

COURSE OUTLINE

1. GENERAL

SCHOOL	SOCIAL SCIENCES		
DEPARTMENT	PSYCHOLOGY		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	Undergraduate		
COURSE CODE	PSY-1105	SEMESTER	2
COURSE TITLE	Epistemology of Psychology		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES		WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	ECTS
Lectures		3	5
COURSE TYPE <i>general background, special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development</i>	General background (Compulsory)		
PREREQUISITES COURSES:	-		
INSTRUCTION/EXAM LANGUAGE:	Greek		
OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	No		
COURSE WEB PAGE (URL)	https://elearn.uoc.gr/course/view.php?id=305		

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning Outcomes
<p>Upon completion of the course students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain the meaning of the term ‘epistemology’ and have a view on the basic trends in the field of modern epistemology, • understand the nature of scientific knowledge and its difference from pseudoscientific knowledge, • explain the relations between psychology and other sciences (natural and social sciences) • become aware of the basic theoretical approaches in the field of contemporary psychology and their epistemological background.
General Competences
<p>During the course, students should acquire the following skills and abilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflexivity • ability to work autonomously • critical and creative thinking • historical thinking • synthetic thinking

3. COURSE CONTENT

<p>The course content is linked to four core areas of the curriculum: Scientific Foundations [1], Scientific Research and Critical Thinking [2], Ethics and Social Responsibility [3], and Communication Skills [4].</p> <p>Week 1: Defining the field of epistemology. Initial definition of the concept of science. Stages of the cognitive process [1, 2, 3, 4]</p> <p>Week 2: Basic approaches in the field of epistemology and their implications for psychology (positivism in its various forms, Kuhn’s theory of scientific revolutions, Popper’s falsificationism, Lakatos’s theory of research programs) [1, 2]</p> <p>Week 3: Basic approaches in the field of epistemology and their implications for psychology (Feyerabend’s methodological anarchism, naturalistic & evolutionary epistemologies, social epistemology) [1, 2, 3]</p> <p>Week 4: Psychology within the broader framework of the sciences. The relationship of Psychology to the natural sciences (Physics, Biology, artificial intelligence, etc.), social and human sciences (sociology, social anthropology, linguistics, history, etc.) and “hybrid sciences” (neuroscience, cognitive science, developmental science, etc.) [1, 2]</p> <p>Week 5: Epistemological delineation of the cognitive object of psychology. Behavior, mind & cognitive processes, and the psyche as subjects of psychology [1, 2]</p> <p>Week 6: Epistemological definition/justification/foundation of scientific research methodology/method [1, 2, 3]</p> <p>Week 7: Inductive method and hypothetical-deductive method: possibilities and limitations. [1, 2]</p> <p>Week 8: Causality, determinism, and probabilism in psychology [1, 2]</p> <p>Week 9: The problem of generalization in the field of psychology [1, 2]</p> <p>Week 10: The epistemological foundations of basic psychological theories (behaviorism, cognitivism) [1, 2]</p> <p>Week 11: The epistemological foundations of basic psychological theories (structural psychology, psychoanalysis, cultural-historical theory) [1, 2]</p> <p>Week 12: Fundamental issues in the establishment of Psychology as a scientific discipline. Scientific cultures in the field of Psychology. Differentiation and fragmentation of psychological knowledge. Attempts to unify psychology [1, 2, 3]</p> <p>Week 13: Review, highlighting key points, and discussion [1, 2, 3, 4]</p>

4. INSTRUCTIONAL and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

INSTRUCTION METHOD	In class (face-to-face). These meetings include lectures, short video demonstrations, and discussions.		
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES USED	Use of ICT in teaching Support for learning through the E-learn online platform		
TEACHING ORGANIZATION	Activity	Semester workload (hours)	ECTS
	Lectures	39	1,56
	Exercises	18	0,72
	Independent Study	70	2,8
	Exams	2	0,08
	Total	129	5,16
STUDENT EVALUATION	<p>Assessment is conducted in Greek.</p> <p>The assessment criteria are presented during the first lecture held in the lecture hall and are posted on the course website.</p> <p>The final grade for the course will be based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation and submission of an assignment or, alternatively, a progress report (30% of the final grade) 		

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dafermos, M. (2002). *Epistemology of Psychology: A Critical Introduction*. Kritiki.
- Donohue, W. & Kitchener, R. (Eds.) (1996). *The Philosophy of Psychology*. SAGE Publications.
- Marangos, G. (1996). *Epistemologies*. Odysseas.
- Papanikolaou, A. K. (2023). *Matter and Knowledge*. Gutenberg
- Piaget, J. (1972). *Epistemology of the Human Sciences*. Rappa.
- Searle, J. (1997). *Discovering the Mind*. Athens: Govosti.
- Walsh, R., Teo, T., & Baydala, A. (2020). *A Critical History and Philosophy of Psychology: Diversity of Context, Thought, and Practice*. Cambridge University Press.

Relevant journals

[Theory & Psychology](#)