

Course Home Page: www.utoronto.ca/~bassili/PSYB10

Psychology B10, Fall 2001
Prof. John Bassili (Room S-550)
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Office Hours: Thursday 3-5 p.m. and by e-mail arrangement
Teaching Assistants: Michael Dodd

Required Text: Social Psychology (Canadian Edition) by Aronson, Wilson, Akert and Ferh.

MARKING SCHEME: There will be two exams, a Midterm counting for 40% and a Final counting for 60% of the total grade. The exams will consist of multiple choice (MC) and short answer (SA) questions: 30 MC and 2 SA on the Midterm, and 45 MC and 3 SA on the Final. The exams cover as representatively as possible the contents of lectures and of assigned readings in the textbook (you should not assume that the material covered in lectures is more important than that covered in the textbook -- the textbook actually contains more information than lectures, a fact that will be reflected in exams). The exams are not cumulative. The names of specific researchers are not of critical importance since questions will provide sufficient information for the identification of research. You must, however, familiarise yourself with the names of important theorists (e.g., Asch, Festinger, Milgram, etc.)

General Advice: Social psychology is deceptively simple. Because the phenomena covered in this course often seem familiar, it is all too easy to assume that intuition is a good guide to the material. This feeling has lulled many students into a false sense of security as they entered exams in this course. The "Just use your common sense" prescription doesn't work very well when it comes to knowing the contents of a complex scientific enterprise. Bear in mind that the course is not only about understanding human social behaviour, but also about learning how the science of social psychology yields such understanding. You would be asking your common sense too much if you expect it to tell you not only if people who are in love are happier, but also how this has been demonstrated scientifically.

Also beware of the false sense of security that comes from your understanding of the material covered in lectures. By necessity the scope of this material is quite limited, especially when compared to coverage in the textbook. The phenomena of social psychology often have substantial dramatic impact, and this can cause you to forget your role of budding scientific critic. Don't let the first exam act as your reminder. Pay attention to all details of the course, and read the textbook very carefully.

<u>Lecture Dates</u>	<u>Readings and Lectures</u>
September 14	Chapter 1: Introduction to Social Psychology Lecture 1 : Introduction
September 21	Chapter 8: Conformity Lecture 2 : Conformity and Obedience Video : Obedience (Milgram's research)
September 28	Chapter 13: Prejudice Lecture 3 : Prejudice Video : Prejudice: Causes and Consequences
October 5	Chapter 7: Attitudes and Attitude Change Lecture 4 : Reducing Prejudice Video : Eye of the Storm
October 12	Chapter 6: Self-Justification and the Need to Maintain Self-Esteem Lecture 5 : Attitudes and Persuasion
October 19	FIRST EXAM (40%) Exam first hour, followed by lecture. Chapter 12: Aggression Lecture 6 : Aggression
October 26	Chapter 9: Group Processes Lecture 7 : Crowd Behaviour and Group Think Video : Group Dynamics: Group Think
November 2	Chapter 11: Prosocial Behaviour Lecture 8 : Helping, Cooperating, Competing Video : 1. Bystander Apathy 2. Social Animal
November 9	Chapter 3 : Social Cognition Lecture 9 : Nonverbal Behavior & Communication Video : Communication: Nonverbal Agenda
November 16	Chapter 4 : Social Perception Lecture 10: Person Perception Video : Pitchman
November 23	Chapter 10 : Interpersonal Attraction Lecture 11: Social Comparison
November 30:	Chapter : Social Psychology in Action: S. P. and Health Lecture 12: Sexuality

Four interesting chapters in the book are not assigned in this list. Read them for your own edification!

FINAL EXAM WILL BE SCHEDULED DURING THE FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD