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*.

## Threat Learning

### Required literature:

Olsson, A., Ebert, J. P., Banaji, M. R., & Phelps, E. A. (2005). The role of social groups in the persistence of learned fear. *Science*, 309(5735), 785-787.

Golkar, A., Castro, V., & Olsson, A. (2015). Social learning of fear and safety is determined by the demonstrator's racial group. *Biology letters*, 11(1), 20140817.

### Additional suggested readings:

Schultner, D. T., Lindström, B. R., Cikara, M., & Amodio, D. M. (2024). Transmission of social bias through observational learning. *Science Advances*, 10(26).

## Intergroup Conflict

### Required literature:

Mackie, D. M., & Wright, C. L. (2003). Social influence in an intergroup context. *Blackwell handbook of social psychology: Intergroup processes*, 281-300. (Chapter 14)

Reicher, S., Haslam, S. A., & Rath, R. (2008). Making a virtue of evil: A five-step social identity model of the development of collective hate. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 2(3), 1313-1344.

Böhm, R., Rusch, H., & Baron, J. (2020). The psychology of intergroup conflict: A review of theories and measures. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 178, 947-962.

### Additional suggested readings:

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

Deutsch, M., Coleman, P. T., & Marcus, E. C. (Eds.). (2011). *The handbook of conflict resolution: Theory and practice*. John Wiley & Sons.

Saguy, T., & Reifen-Tagar, M. (2022). The social psychological roots of violent intergroup conflict. *Nature Reviews Psychology*, 1(10), 577-589.

Bar-Tal, D., Chernyak-Hai, L., Schori, N., & Gundar, A. (2009). A sense of self-perceived collective victimhood in intractable conflicts. *International review of the Red Cross*, 91(874), 229-258.

## Negotiations and Conflict Resolution

### Required literature:

Bazerman, M.H., & Moore, D.A. (2008). *Judgment in managerial decision making*, ch 9. Wiley.

Movius, H. (2020). *How to negotiate—virtually*. Harvard Business Review.

Schelling, T. C. (1956). An essay on bargaining. *The American Economic Review*, 46, 281-306.

### Additional suggested readings:

Fisher, R., Ury, W. L., & Patton, B. (2011). *Getting to yes: Negotiating agreement without giving in*. Penguin.

McMillan, J. (1992). *Games, Strategies & Managers*. Oxford University Press.

Raiffa, H. (2002). *Negotiation analysis: the science and art of collaborative decision making* (chapter 23 on Coalitions). Harvard University Press.

Voss, C., & Raz, T. (2016). *Never split the difference: Negotiating as if your life depended on it*. Random House.

### Podcasts recommendations:

<https://negotiations.ninja/podcast/>

<https://www.pon.harvard.edu/category/resources/podcasts/>



## **Improving Intergroup Relations: Part I**

### **Required literature:**

Littman, R., Scacco, A., & Weiss, C. (2024). Reducing Prejudice through Intergroup Contact Interventions. In *Psychological Intergroup Interventions* (pp. 3-16). Routledge.

Murrar, S., & Brauer, M. (2023). Using Social Norms to Promote Positive Relations between Social Groups. In *Psychological Intergroup Interventions* (pp. 45-57). Routledge.

### **Seminar readings (required):**

Mousa, S. (2020). Building social cohesion between Christians and Muslims through soccer in post-ISIS Iraq. *Science*, 369(6505), 866-870.

Murrar, S., Campbell, M.R., & Brauer, M. (2020). Exposure to peers' pro-diversity attitudes increases inclusion and reduces the achievement gap. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 4 (9), 889-897.

### **Additional suggested readings:**

Hewstone, M. (2000). Contact and categorization: Social psychological interventions to change intergroup relations. In C. Stangor (Ed.), *Stereotypes and prejudice: Essential readings* (pp. 394–418). Psychology Press.

Halperin, E., Hameiri, B., & Littman, R. (Eds.). (2023). *Psychological Intergroup Interventions: Evidence-based Approaches to Improve Intergroup Relations*. Taylor & Francis.

Čehajić-Clancy, S., Goldenberg, A., Gross, J. J., & Halperin, E. (2016). Social-psychological interventions for intergroup reconciliation: An emotion regulation perspective. *Psychological Inquiry*, 27(2), 73-88.

## Improving Intergroup Relations: Part II

### Required literature:

Sherman, D. K., Gibbs, W. C., & Binning, K. R. (2023). Self-affirmation and intergroup biases: Changing the narrative and the potential for conflict reduction. In *Psychological Intergroup Interventions* (pp. 69-85). Routledge.

Witkowska, M., Bilewicz, M., & Čehajić-Clancy, S. (2023). Interventions based on moral exemplars. In *Psychological Intergroup Interventions* (pp. 126-135). Routledge.

### Seminar readings (required):

Čehajić-Clancy, S., Effron, DA, Halperin, E., Liberman, V., & Ross, LD (2011). Affirmation, acknowledgment of in-group responsibility, group-based guilt, and support for reparative measures. *Journal of personality and social psychology* , 101 (2), 256.

Čehajić-Clancy, S., & Olsson, A. (2024). Threaten and affirm: The role of ingroup moral exemplars for promoting prosocial intergroup behavior through affirming moral identity. *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*, 27(1), 99-117.

### Additional suggested readings:

Čehajić-Clancy, S., & Halperin, E. (2024). Advancing research and practice of psychological intergroup interventions. *Nature Reviews Psychology*, 1-15.

Landry, A. P., & Halperin, E. (2023). Intergroup psychological interventions: The motivational challenge. *American Psychologist*.

Hartman, R., Blakey, W., Womick, J., Bail, C., Finkel, E. J., Han, H., ... & Gray, K. (2022). Interventions to reduce partisan animosity. *Nature human behaviour*, 6(9), 1194-1205.