

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AT SCARBOROUGH
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

PSY B10 - Introduction to Social Psychology

Fall, 2004

Wednesdays 7-10 p.m.

www.ryerson.ca/~tburke/psyb10.htm

Instructor:	Tara M. Burke, Ph. D.	T.A.:	Shauna Kingsnorth
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Office Hours: I will generally be in my office 45 minutes before class. Additional hours will be scheduled around exam dates.

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, 2nd Canadian Edition*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill.

Course Requirements: There will be three exams in this course, worth 30%, 35%, and 35% respectively. None of the exams are cumulative. Exams will cover material from both the lectures and the text.

Evaluation: Due to the large class size, the exams will consist entirely of multiple choice (MC) questions; however, there will be three examinations so that no one exam is worth an overwhelming amount of marks. 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.

Class Schedule - B10

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Lecture Topic:</u>	<u>Readings:</u>
Sept. 15	Introduction to Social Psychology	Chapter 1
Sept. 22	The Self	Chapter 2
Sept. 29	Social Beliefs	Chapter 3
Oct. 6	Behaviour and Attitudes	Chapter 4
Oct. 13	Exam 1 - 30%	Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4
Oct. 20	Conformity	Chapter 6
Oct. 27	Persuasion	Chapter 7
Nov. 3	Altruism & Aggression	Chapter 9 & 10
Nov. 10	Exam 2 - 35%	Chapters 6, 7, 9 & 10
Nov. 17	Attraction and Liking	Chapter 11
Nov. 24	Prejudice	Chapters 12
Dec. 1	Group Influence/Psychology & Law	Chapter 8 & Module B
T.B.A.	Exam 3 - 35%	Chapters 11, 12, 8, & Module 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 the assignment or a particular exam should be presented to me - in writing - as soon as possible after the evaluation. If you find you are having difficulties, please come and talk about it with me 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.