

Social Psychology (ΨB10) Syllabus

Summer 2018

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Professor

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SW 569

Office Hours: Thursday 11-12

TA

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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.

Textbook

Social Psychology (Fourth Edition). Thomas Gilovich, Dacher Keltner, Richard E. Nisbett. W. W. Norton & Co. 2015, ISBN 978-0-393-93896-8.

*Note: you could also buy a used copy of the earlier (3rd) edition. However, this would be AT YOUR OWN RISK, i.e. some content on the exams may only be in the newest edition.

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 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% to your mark by completing a 2-3 page written assignment and peer assessment. This assignment will use UTSC's PeerScholar system. To receive credit, you will need to turn in an essay, evaluate four of your classmates' essays, and revise your essay in light of the peer feedback. No partial credit will be given—you will need to complete the essay, all four peer assessments, and revisions to your own essay in order to receive any credit. The assignment topic and evaluation rubric will be announced on Blackboard.

Exam Information

The midterm and final exams will be scheduled by the UTSC Registrar. The midterm exam will be given sometime between late May and early July; the exact date will be posted as soon as it is available. The final exam will be given sometime between August 11-24.

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.

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 1. 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. Here are the topics for each lecture, and the related readings:

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
5	Emotion and morality	Chapter 6
	Midterm Exam	
6	Persuasion and social influence	Chapter 8, 9
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 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:

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to ILLNESS:

- Submit an **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form (<http://uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form>) or an **original** copy of the record of visitation to a hospital emergency room. 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.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to ILLNESS:

- Submit **both** (1.) a **hardcopy** of the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form>), **and** (2.) the **web-based** departmental declaration form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-web>).

For missed term tests or assignments in OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES:

- 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 from your Disability Consultant at AccessAbility Services should be sent directly to both the Course Coordinator (psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca) and your instructor, detailing the accommodations required.
- For U of T Varsity **athletic commitments**, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to the Course Coordinator (psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca), 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, personal travel, weddings, or personal/work commitments.

Procedure:

Submit your (1.) [request form](#) and (2.) [medical/self-declaration](#)/other documents in person **WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed term test or assignment.

Submit to: Course Coordinator, Room SW427C, Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM

If you are unable to meet this deadline for some reason, you must contact the Course Coordinator via email (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/Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

Completion of this form does NOT guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. **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 assignments and term tests. Missed final exams are handled by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).

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 drop 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

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement;
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor;
- Making up sources or facts;
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids;
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test;
- Misrepresenting your identity; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing it.

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades;
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing so.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.

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.