

Social Psychology (ΨB10) Syllabus

Fall 2015

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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. These studies will use 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.

## **Textbook**

*Social Psychology (Third Edition)*. Thomas Gilovich, Dacher Keltner, Serena Chen, 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. 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 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.
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.

You will also be able to earn a bonus 2% based on in-class participation. I will ask you to participate during lectures using an iClicker (either the physical device, or the smartphone app). There will be at least one participation opportunity per lecture. If you participate during any 7 lectures at least once, you will receive a bonus 2% on your mark (so, if your mark was originally 80%, it would be 82% with the bonus).

If you CANNOT make it to lecture on a regular basis, you may arrange to do a short (2-3 page) written assignment and peer assessment for the 2% bonus, instead of in-class participation. This assignment will use UTSC's PeerScholar system. To receive credit, you will need to turn in an assignment AND evaluate four of your classmates' assignments. The assignment topic and evaluation rubric will be announced on Blackboard.

### **Exam Scheduling and Review**

The midterm exam will be held during class hours on October 20. The final exam will be scheduled by the by the UTSC Registrar. It will be held sometime between December 8-22.

The TAs and 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 prior to each exam. These materials are provided to help you study, but you can certainly begin studying before the example questions are posted (as you do for all your other classes that don't provide review sheets), and you are advised to do so.

*Exam Review Sessions.* One to five days before the midterm and the final exams, the TAs and I will hold optional 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. If there are no questions, then there will be no review. These Q&A review sessions are purely optional; attendance will not factor into your grade. As a consequence, although we will try to choose a convenient time period for the review session, we 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. Lecture notes (PDF copies of the slides) will be available on the Blackboard site the evening before each lecture. 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 office hours each week except for the Fall Reading Week, beginning the week of September 14. (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.) The location and time of office hours will be announced 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 (Mondays 2-5, AC 223)

The course consists of 10 lectures (plus one midterm exam held during course hours). When you attend lecture you will be expected to be quiet (so that others can hear) and to be prepared to participate in discussion, both using the iClicker and orally. I will ask questions for discussion during the lecture and expect you to think about the lecture and reading. For this reason, I recommend that you do the reading corresponding to the lecture before attending (readings are listed in the lecture schedule). 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 lecture topics for each date, and the readings related to that lecture. I recommend reading these chapters before attending that lecture.

The evening before each lecture, I will post the slides to Blackboard as PDF files.

For your convenience, lecture videos will be available online (WebOption) within 48 hours of the original lecture. 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](mailto:webopt@utsc.utoronto.ca). Lectures will remain available until the final exam, so you can watch them at your own pace and review them before the exams.

**IMPORTANT:** There will be no lectures on September 7, October 12, or November 23.

Lecture #	Date	Topic	Reading
	Sept. 7	<b>No lecture (Labour Day)</b>	
1	Sept. 14	General introduction; methods & paradigms	Chapter 1, 2
2	Sept. 21	Understanding the self and others	Chapter 3, 5
3	Sept. 28	Heuristics and biases in judgment	Chapter 4
4	Sept. 29	Attitudes and behavior; automaticity	Chapter 7, Bargh & Chartrand (1999)
5	Oct. 5	Emotion and morality	Chapter 6
	Oct. 12	<b>No lecture (Thanksgiving Break)</b>	
	Oct. 19	Midterm Exam	
6	Oct. 26	Persuasion and social influence	Chapter 8, 9
7	Nov. 2	Attraction and relationships	Chapter 10
8	Nov. 9	Group behavior; stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination	Chapter 11, 12
9	Nov. 16	Aggression, altruism, and cooperation	Chapter 13, 14
	Nov. 23	<b>No lecture</b>	
10	Nov. 30	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. If you are approved to miss the midterm, your final grade will be weighted at 100%. 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 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](mailto: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.