

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO SOCIETY AND THE INDIVIDUAL

Professor: Veronica Benet-Martinez / ICREA Full Professor

This course will provide an overview of the discipline of social psychology and its main theories and paradigms, while also highlighting social psychology's contributions to the understanding of key social, sociological, political, economic, and cultural issues.

The course will be structured around the following five themes:

1-2. Introduction to social psychology: What social psychology is, and its history and methodological emphases; Links to political psychology, sociology, and economics.

3-4. Social-psychological basis of ideology: Socio-cognitive dimensions of ideology; Personality and political behavior.

5-6. Social cognition and inter-group dynamics: Attitudes and their cognitive/affective/behavioral components; Political identity and social identity; Intra and inter-group dynamics and biases.

7-8. Social influence: Cognitive dissonance; Conformity; Obedience; Persuasion.

9-10. Immigration, globalization, and cultural diversity: Acculturation processes; Interculturalism and multiculturalism at the state, community, group and individual levels; Psychosocial effects of cultural diversity and globalization.