

Psychology 2800A – Social Psychology

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Spring 2009
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* (12th 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 WebCT. Students should familiarize themselves with WebCT 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 test center is limited and demand for seats is high.

The tentative schedule for the exams is as follows:

Exam 1: opens Friday February 6, closes Wednesday February 11.

Exam 2: opens Wednesday March 18, closes Monday March 23.

Exam 3: opens Monday April 20, closes Friday April 24 (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 (250 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. The assignment is to be submitted to the course Teaching Assistant (TA) and hard copies 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 Thursday, April 2nd.

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. Calls for volunteers to assist in these projects will be made during the semester, in class or 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 for 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 to 2% 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. These extra credits are added only after all grade cutoffs have been established such that students who choose not to participate are not disadvantaged. Please check with the Research Assistant for the Experiment to ensure that you have not completed this study previously or have done a similar study. Please note that you will only receive this credit if you participate in experiments that are listed on this class' WebCT site.

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. 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, Kelly Suschinsky, for clarification on basic course material and an opportunity to review graded exams. Kelly can be reached via email at kelly.suschinsky@gmail.com. If any questions remain please contact the course instructor. I am happy to discuss any unresolved questions or concerns.

Tentative Lecture Schedule:

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