Course Director: Dr. Emily-Ana Filardo
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Class Meetings: Mondays & Wednesdays, 19:00 – 22:00, VH 2005

Secretary: Agnes Levstik (email: aleystik@yorku.ca)
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Moodle: Check Moodle regularly for updates and resource material.

Prerequisites:
PSYC 1010 6.0 or PSYC 2410 6.0 with a minimum grade of “C”, PSYC 2030 3.0 or PSYC 2530 3.0; one of PSYC 2021 3.0, PSYC 2020 6.0, PSYC 2510 3.0, PSYC 2120 3.0, or PSYC 3210 3.0. Course credit exclusions: PSYC 4020 6.0, PSYC 4110 3.0 (prior to Summer 2002).

Last date to drop course without receiving a grade: July 20th, 2012

Course Content:
A number of methodological and applied issues will be examined from a social psychological perspective with an aim of developing the ability to critically evaluate social psychological research and apply social psychological theory to real world situations.

Format:
The format of this course is comprised of two weekly three hour meetings. The first part of the course will involve reading and discussing a series of articles from a range of areas within social psychology. For this part of the course, you will be assigned readings. It is reasonable to expect that in a 4000-level course students will have sufficient background and be sufficiently interested in the topics to contribute to the class sessions. Class time will be a forum for presentation and discussion, with some lecturing by the instructor. Obviously, the degree to which we are successful in attaining the above goal is highly dependent on your preparation and participation in class. To ensure active and full participation, it is expected that you will attend all classes, critically read all of the assigned materials prior to class, and come to class prepared to discuss the material. This does not mean that the number of times a student speaks will be monitored; it simply means that a seminar is a cooperative venture and in order for it to be successful, all students must be willing to give their views and thoughts in class.
Course Requirements and Assessment:
Your final grade in the course will be out of 100% and will be based on: weekly reading reports (10%); participation (15%); group presentation of assigned reading (15%); research proposal presentation (30%); written research proposal based on the research proposal presentation (30%).

1. Reading reports: 10% of your final grade
Before every class, you will be required to turn in “reaction notes.” You will submit a one to two-page reading report, summarizing the three readings completed (e.g., main point of the article, important strength, important weakness). Comments might include criticism of the research, ideas for future research, or general thought on integrating the current weeks’ readings with other assigned material. Basically, these are notes or thoughts that occur as you read the materials, and that you might bring up in class discussion. You should divide these one or two pages into three sections: one section for each reading that you completed. I will read your reports, but they will not be graded. You will simply receive 10% credit for completing this component. Please note, however, that marks will be deducted if your reports do not reflect a serious effort on your part to consider and report on the readings. You are not required to submit a reading report on the day that you are one of the assigned group presenters (see below).

Late reports will not be accepted. Late reports are those not submitted on the day the reading was assigned (reports can be submitted at class or prior to class by emailing your report to me directly: filardo@yorku.ca. Any late reports will be considered a missing report if it is not received by 23:59 on the day it is due.

2. Class participation: 15% of your final grade
Class participation is a very important part of the learning process in this course. Each student must read all assigned articles before each class and come to class prepared to discuss the readings (completing your reading reports will help prepare you). In the latter part of the course, you are expected to come to class for the student presentations. You cannot earn participation marks if you do not attend class. You will be evaluated on the quality of your contributions and insights. A quality comment possesses one or more of the following properties:

- Reflects a consideration of issues addressed in assigned readings and previous class discussions and lectures
- Offers a unique, but relevant, perspective
- Contributes to moving the discussion and analysis forward
- Builds on other comments
- Transcends the “I feel” syndrome. That is, it reflects a critical analysis of some aspect of the assigned material (e.g., methodological, theoretical, applied).
3. **Presentation of Assigned Article: 15% of your final grade**

For each of the assigned readings, students will be responsible for being discussion leaders. At each meeting, two to three students (depending on the number in the class) will present a summary and discussion of one of the assigned readings. The students will summarize the goals, key issues, and major points of the paper, along with its strengths and weaknesses. Discussion leaders are expected to come to class prepared to lead the class in a discussion of one of the assigned articles for the day. It is up to you to coordinate your group, and to decide how you would like to allocate the work. You may structure the work in any way you like (e.g., each person may present for a few minutes, or you may divide all of the tasks between you). Please note, however, that all people assigned to a particular article will receive the same mark for this assessment. If you are absent from class on the day that you are due to present, you will receive 0 for this portion of your grade.

