

# **Psychology 2800A – Social Psychology**

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University of Lethbridge**

**Spring 2012  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:25 to 10:40, in PE275**

## **Content:**

Social psychology is the scientific study of how people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours are influenced by other people. Students will be introduced to the major theoretical perspectives used in social psychology, the goals of social behaviour, the impact of personal characteristics and situations on social behaviour, and the research methods used in the study of social behaviour. Topics include: attitudes and persuasion, discrimination, love and friendship, prosocial behaviour, and aggression.

## **Text:**

Baron, R. A., Branscombe, N. R., & Byrne, D. (2008). *Social psychology* (12<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Pearson.

## **Structure:**

The course topics will be covered more or less in the order in which they appear in the text. The text will provide the core material for each topic. Lectures will highlight and expand on this material. Therefore, lectures will introduce material not covered in the text. Students are responsible for all of this material. A tentative lecture schedule appears at the end of this outline. Please note that I do not share my PowerPoint Slides.

## **Evaluation:**

Exams.

There will be three exams. The first and second exams will be weighted at 30% each, and the third exam will be weighted at 35%. Exams will include the material covered in the text and class lectures. They are not cumulative. The exams will contain multiple choice questions and may contain matching and short answer questions. The exams will not be administered during class time. The exams will be administered via Moodle. Students should familiarize themselves with Testing Centre procedures and hours of operation before arriving to write the exam. It is strongly recommended that students write the exam as early as possible during the scheduled exam time because seating in the Testing Centre is limited and demand for seats is high.

The tentative schedule for the exams is as follows:

Exam 1: opens Thursday February 9, closes Monday February 13.

Exam 2: opens Friday March 16, closes Tuesday March 20.

Exam 3: opens Monday April 23, closes Thursday April 26 (during the final exam period).

NOTE: If students are not able to write an exam during the assigned time please contact the

course instructor as soon as possible before the exam. Medical reasons must be supported by a statement that test performance would be seriously affected along with the physician's name, address, and telephone number. Non-medical reasons must also be supported. It is the student's responsibility to set up a make-up exam with the course instructor.

#### **'Newsclip' Writing Assignment.**

This assignment is worth 5%. Students will be asked to find a 'newsclip' and write a short paragraph (300 words maximum, word count must be included) indicating how it relates to the course material. Newsclips should be text-based (no video or audio) and can be from newspapers, magazines, or reputable internet sites (e.g., CBC). They should not be academic journal articles. A hard copy of the assignment is to be submitted to the course Teaching Assistant (TA) and a hard copy of the newsclip must be submitted along with the written paragraph. Grades will be allocated based on the clarity of the link to the course material, writing style, and proper referencing for the newsclip according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

To ensure that proper credit is received students should ensure that their name and student number appear on the title page of the assignment. Students must provide ONE newsclip at some point during the course and no later than the beginning of class on Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Grading:**

The following ranges will be used to assign a final grade:

A+	90-100	C+	67-69
A	85-89	C	63-66
A-	80-84	C-	60-62
B+	77-79	D+	57-59
B	73-76	D	50-56
B-	70-72	F	<50

#### **Research Participation and Bonus Marks:**

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to participate in active research programs of faculty members. This participation allows you to get direct experience in how many of the experiments and studies you will read and hear about are actually done, and provides an opportunity for you to see what goes on in the labs, and meet senior undergraduate and graduate students conducting their own laboratory research projects. Calls for volunteers to assist in these projects will be made during the semester, via e-mail. If you are asked to volunteer, and you accept, each project usually requires one hour or less of your time, but this will depend on the individual research project. In recognition of your time, and in recognition that you are learning something about the discipline of psychology beyond what you would in the normal classroom environment, an extra credit of 1% for each study in which you participate will be added to your total grade to a maximum of 2%. Note that there is no guarantee that all students will be able to achieve the maximum extra credit. As these are extra credits, students who choose not to participate are not disadvantaged.

The available studies will be listed on the system at <http://psychleth.sona-systems.com>. Your username will be the same one you use to access Moodle. The password will be psyc2800a. The

system should be available starting around Tuesday, January 17, 2012 and the deadline for participating in studies is April 16, 2012.

**Contacts:**

Please bring any questions or concerns of a personal or confidential nature directly to the course instructor. I am available for drop-ins or by appointment. Please contact me by email to set up an appointment. My email address is [gail.hepburn@uleth.ca](mailto:gail.hepburn@uleth.ca). My office is D856.

I encourage students to raise questions about the course material during class time so that all students may benefit. I do not encourage students to ask questions via email. Please contact the Teaching Assistant for the course, Chantel Fouillard, for clarification on basic course material and an opportunity to review graded exams. Chantel can be reached via email at [fouillard@uleth.ca](mailto:fouillard@uleth.ca). If any questions remain please contact the course instructor. I am happy to discuss any unresolved questions or concerns.

### **Tentative Lecture Schedule:**

January 10	Introduction to Course
January 12, 17	Field of Social Psychology (Chapter 1)
January 19, 24	Social Cognition (Chapter 2)
January 26, 31	Social Perception (Chapter 3)
February 2, 7	The Self (Chapter 4)
<b>February 9</b>	<b>No Class. Exam 1 open (Responsible for January 10 to February 7 inclusive)</b>
February 14, 16	Attitudes (Chapter 5)
<b>February 21, 23</b>	<b>No Class. Reading Break</b>
February 28, March 1, 6	Stereotyping, Prejudice, Discrimination (Chapter 6)
March 8, 13, 15	Interpersonal Attraction and Close Relationships (Chapter 7)
<b>March 20</b>	<b>No class. Exam 2 open (Responsible for February 14 to March 15 inclusive)</b>
March 22, 27	Social Influence (Chapter 8)
March 29, April 3	Prosocial Behaviour (Chapter 9)
April 5, April 10	Aggression (Chapter 10)
April 12, 17	Groups and Individuals (Chapter 11)
	<b>Exam 3 open during final exam time (Responsible for March 22 to April 17 inclusive)</b>