

# Course Syllabus for PSYB10H3 (Summer 2008)

## "An Introduction to Social Psychology"

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### Required Text

Myers, D. G., & Spencer, S. J. (2006). *Social psychology* (3rd Canadian ed.). Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.  
[ISBN-10: 0-07-095202-7]

Note: If you use an older edition of this text, or if you choose to use another text entirely, it will be your responsibility to ensure that you are familiar with the material from the weekly assigned readings in the 3rd edition for the purposes of exams. For obvious reasons, I cannot and will not provide lists of corresponding readings for other texts. For those students with financial hardships, please note that at least one copy of the course textbook will be placed on closed reserve at the UTSC library.

### Course Overview

This course will serve as an introduction to the exciting field of social psychology, with a strong emphasis on experimental approaches to hypothesis testing. We will explore the power of the social forces in determining the thoughts and actions of individuals. We will relate course topics to real events and consider how we can use this body of knowledge to benefit ourselves and our world.

### Instructor's Goals for this Course

Comprehension and retention of theory and research is important, but I am not interested in simply training you to parrot back a textbook's worth of names, dates, facts, and figures. Nor am I interested in turning each and every one of you into professional social psychologists. (Although that would admittedly be pretty cool!!) I want instead to foster knowledge of the history and methods of personality psychology, and of the major contributions social psychologists have made to our understanding of the human condition. In an era when scientific literacy is steadily dropping among the world population, and where misinformation can be quickly spread through television and the Internet, I also want to help you to be able to better evaluate claims about personality that you will encounter in the media, in college, in the workplace, and in your personal lives. Thinking scientifically about such claims will help you in adopting only the very best ones.

## Class Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Date	Lecture Topic(s)	Readings*
05/05/2008 (Week 1)	(1) Introduction (2) Research methodology	<i>M &amp; S</i> : pp. 1-31, 142-146 <u>Anderson, Lindsay, &amp; Bushman (1999)</u> <u>Klinesmith, Kasser, &amp; McAndrew (2006)</u>
05/12/2008 (Week 2)	(1) Social cognition (2) Attribution theory	<i>M &amp; S</i> : pp. 43-45, 64-81, 89-101, 135-136, 427-429 <u>Bargh &amp; Williams (2006)</u> <u>Fiske &amp; Haslam (1996)</u> <u>Norenzayan &amp; Nisbett (2000)</u>
05/19/2008 (Week 3)	(1) Attitude formation and change (2) Cognitive dissonance and self-perception theory	<i>M &amp; S</i> : pp. 109-120, 128-134, 137-140, 202-227 <u>Gazzaniga (2006)</u> <u>Rudman (2004)</u>
05/26/2008 (Week 4)	(1) The self (2) Interpersonal relationships	<i>M &amp; S</i> : pp. 33-42, 47-63, 353-378 <u>DePaulo &amp; Morris (2006)</u> <u>Furman (2002)</u> <u>Tesser (2001)</u>
06/02/2008 (Week 5)	Social identity and group dynamics	<i>M &amp; S</i> : pp. 443-461
06/09/2008 (Week 6)	Midterm Exam #1	No readings for this week... Just study hard for the exam!
06/16/2008 (Week 7)	Conformity and obedience	<i>M &amp; S</i> : pp. 170-201, 227-233 <u>Cialdini &amp; Goldstein (2004; pp. 606-613)</u>
06/23/2008 (Week 8)	Compliance techniques	<i>M &amp; S</i> : pp. 121-122, Table 7-1 (p. 210), pp. 308-309 <u>Cialdini &amp; Goldstein (2004; pp. 591-606)</u> <u>Cialdini et al. (1999)</u> 'be familiar with their methods/findings
06/30/2008 (Week 9)	Antisocial behaviours	<i>M &amp; S</i> : pp. 315-352 <u>Baumeister (2006)</u> <u>Eisenberger, Lynch, Aselage, &amp; Rohdieck (2004)</u>
07/07/2008 (Week 10)	Midterm Exam #2	No readings for this week... Just study hard for the exam!
07/14/2008 (Week 11)	Prosocial behaviours	<i>M &amp; S</i> : pp. 277-308 <u>Batson &amp; Thompson (2001)</u> <u>Slovic (2007)</u>

07/21/2008** (Week 12)	Stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination	<i>M &amp; S</i> : pp. 396-427, 430-442, 461-470 <u>Crocker &amp; Major (2003)</u> <u>Fiske (2002)</u> <u>Jussim et al. vs. Stangor (from Nien, 2007)</u>
07/28/2008 (Week 13)	Applied Topics in Social Psychology	TBA
TBA	Final Exam	Good luck with all of your exams, term papers, and projects!

Notes to the above table:

\* *M & S* = Myers and Spencer (2006; 3rd Canadian ed.) textbook; all others indicate short readings outside of the textbook that are posted online

\*\* July 20, 2008 (Sunday) is the last day to drop Summer Term "Y" courses without academic penalty.

## **Basis of Course Grades**

The evaluation for the course will be based on three multiple-choice format exams (two midterm exams, each weighted at 30% of the course grade; one final exam, weighted 40% of the course grade). The exams will not be "cumulative"; however, the final exam will contain a number of questions that address general course themes and may also include a few questions on topics that students struggled with on the midterm exams. I will prepare exam review guides for you at least one week in advance of the exam.

## **Academic Misconduct**

All submitted work in this course must be your own. Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, or other violations of the code of student conduct will not be tolerated. Per university regulations, any suspicions of academic misconduct will be documented and reported to the appropriate university authorities. Please consult Section B of the University of Toronto Code of Student Behaviour on Academic Matters for more information.

The exams are designed to demonstrate your knowledge of what we cover in this class. I trust that you will do your own work, but I will also be vigilant to ensure that is the case. My best suggestion is to try to avoid procrastination when it comes to exam preparation. In my experience, many students cheat because they feel it is the only way for them to succeed if they have not allocated enough time for their studies.

In short, I take these matters extremely seriously. If you are unsure whether some specific conduct is prohibited, then please ask me before doing it!