

Social Psychology (ΨB10) Syllabus

Summer 2015

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Professor

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SW 569

TAs

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Introduction

Social psychology is the study of social processes—how the presence of others affects the way we think, feel, and behave. This course will provide a high-level introduction to the fascinating field of social psychology. Social psychologists rely on scientific methods to discover how social animals (humans and non-human) are affected by groups, collectives, and affiliative bonds. You will be presented with many research studies that have changed what we know about humans and other social animals. The methods of these studies will broadly include self-report, behavioral, cognitive, psychophysiological, and neuroscientific methods. You are strongly encouraged to evaluate the methods and implications of these studies critically so that you will come to think like a modern social psychologist.

Course Format

This is a web-based course. The lectures will be available online (WebOption). To view the WebOption Lectures, click on the “Lecturecasts” menu item from the PSYB10 course menu once you have logged into Blackboard. You will need to enter your UTSCid or UTORid and password to view the lectures. If you have *any* trouble with accessing or viewing the WebOption lectures, please email the WebOption office for technical help at: webopt@utsc.utoronto.ca.

All of the lectures for the course will be online as soon as the course begins, so the pacing of your studying is up to you. A suggested schedule of readings appears below. Additional information about the course, and supplementary material that may be of interest to you will also be available on the BlackBoard site for the course. I will be available for in-office consultation during my office hours or by appointment. I will also lead review sessions before the midterm and final.

Textbook

Social Psychology (Third Edition). Thomas Gilovich, Dacher Keltner, Richard E. Nisbett. W. W. Norton & Co. 2012, ISBN 978-0393138481.

The book is written using everyday language and is intended to be accessible to beginning students of psychology. Nonetheless, each chapter contains a lot of information. In order to help you study, each chapter section has a brief summary (marked “Looking Back”) at the end. Each chapter also has a summary at the end, as well as key terms and further reading. New and important terms are also noted and defined in the margin where they first occur. I encourage you to pay special attention to these study aids as you read. You will be responsible for knowing all the content of assigned chapters (not just the content I go over in lectures).

Marking

Your mark will be based entirely on two exams:

1. A midterm exam (worth 50% of your mark). The midterm will cover lectures 1-5 and all associated readings. The exam will be 80% multiple choice and 20% matching. The midterm exam will be scheduled by the Registrar in the last week of June.

2. A cumulative final exam (worth 50% of your mark). Though it is cumulative, it will emphasize material from lectures 6-10 (and associated readings). You can expect approximately 25% of the questions to come from lectures 1-5 (including readings) and 75% to come from lectures 6-10 (including readings). The exam will be 80% multiple choice and 20% matching. The final exam will be scheduled by the by UTSC Registrar and will be held sometime between August 7-20.

I will provide a number of study aids to make sure your exam performance reflects your true knowledge and ability:

Example questions. Example exam questions will be posted in the “Course Documents” section of the Blackboard site.

Exam Review Sessions. One to seven days before the midterm and the final exams, I will hold optional 2-hour review sessions. Dates, times, and locations will be announced to the class on Blackboard. The format of the review sessions will be question- and-answer about course material, such that you must come with questions about the material in order to get something out of the Q&A review. Nonetheless, it may be worth it to you to drop by simply to hear answers to *other* people’s questions. These Q&A review sessions are purely optional; attendance will not factor into your grade. As a consequence, although I will try to choose a convenient time period for the review session, I cannot reschedule the session once the date has been set.

Blackboard

The course Blackboard website will be your one-stop resource for all course documents, lectures, announcements, and supplementary information. You are highly advised to regularly check the “Announcements” and “FAQ” sections of the Blackboard site because you are solely responsible for staying on top of all course announcements made through Blackboard.

Office Hours

Office hours are a great way to get answers to specific questions you may have. I will hold weekly office hours starting the week of May 4. (I may have to cancel certain office hours due to travel, but if this is the case there will be an

announcement posted on Blackboard.)

If you arrive early to scheduled office hours, then please wait outside until office hours begin. During office hours, please come inside the office, even if other students are already in there (i.e., please do not form a line or wait outside the office during office hours). If you wait, then you may not have a chance to ask your question. If you come inside, then you will have the additional benefit of hearing answers to other students' questions.

Lectures

The course consists of 10 lectures. I recommend that you do the reading corresponding to the lecture before viewing (readings are listed below). Please note that the lectures and readings will not necessarily have a 1-to-1 relationship (that is, the lecture will not simply go over the readings). Rather, the two will complement each other. Below, you will find a table outlining the topics for each lecture, and the related readings.

Lecture Schedule

Lecture #	Topic	Reading
1	General introduction; methods & paradigms	Chapter 1, 2
2	Understanding the self and others	Chapter 3, 5
3	Heuristics and biases in judgment	Chapter 4
4	Attitudes and behavior; automaticity	Chapter 7, Bargh & Chartrand (1999)
5	Emotion and morality	Chapter 6
6	Persuasion and social influence	Chapter 8, 9
	Midterm Exam	
7	Attraction and relationships	Chapter 10
8	Group behavior; stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination	Chapter 11, 12
9	Aggression, altruism, and cooperation	Chapter 13, 14
10	Applied social psychology, review, and wrap-up	

Other useful information about course policies and procedures

Missed Exams

Midterm. According to University policy, you may miss the midterm if you are unable to take the exam for a number of legitimate reasons. You will need to obtain verifiable documentation of the reason for missing the midterm, and email psyb10@utsc.utoronto.ca as soon as you know that you will have to miss the midterm. There will be a make-up midterm that will be scheduled by the Registrar within 2 weeks of the original exam. The date and time of the make-up midterm will be posted as soon as the Registrar schedules it. If you miss the original exam then you must take the make-up exam when it is scheduled, or you will receive a 0 for the midterm exam. For reasons of fairness, there will be no exceptions to this policy.

Final. If you must miss the final exam, then you should contact the Registrar's Office directly, as I am not authorized to make any changes to the final exam date and time.

Ensuring Fairness in Marking

I care deeply that your course mark accurately reflects your knowledge, skills, and abilities. For this reason, I use quantitative methods to evaluate the pedagogical quality of exam questions after both exams. I will give everyone points back for any question where (a) less than 20% of the class answered the question correctly (i.e., below chance for a 5-answer multiple-choice question); OR (b) students who were in the 90th percentile overall performed unusually poorly (i.e., as poorly as did students in the 10th percentile). If a question passes these quantitative tests but you feel it was unfair, that should be a signal to you that you may simply have not known the answer, because other students did not have the same problem.

Accessibility

Everyone with a love of learning is welcome in this class, and I strive to provide an equal playing field for students with diverse learning styles and needs. Please contact the AccessAbility office (SW302, ability@utsc.utoronto.ca) as soon as possible if you need an accommodation.

Academic Integrity

This classroom is built on mutual respect, and I know that you take great pride in your academic integrity. In the rare cases of substantial evidence that the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (Section B) has been compromised, I will enact the procedures outlined in Section C of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. First, I will email you an invitation to discuss the

possible offence. If our discussion leads me to believe that you have not compromised the code, then the matter will be dropped. If either you fail to respond to two requests for this discussion or new evidence comes to light, then a formal investigation will be initiated. Under absolutely no circumstances will I change a mark without merit. Only the Registrar can approve accommodations for special circumstances, so I will not respond to any requests for mark changes.