

COURSE TITLE: **PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL CONTEXT**

LECTURER: Konstantinos Kafetsios

MINIMAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 5 **ECTS CREDITS:** 4

AVAILABLE FOR: psychology students only

ABOUT THE COURSE:

Personality theories (approached either from a psychoanalytic, humanistic, trait or other perspective) are concerned with individual-centered stability of characteristics. Since, Walter Mischel's criticism on the stability of personality, however, the limitations of psychological theories have been considered and the role of social context for personality expression has come to front.

The course aims to promote an understanding of personality approaches from a socio-psychological perspective, or in other words, to understand personality as an interaction of individual in social contexts. The first part of the course will examine the trait-state debate and introduce some key contextual theories of personality. From then several different contexts within which personality develops or interacts with will be presented: developmental, interpersonal, dyadic, cultural and others.

Taken as a whole, the course presents cutting edge theories and research and introduces students to some advanced-level thinking about the role of the individual within different social contexts.

Throughout the course students are taught skills both in understanding and analyzing social and psychological characteristics, advanced methods, skills that can be applied to other areas of psychology.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

Personality: The trait-state debate

Personality: Beyond the trait-state debate

A cognitive-affective system theory of personality: The CAPS model

Personality and Social Psychology: Advanced research methods

Adult attachment as a state: The beneficial effects of security priming

Dyadic models of Personality: Interpersonal emotion regulation

Emotion Decoding Capabilities: A contextualized approach

Personality and Geography- Geographical Social Psychology

Thermoregulation across the globe: The Human Penguin Project

Personality and the Cultural context

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1200 words essay (40 %)
- exam (60 %)