

# PSYC11: Social Psychology Methods Lab

## Winter 2018

### Course

PSYC11H3S – LEC 30: Social Psychology Methods Lab

Class and Location: Thursdays 5-7pm, SW316

### Instructor

Nick Hobson, PhD

email: [nick.hobson@utoronto.ca](mailto:nick.hobson@utoronto.ca)

Office: SY162

Office hours: by appointment

### Teaching Assistant

Nina Wang

Email: [szeyuhnina.wang@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:szeyuhnina.wang@mail.utoronto.ca)

Office hours: by appointment

### Course description, goals, and objectives

The course is a general overview and introduction to conceptual, theoretical, and practical issues related to research in social psychology. The first part of the course is a preview into the set of scientific concepts most relevant to psychology.

The second part of the course is a hands-on experience to get students familiar with various methodologies used in social psychology. A focus will be given to the most relevant methods including i) lab-based and field experiments, ii) logistics of planning, iii) social cognitive priming procedures and experimental manipulations, iv) and behavioral observation/coding.

The final and third part of the course is dedicated to students' development of a research idea, ending with a final presentation and paper. Throughout the semester, the course will touch on the multiple aspects of psychological research including research design, data collection, analyses, interpretation of findings, validity of results, writing and synthesizing results, and presenting actual (and expected) outcomes.

The general goals and objectives of the course are the following:

- Learn how to ask research questions in a way that is empirically derived
- Understand how a conceptual idea becomes a set of predictions / tractable hypotheses that can then be experimentally tested
- Explore the various methods common to social psychology and understand each one's different strengths/weaknesses
- Hone a scientific literacy skillset -- think like a scientist
- Develop written and oral communication skills

- Apply scientific thought and analyses to different social and individual-related problems in everyday life

## Course Readings

Crano, W. D., Brewer, M. D., & Lac, A. (2015). *Principles and methods of social research (3rd ed.)*. New York, NY: Routledge.

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### **Class attendance and participation (15%)**

This is a lab-designed C-level course with a small class size. As such, it has a strict focus on in-class activities, methods, data collection, class discussion, debates, and overall active engagement. The hands-on activities related to the methods require students to not only attend but to also actively participate in each class. I encourage all students to engage fully with the material and activities. This is the best way to achieve success in the course. Moreover, the learning experience will be that much more valuable and personally relevant.

### **Research summary (15%)**

Throughout the second part of the course, there will be four mini-research projects associated with different methodologies. Students will be required to write a research summary and methods for one of the methods (of their own choosing). More detailed instructions for the summary paper will be provided in class later on in the semester. It must be submitted by 11:59pm by the due date in order to avoid late penalties. Late papers will be accepted up to one week late, with a 10 point deduction for every day that it is late.

### **Research presentation (30%)**

The research presentation will require students to work in pairs to present a collaborative research proposal to the class. In the presentation, students will i) frame a specific model or theory in social psychology, ii) present a brief literature review of the topic, iii) present a set of hypotheses that seek to test a novel idea related to the theory/model, and iv) propose a methodological procedure to test the hypotheses. Students will rely on what they've learned in the first part of the class to build out a conceptual idea into a proposed study. Students will specifically rely on one of the methodological tools outlined in the first part of the course. The presentations should be approximately 12-14 minutes with 5 minutes for questions. Visual aids like PowerPoint are recommended. Detailed instructions for the presentation will be provided in class. Each group of students will receive the same mark for the final presentation.

### **Research final proposal (40%)**

The final paper will be an extension of the final presentation. Unlike the presentation though, the paper will be written individually, not in pairs/groups. It is expected that the details/logistics of the methods and (expected) results will be very similar for the students working together, but the introduction, writing style, and positioning of the idea will differ, naturally. Students are NOT to work together or consult one another, but instead are required to work on the paper independently. Detailed instructions

for the research proposal will be provided in class at a later time. It must be submitted by 11:59pm by the due date in order to avoid late penalties. Late papers will be accepted up to one week late, with a 10 point deduction for every day that it is late.

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### **Missed term work due to medical illness or other emergency**

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must bring their documentation to the Psychology Course Coordinator in SW427C within three (3) business days of the assignment due date. You must bring the following: (1.) A completed Request for Missed Term Work form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), and (2.) Appropriate documentation to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

Appropriate Documentation: In the case of missed term work due to illness, only an original copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form will be accepted (<http://uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form>). Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration number and business stamp are required. In the case of medical emergency, an original copy of the record of visitation to a hospital emergency room should be provided.

In the case of a death of a family member, a copy of a death certificate should be provided. In the case of a disability-related concern, an email communication should be sent directly to the Course Coordinator ([psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca)) from your Disability Consultant at AccessAbility Services, detailing the accommodations required. The Course Instructor should also be copied on this email.

For U of T Varsity athletic commitments, an email communication should be sent directly to the Course Coordinator ([psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca)) from a coach or varsity administrator, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment. The email should be sent well in advance of the missed work.

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: medical prescriptions, anything related to personal travel, weddings/personal/work commitments.

Procedure: Submit your (1.) request form and (2.) medical/other documents in person within 3 business days of the missed test or assignment. Forms should be submitted to SW427C between 9 AM - 4 PM, Monday through Friday. If you are unable to meet this deadline for some reason, you must contact the Course Coordinator via email ([psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca)) within the three business day window. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.

Within approximately one week, you will receive an email response from the Course Instructor / Course Coordinator detailing the accommodations to be made (if any). You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Blackboard course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical. The Course Instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made for the missed work.

Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation. Note that this policy applies only to missed term work (assignments and midterms). Missed final exams are handled by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>)

## Academic integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

### Note:

You may see advertisements for services offering grammar help, essay editing and proof-reading. Be very careful. If these services take a draft of your work and significantly change the content and/or language, you may be committing an academic offence (unauthorized assistance) under the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

It is much better and safer to take your draft to the Writing Centre as early as you can. They will give you guidance you can trust. Students for whom English is not their first language should go to the English Language Development Centre.

If you decide to use these services in spite of this caution, you must keep a draft of your work and any notes you made before you got help and be prepared to give it to your instructor on request.

Scholastic Dishonesty: Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. In this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask me.

## Disabilities

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities who are registered with AccessAbility Services (<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~ability/>). Students who register and utilize the AccessAbility services will not be identified on their transcript as receiving accommodations. Information disclosed to the service is confidential and is disclosed only with the student's permission. Students in need of disability accommodations should schedule an appointment with me early in the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations for the course. There is little to nothing that I can do for you *after* an assignment.

PSYC11 Social Psych Methods Lab		
Date	Topic	Chapters & deadlines
Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	Intro + Scientific literacy (part 1)	Chapters 1-2
Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	Scientific literacy (part 2)	Chapters 3-4 ( <i>Statement due</i> )
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	Lab experiments	Chapters 5-6
Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	Field experiments	Chapter 8
Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	Logistics of group lab activities	Chapter 16
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Behavioral observations	Chapter 12 ( <i>Summary due, Feb 16<sup>th</sup></i> )
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Reading week – no class	
Feb 29 <sup>th</sup>	Presentations	
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Presentations	
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Presentations	
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Presentations	
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Open class (consultation final papers)	
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Class wrap-up	<i>Research proposal due, April 6<sup>th</sup></i>