

# SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 2800 (Section A); Summer 2007 (July 26 – Aug 17)

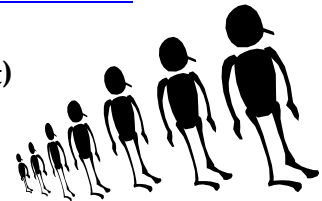
UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE



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**WebCT:** You can sign into WebCT through your U of L webmail portal where you check your email and course information, or the following specific web address: <http://webct.uleth.ca>

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 1:00 – 2:00pm (or by appointment)  
**Lecture Time:** MTWRF 10:20 AM – 12:30 PM  
**Lecture Room:** University Hall, Room C674



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## Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the major theoretical perspectives used in social psychology and the research methods used in the study of social behaviour. Topics include: attitudes and persuasion, prejudice and discrimination, aggression, love and friendship. (Credit Hours: 3.0) Prerequisite(s): One course (3.0 credit hours) in Psychology or Neuroscience.

## Course Objectives

This class is intended to provide a broad overview and introduction to social psychology, from basic principles of social psychological research to applied concepts and topics. By the end of this course, you will be able to describe, explain, discuss, and apply concepts learned in class to both public and personal situations that you have encountered. You will also develop critical thinking skills and perspective when processing the course content.

## Required Textbook

Baron, R. A., Byrne, D., & Branscombe, N. R. (2006). *Social psychology* (11<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

+ Additional Readings to be posted on WebCT (where applicable)

## Grade Evaluation

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Midterm Exam	35%	August 7
Social Behaviour Experiment	20%	August 13
Final Exam	45%	August 20 *

\* Students must verify time & location for the Final Exam when posted.

## Grade Scheme

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

## Examination Component

The midterm and final exam will contain a mix of multiple choice and short answer (fill in the blank, definitions, compare/contrast) questions. The midterm is worth **35%** of your final grade and will be written in the class period on **August 7**. The midterm will contain material from all lectures, text, and class material covered to that point. The Final Exam is worth **45%** of your final grade and is scheduled during the final exam period on **August 20**. The Final will be cumulative. **NOTE: Make-up exams are ONLY permitted upon permission of the instructor following documentation of a valid excused absence (see Student Responsibilities section of this course outline).**

## Assignment Component

Due to the applied nature of the concepts covered in this course, you will be required to perform a mini-experiment observing social behaviour. We will choose a selection of social behaviours in a variety of contexts (e.g., how far do people stand apart when they converse with each other, and does this distance change between strangers, friends, or romantic interests?) and you will be responsible for observing one or more of these, recording some observational data, and using this to write up a mini-report on your observations. Detailed guidelines will be posted on WebCT during the first week of class. Your written report will range from 3 to 5 pages in length, including a data collection table in text (title page must be included and does not count towards the page limits). **FORMATting:** Your paper must be word-processed, 12 point font, 1" margins on all sides, and the text should be double-spaced. Please refer to APA guidelines for citing any references you may use (minimum 2 recommended). Assignments must be submitted in paper copy in class (no email copies accepted).

## Experimental Research Participation

In addition to the foregoing, the 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 either in class or via e-mail. If you are asked to volunteer, and you accept, each project usually required 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 5%. 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.

## Lecture Schedule & Assigned Readings \*

Date	#	Topic	Reading List
Jul 26	1	Course Introduction + What is Social Psychology?	Chapter 1
Jul 27	2	Social Cognition	Chapter 2
Jul 30	3	Social Cognition/Social Perception	Chapters 2/3
Jul 31	4	Attitudes	Chapter 4
Aug 1	5	Attitudes/Understanding the Self	Chapters 4/5
Aug 2	6	Prejudice and Discrimination	Chapter 6
Aug 3	7	Interpersonal Attraction	Chapter 7
Aug 6	--	<i>No Classes (Civic Holiday)</i>	-----
<b>Aug 7</b>	--	<b>MIDTERM EXAMINATION (35%)</b>	<b>All Chs/Lectures</b>
Aug 8	8	Close Relationships	Chapter 8
Aug 9	9	Groups and Individuals	Chapter 12
Aug 10	10	Prosocial Behaviour	Chapter 10
Aug 13	11	Social Influence <i>Social Behaviour Experiment Due (20%)</i>	Chapter 9
Aug 14	12	Social Influence/Aggression	Chapters 9/11
Aug 15	13	Aggression	Chapter 11
Aug 16	14	Social Psychology and the Law	Module A
Aug 17	15	Social Psychology and Health (plus review)	Module A
<b>Aug 20</b>	--	<b>FINAL EXAM (45%)</b> <b>TIME: TBA, ROOM: TBA</b>	<b>Cumulative</b> <b>(all chs &amp; lectures)</b>

