

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Psychological perspectives on social change (2PS2149)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	2
Pilier principal M ScS - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire B A - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	2
Pilier secondaire M ScS - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Course convenor: Hana Hawlina
Guest teacher: Oliver Pedersen

Contenu

Social change is often seen as a big and inevitable tidal wave that sweeps up individuals and carries them forward without any active participation or agency of their own. On the other hand, we have ideas of social change driven by great men, such as Martin Luther King Jr. or Mahatma Gandhi, who had a dream, become the change they wanted to see in the world and led the masses to freedom from colonial and racist constraints. What are the relations between individuals, their capacities for imagination and creative meaning-making, and seismic transformations on the societal level? How do radical ideas emerge, become shared and inspire collective action? Why are some social institutions so resistant to change? Ultimately, what can psychology contribute to the understanding of societal transformations?

The course will offer an overview of classic and contemporary theories exploring social change from a psychological perspective. Students will learn to apply the theoretical framework to critically analyse past and current social movements and attempt to achieve a better comprehension of the complexities of an unfolding and ever-shifting world. Throughout the course, the emphasis will be on the imagination and its role in constructing and transforming the social, including the role of art in protests, the contributions of social networks and internet memes in shaping the representations of the refugee crisis, and imagining the future of global climate change.

The course will be given in English, however the students can participate and submit their final assignment in their preferred language (English or French).

Forme de l'évaluation

An essay or a case study, written in English or French. Students will also participate in a research project throughout the semester. Details of the written assignment will be presented during the first session on Tuesday, September 24th.

First deadline: January 27th

Second deadline: April 6th

Third deadline: July 13th

Pré-requis

(The ability to follow the course and engage with reading material in English. The course will present a supportive environment for learning and expressing ideas in English; nevertheless, if some students are more comfortable participating in French, they will be able to do so.)

Forme de l'enseignement

The sessions will be a combination of interactive lectures (first half) and discussions about required readings (second half); every week, students will be expected to read one paper/chapter on the topic of that week's session (e.g., ideologies and utopias, imagining the future and global climate change, etc.). The list of required readings will be available on Moodle.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Communicate in a clear academic writing style, including structuring the argument in a critical and creative manner
- Discover an overview of methodological approaches to study social change
- Develop a critical reflection (on class readings and media discourses)
- Apply theoretical concepts to understand complex psychosocial and political situations

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Psychological perspectives on social change (2PS2149)

- Discuss texts and current events, defend a position, identify key issues
- Review and evaluate relevant literature
- Explore self-reflection on one's own position and possibilities of acting

Compétences transférables

- Generate new ideas (creativity)
- Carry out a critical analysis
- Carry out critical and evidence-based analyses
- Discuss complex issues and interactions
- Apply knowledge to new situations
- Discuss complex issues