

Course Outline
Psychology B10 H1
Introduction to Social Psychology

Fall 2006

Lectures location and time: University of Toronto at Scarborough
Room: ARC 223
Mondays 7-10 pm;
<http://www.scar.utoronto.ca/courses/calendar/Psychology.html>

TA: Kathleen Fortune, graduate student
Email: kathleen.fortune@utoronto.ca
Office hours and location: T.B.A.

Course Director: *Gabriela Ilie, Ph.D.*
Contact: ghusain@psych.utoronto.ca
<http://psych.utoronto.ca/~ghusain>

Office hours and location: **Thursdays 11:30 – 1:30 pm**
Office: SW 638.

Link to (updated weekly): via UTSC intranet (lecture notes will be posted 3 days before the class)

EMAIL:

For security purposes, and time considerations, student emails will be answered if and only if the subject line contains your name, student number, and course number. Please be advised that email attachments from students will not be opened for security reasons.

Course Description:

Social Psychology is the study of how feelings, thoughts, and behavior are influenced by the presence of others. The course is designed to explore social behavior and to present theory and research that foster its understanding. The course will survey a wide range of phenomena relating to social behavior, including, but not limited to: self-fulfilling prophecies, cognitive dissonance, attribution theory, conformity, obedience, persuasion techniques, compliance, aggression, group dynamics, stereotypes and prejudice, conflict resolution. Focus is also directed to the concepts of interpersonal attraction and intimate relationships as well as gender and cultural factors in human motivation, communication, and personality dynamics of individual and group behavior. In addition, the development of attitudes and values are also studied within the context of how individuals think, feel, and behave in social situations.

Attendance and Participation:

Because the lectures will cover material that is not contained in the readings, class attendance is absolutely essential. Repeated late arrivals to class, or talking while the instructor or other students are speaking, are disrespectful to the instructor and other class members. Please be punctual and do not talk in class while others are speaking.

Cell Phones:

Please respect others in the class by turning off all cell phones and pagers before entering the auditorium.

Special Needs:

If you have a disability or other special needs, please notify me and the Dean's Office during the first week of the semester, and I will do my best to accommodate them.

Course Evaluations:

2 Classroom quizzes (October 23 (readings week 1 to week 3 inclusive); November 20 (all readings from weeks 4 to week 9 inclusive): 8% each

Midterm test (TBA): 42%

Final exam(TBA): 42%

Classroom quizzes are based exclusively on article readings (required readings) material and not the text or lecture material. Each quiz test will consist on 4 short answer questions. Each quiz takes 20 minutes (5 minutes per question).

Midterm and final exams include materials from lectures, required text and readings and it may make reference to material under additional reading material. Each exams consists of 50 multiple choice (MC) questions. The exams cover as representatively as possible the contents of lectures, of assigned readings, and the 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, familiarize 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 and assigned readings very carefully.

Exam and tests penalties: Students who miss the mid-term, or quizzes must notify the instructor within 24 hours of the test date. Make up exams/ quizzes will be allowed, only, and only if a UofT medical certificate will be provided and the information can be verified with the medical professional who issued the note. No other circumstances will be considered for requests to write a make up exam.

Required text and required readings:

1. Social Psychology, Third Canadian Edition, Myers & Spencer (2006). You should not use earlier editions of this textbook, because too much material is different from the current edition. Study guide to Social Psychology, Third Canadian Edition, Myers & Spencer (2006).

2. Required readings as posted on the intranet.

Additional reading material: Social Psychology Sites of the Week (posted on the UTSC intranet course access students only)

Outline of topics to be covered

<i>Week - date</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Chapters</i>
1 September 11	Introduction	
2 September 18	Research methods Social Thinking	1 and 2
3 September 25	Beliefs and Judgments	3
4 October 2nd	Behavior and Attitudes	4
5 <i>October 9th</i>	<i>Official Holiday -- no class</i>	
6 October 16	Conformity	6
7 October 23	Persuasion	7
8 October 30	Group Influence	8
9 November 6	Altruism	9
10 November 13	Aggression	10

11	November 20	Attraction and Intimacy: Liking and loving others	11
12	November 27	Prejudice	12
13	December 4	Conflict and Peacemaking	13

MIDTERM EXAM

readings, additional reading material

1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7: lecture material, required

FINAL EXAM

required readings, additional reading material

8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13: lecture material,