

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AT SCARBOROUGH  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

PSY B10 - Introduction to Social Psychology  
Fall, 2003

Tuesdays, 4-7 p.m.

[www.ryerson.ca/~tburke/psyb10](http://www.ryerson.ca/~tburke/psyb10)

<b>Instructor:</b>	Tara M. Burke, Ph. D.	T.A.:	Derryn Jewell, M.A.
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Office Hours: By appointment. Some hours will be specifically scheduled at exam time.

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**Course Description:** Social Psychology is an extremely diverse field that generally deals with people in social situations. Core topics include social behaviour such as aggression, obedience, conformity, intimate relationships, discrimination, and how groups function. They also include attitudes, social cognition, social perception, prejudice, and feelings of guilt, all of which are assumed to affect social behaviour. In addition, we will cover some applied areas, such as psychology and the law. We will also discuss basic methodological issues as they pertain to the above topics.

**Goals:** The goal of this course is to introduce you to the general theories of social psychology and to demonstrate their relevance to everyday life. Social Psychology is sometimes viewed as simply "common sense" research; by the end of this course you should have developed an appreciation for the theoretical basis of the discipline, and be able to critically evaluate current research in the field.

**Required Text:** Myers, D. G., & Spencer, S. J. (2004). *Social Psychology, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill.

**Course Requirements:** There will be a mid-term and a final exam (not cumulative), each worth 50% (covering material from both the lectures and the text).

**Evaluation:** Exams will consist of multiple choice (MC) questions. Not everything in the text will be reviewed in class - and there will be material we discuss in the lecture that does not appear in the text. You are responsible for all this material. Generally, missed exams will be assigned a grade of zero, unless prior notification is given and/or there are legitimate medical or compassionate circumstances involved. Please notify me or the teaching assistant for the course within 24 hours if you are unable to write an exam. I have 24hr voice-mail where you can leave a message. If the absence has been documented and approved, the remaining exams will be re-weighted to include the missing amount.

## Class Schedule

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Lecture Topic:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>
Sept. 9	Introduction to Social Psychology	Chapter 1
Sept. 16	The Self	Chapter 2
Sept. 23	Social Beliefs	Chapter 3
Sept. 30	Behaviour and Attitudes	Chapter 4
Oct. 7	Conformity	Chapter 6
Oct. 14	Persuasion	Chapter 7
<b>Oct. 21</b>	<b>Exam 1 - 50%</b>	<b>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 &amp; 7</b>
Oct. 28	Prejudice	Chapter 9
Oct. 4	Aggression	Chapter 10
Nov. 11	Attraction and Liking	Chapter 11
Nov. 18	Altruism	Chapters 12
Nov. 25	Group Influence/Psychology & Law	Chapter 8 & Module B
<b>T.B.A.</b>	<b>Final Exam - 50%</b>	<b>Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 8, &amp; Module B</b>

To do well in this course, you need to come to class (!) prepared to think about and discuss the topics we cover. Any concerns regarding your grades on a particular exam should be presented to the teaching assistant - in writing - as soon as possible after the evaluation. If you find you are having difficulties, come and talk about it with me or the T.A. early, rather than after the course when it is too late to do anything about it - I will do my best to assist with suggestions for time management, alternate ways of studying the material, and so on. The extent of this help, however, does not extend to raising marks upon request. "We are not in the business of judging whole lives, or even whole careers. All we can do, all we *should* do, is grade students as fairly and uniformly as possible...on how well they learned the course material" (from The Chronicle of Higher Education, R.L. Wolke).