Your presentation should last approximately 20 minutes (not including class discussion) and you should be prepared to answer questions from the other students and from me. You should end your presentation with three questions that you would like to direct to the class to stimulate further discussion on the material you have presented. You should be prepared to initiate and guide a brief class discussion on the material with the class. This should last approximately 20 minutes, but I will allow more time for class discussion if it is warranted.

You should include some visual aids as part of your presentations. I will assume that your visual aids will be in PowerPoint format. You should bring your presentation to class on a memory stick on the day you are due to present. Please be sure to test your presentation file before you bring it to class.

If you plan on using any other type of visual aid (e.g., overheads, a movie clip), you must discuss this with me before your presentation, and you must give me some lead time to organize the appropriate facilities.

**Choosing a reading:** Please email me with your chosen article. You must email me at filardo@yorku.ca.

The subject line of your email should be “group presentation”. In the text of the email, please list:
1. Your full name
2. The reading you would like to present
3. The date under which the reading is listed

Everyone will be assigned to a reading on a 1st come, 1st served basis. I will consider that the time at which you request your reading is the time at which you ask me directly or your email appears in my inbox (requests presented in person during class time will take precedent over the requests sent via email during class time).
(Please note: Even if you have organized more than one person to present a particular reading, each person who wants to be assigned that reading should email me individually with their own separate request for that reading.)

If the reading that you request is available at the time that you request it, you will receive an email reply from me confirming your presentation. If the reading that you request is no longer available at the time that you request it, you will receive an email reply from me asking you to reselect a reading. I will maintain a list of the readings on Moodle that are still available for presentation.

(Please note: Even if a reading appears available on this list, by the time you email me the reading may have already been taken by someone else. Please be patient and flexible in this process. The best way to ensure that you are assigned a reading that you want is to select your reading and email me as soon as possible.)

The deadline for choosing an article to present is June 29th (23:59). Note, however, that there are only 4 classes where readings will be presented. This deadline is after the second class, therefore, if you wait until the last minute to choose an article to present and all of the remaining articles are full, you will miss out on the opportunity to earn the marks for this assignment.

I will post the final presentation of the groups on Moodle on June 30th. The schedule will not be changed after this time. It is your responsibility to check the schedule to ensure that it displays your correct presentation date.

4. Research Proposal: 30% oral presentation, 30% written submission

Oral Presentation: The second half of the course will be devoted to student presentations of a research proposal, with approximately 5 students presenting each day (depending on the number in the class).

Each student will make a 15 minute presentation of a research proposal. Your presentation will involve the use of PowerPoint and will include the following topics:

- A description of the problem or issue providing enough background based in past research that is necessary to understand the current state of the topic
- Hypothesis developed from a theoretical background (i.e., there should be some theoretical reasoning behind your hypothesis, not simply “I feel like this might happen, so I’m going to test it.”)
- Key variables to be manipulated or measured (e.g., independent variables, dependent variables, covariates)
- The design of the research (e.g., nonexperimental, experimental, quasi-experimental, qualitative)
- Participants
- Procedures
- Proposed statistical analyses
- The real world applications of this research
After each presentation, 15 minutes will be allotted for the class to ask questions about the research, clarify issues, and providing suggestions and feedback. The PowerPoint presentation must be submitted following the presentation. Any topic within the field of social psychology is acceptable as long as you can link it back to a real world problem and application. Your topic must be confirmed with me before your presentation.

**Important note:** July 4**th** (23:59) is the deadline for you to sign up for your research proposal presentation. If you have not submitted a preferred date by the deadline, you will be assigned a date.

