PSY3262 Social Psychology of Globalisation

Module Code: PSY3262
Module Level: 3
   Lecturer / Convenor[s]: Dr Kim Peters
Credit Value: 30
ECTS Value: 15
Pre-Requisites: PSY2024 or equivalent subject-specific study.
Co-Requisites: None
Module Duration: Term 1

Total Student Study Time: 300 hours: 20 hours of seminar meetings plus 280 hours of private study for seminar preparation, essay preparation and revision. Students are expected to engage in 10 hours private study in preparation for each seminar meeting, and further private study in essay preparation.

Aims: Globalisation has existed for many centuries as a process by which cultures influence one another and become more alike through trade, immigration, and the exchange of information and ideas. One widely accepted definition refers to globalisation as the 'acceleration and intensification of economic interaction among the people, companies, and governments of different nations' (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2007). On the one hand, globalisation is seen as a process that opens minds to new experiences, removes cultural barriers, increases cultural diffusion and accelerates cultural changes. One the other hand, globalisation is seen as a potential threat to the viability of local cultures - undermining people's sense of community and cultural identity. Whether perceived in a positive or negative light, globalisation has an important impact on psychological functioning.

This module aims to give students a critical understanding of the impact of globalisation from a social psychological perspective. We will draw on topics such as migration, intergroup conflict, interpersonal relations, organisational change, diversity, communication, and collective action to examine how globalisation influences psychological functioning. We will look at the ways in which research shed light on the effects of globalisation on the individual and society. Students will be encouraged to engage in a critical analysis of the topics and to apply this analysis to their everyday experience in a globalised world.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Module Specific Skills: On successful completion of the module students will have demonstrated
and acquired a detailed, thorough, and critical understanding of traditional and contemporary social psychological approaches for the explanation and conceptualization of globalisation. Moreover, they will have acquired an in-depth knowledge of and specialization at the forefront of the discipline in certain areas. They will also have developed at an advanced level the ability to review and critically evaluate published work, to find the strength and weaknesses in this work, and to assess and plan empirical studies using a range of methods. Specifically, students will have acquired an advanced ability to structure the literature of the field, present logical and coherent arguments in support of conclusions, to think independently and creatively, and to demonstrate the awareness of the psychological, ethical and political issues surrounding globalisation.

**Discipline Specific Skills:**
On successful completion of the module students will have demonstrated the following skills at Level 3: the ability to acquire detailed, systematic and comprehensive knowledge within the discipline, with in-depth specialisation at the forefront of the discipline in certain areas, and the ability to demonstrate advanced critical understanding of this knowledge and of the limits and provisional nature of this knowledge; at an advanced level the ability to review and critically evaluate published work and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of this work, and at an advanced level to be able to structure this literature to present logical, coherent and sustained arguments to support conclusions; at an advanced level the ability to address systematically complex problems which may be framed within unpredictable contexts, to think critically, creatively, and independently, and to fully appreciate the complexities of the issues; at an advanced level the ability understand and apply essential principles in designing novel research, and to critically evaluate and analyse empirical evidence, and to assess the reliability of empirical evidence using a range of defined techniques; at an advanced level the ability to demonstrate an awareness of the wider ethical issues relating to the subject and its application.

**Personal and Key Skills:**
Personal and Key Skills: On successful completion of the module students will have demonstrated the following skills at Level 3: the ability to interact effectively and supportively within a learning group; the ability to manage their own learning using the full range of resources of the discipline and with minimum guidance; confidence in their own
criteria of self evaluation and the ability to challenge received opinion and to reflect on their actions, and to seek and make use of feedback; the ability to select and manage information, and to undertake competently study tasks with minimum guidance; the ability to take responsibility for their own work and to be able to criticise it; the ability to engage effectively in debate in a professional manner and to produce detailed and coherent written work; confidence and flexibility in identifying complex problems and in the application of appropriate knowledge and methods for their solution; the ability to act autonomously with minimal supervision or direction, within agreed guidelines; the ability to manage time effectively to meet deadlines.

**Teaching/Learning Methods:**
Ten seminar meetings plus an optional revision meeting, each seminar meeting lasts two hours; private study for seminar preparation, essay preparation and revision.

**Assignments:**
Seminar preparation; one 3000 word essay contributing to the assessment of the module, essay titles will not show significant overlap with examination questions,

**Assessment:**
Three hour examination (60%); one 3000 word essay (40%)

**Syllabus Plan:**
Introduction
Week 1: What is globalisation and why does it matter?
The process of globalisation
Week 2: Communication (how ideas move)
Week 3: Culture & cultural change (meaning systems & their dynamism)
Week 4: Migration (new people bring new meanings)
Changing global structures (scaffolding for culture)
Week 5: Political & economic systems (government, consumerism)
Week 6: Organisations
Consequences of globalisation at the social level
Week 7: Intergroup relations (threat associated with globalisation, resources)
Week 8: Collective action (anti-globalisation movement & globalised action)
Consequences of globalisation at the individual level
Week 9: Changing ideas of self (identity & identity conflict)
Week 10: Changing ways of relating (individualism/collectivism; relational models)

**Reading:**
Readings:


LAST DATE OF REFVISION: September 2011