\* schedule is subject to modification – dates for topics are tentative.

## **Student Responsibilities**

Students are expected to be aware of their academic responsibilities as outlined in Part 4 (Academic Regulations & University Policies) of the University Calendar.

1. **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** All forms of student dishonesty are considered unacceptable. The University policy on cheating and plagiarism is clearly outlined in the section on Student Discipline Policy. Cheating on exams and plagiarism are serious offenses. Anyone who engages in either practice will receive at minimum a grade of zero for the exam or paper in question and no opportunity will be given to replace the grade or redistribute the weights. Any offense will be reported to the Dean of the program, who will determine the disciplinary action to be taken.
2. **REGISTRATION STATUS:** Students are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of their registration in courses. This can be checked at any time using the online registration system.
3. **WITHDRAWING FROM THE COURSE:** Students who stop attending class must officially withdraw from the course. This must be done by the official withdrawal deadline for the course, which is available at the Registrar's Office. Failure to withdraw properly will result in a grade being assigned that is based on completed course work.
4. **EXAMS:** Your student photo I.D. is required at exams to verify your identity. At the discretion of the instructor, students may or may not be allowed to begin an examination after it has been in progress for 15 minutes. Students must remain in the exam room for at least 20 minutes from the time the exam commenced. Consumption of food is not allowed during exams. Any form of electronic equipment, other than calculators, is not to be brought to exams and hats should not be worn.
5. **MISSED EXAMS:** When students miss an exam, test, or quiz the instructor should be notified of the reason within 48 hours. In general, some type of official documentation is required in order to obtain an excused absence. When students seek an excused absence because of illness, an official medical note is required. Medical notes **must** include: the date you were examined, a clear statement indicating that due to the severity of the illness you were unable to write the exam on the scheduled date, and the signature of the doctor (signatures by office staff on behalf of the doctor are not acceptable). **Notes obtained subsequent to the date of the exam are generally not accepted.** It is the student's responsibility to keep up with class work when they are absent from class. Absence from class will not be accepted as a legitimate reason for failure to attend an exam on time. If a student misses the midterm because of illness (medical note required) or other circumstances approved by the instructor (e.g., death in immediate family, obituary/funeral program required), then the student must complete the make-up exam within 3 days upon return to school.
6. **LECTURE NOTES:** Lecture notes will be made available online on WebCT for the benefit of the class. These are **NOT** a replacement for class attendance – students are tested on text and lecture material. The notes will provide a rough structure of class material so you must attend lectures to fill them in. Slides in PDF version (handout form) will be posted prior to lectures and can be printed at the student's discretion; however, my pace of lecture will reflect the fact

that notes were given in advance. You can print these double-sided to save paper if you wish. Please Note: The lecture schedule and assigned readings lists what chapters are associated with what particular lectures (or portions thereof). This does **NOT** mean we are only covering text material.

7. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Students will lose 10% per day (including weekends) of their total grade for assignments that are late, up to one week following the due date (upon which a grade of zero will be assigned). Any late assignments must be time stamped as to the date and time it was submitted either by myself or the Psychology Department secretary on weekdays. If you are handing in a late assignment after hours or on the weekend, you must send me an email indicating you have done so (with the assignment attached so I can verify date/time of completion) **and** put a hard paper copy of the assignment under my office door. Email assignments will NOT be accepted as completed without a paper copy to follow.
8. **CELL PHONES:** Cell phones are to be turned off during lectures, labs, seminars, and exams (except under exceptional circumstances in which approval has been granted by the instructor).

**Disclaimer: The information in this Course Outline is subject to change; any changes will be announced in class.**