The same rules apply for requesting a presentation date that applied to requesting a reading above.

**Written submission:** Following the research proposal presentation, each student will submit a 10 page (double spaced), typed, APA style, proposal electronically to me as a word document. The paper will take the form of a research proposal: a problem is identified and a study is proposed that addresses this problem. In short, you will design/propose a study to investigate a research question that you think is relevant and important to our understanding. The final paper will be a maximum of 10 pages in length (double-spaced) with at least 5 references from peer-reviewed academic journals. The written proposal will involve the following three sections: Introduction (e.g., literature review, statement of the issue, statement of the purpose of the research question, hypotheses), Methods (e.g., participants, design, materials, procedures, potential analyses), Discussion (e.g., note the real world applications of the hypothetical results of your research). Note that you will not collect data as part of this assignment. The final paper must include a title page, reference section (APA style), and appendix if needed. These sections are in addition to the 10 pages for the primary proposal.

The final paper must be submitted to me by Aug 3**rd** (23:59). Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 20% per day.

**Dates to Remember:**

June 29**th**     Last day to sign up for an article to present
July 2**nd**     Canada Day – no classes held
July 4**th**     Last day to sign up for a presentation date for your research proposal
July 7**th**     LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE WITHOUT RECEIVING A GRADE
July 16**th**    Research proposal presentations begin
Aug 3**rd**     Deadline to submit final paper
LECTURE SCHEDULE

June 25th  Introduction to the course
No articles assigned

June 27th  Terror Management Theory


July 2nd  CANADA DAY – NO CLASS

July 4th  Social Identity Theory


July 9th  Stereotype Threat


July 11th  Social Neuroscience


July 16th – Aug 1st  Research proposal presentations


**General Information and Resources**

Important information for students regarding University policies, including Academic Honesty/Integrity (see below as well) can be found at: http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/

The University does not look favourably on cheating of any kind and the penalties for doing so are very harsh. Become familiar with the rules and regulations regarding cheating/plagiarism and academic honesty. Go to the following website http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/ and read the section ‘For Students.’

**Cheating:** Cheating is the attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation. Among the forms this kind of dishonesty can take are: obtaining a copy of an examination before it is officially available or learning an examination question before it is officially available; copying another person’s answer to an examination question; consulting an unauthorized source during an examination; obtaining assistance by means of documentary, electronic or other aids which are not approved by the instructor; or changing a score or a record of an examination result.

**Impersonation:** It is a breach of academic honesty to have someone impersonate one’s self in class, in a test or examination, or in connection with any other type of assignment in a course. Both the impersonator and the individual impersonated may be charged.

**Plagiarism** and other misappropriation of the work of another: Plagiarism is the representation of another person’s ideas or writing as one’s own. The most obvious form of this kind of dishonesty is the presentation of all or part of another person’s published work as something one has written. However, paraphrasing another’s writing without proper acknowledgment may also be considered plagiarism. It is also a violation of academic honesty to represent another’s artistic or technical work or creation as one’s own. This is not to say that students should not use the work of others with the proper acknowledgment.

**Sanctions for Academic Misconduct**

When verified, a violation of academic honesty may lead to the following penalties:

1. Oral or written disciplinary warning or reprimand;
2. A make-up assignment or examination;
3. Lower grade or failure on assignment or examination;
4. Failure in the course;
5. Suspension from the University for a definite period;
6. Notation on transcript;
7. Withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma or certificate
Resources

A number of important resources are available to students of York University. Most directly relevant to this course is the Centre for Academic Writing. For details, please visit their website (http://www.arts.yorku.ca/caw/).

As well, the university offers both academic and crisis counselling services. For details, please visit the Counseling and Development Centre website (http://www.yorku.ca/cds/).

Students who feel that there are extenuating circumstances which may interfere with the successful completion of any course requirements are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Course Director as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements.

Students with physical, learning or psychiatric disabilities who require accommodation in teaching style of evaluation methods should discuss this with the Course Director early in the course so that appropriate arrangements can be made.