
Social Psychology
AK/HH/AS/SC/PSYC 2120 3.0 (Section P)
Winter 2014 – Internet Course
Tentative Syllabus – subject to change

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- Course Web Address:** Available at: moodle.yorku.ca with your Passport York Account.
- Required Text:** Myers, D. G., Spencer, S. J., & Jordan, C. H. (2012). *Social Psychology (Fifth Canadian Edition)*. Toronto, Canada: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.
ISBN: 9780071319041 • 0071319042
Available from the York bookstore
You can also order online at:
<http://www.mcgrawhill.ca/highereducation/products/9780071319041/social+psychology+++connect+w|+|etext/>
- Supplementary Website:** <http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/psyc2120m>
Please go to this website and register as a student in the class (click the “Register” button on the bottom right corner of the webpage).
In order to access resources for the class, you will need to have a connect password that will be provided with your textbook (orange envelope containing the online access card), or will be provided directly to you if you purchased access to the e-book.

Course Description and Goals:

This course is designed to provide you with a detailed introduction to major theories and research in the field of social psychology. Social psychology can be defined as “the scientific study of how people think about, influence, and relate to one another” (Myers, Spencer, & Jordan, 2012, p. 4). Throughout this course we will cover a wide range of topics of interest to social psychologists including social cognition (how we think about ourselves and others), conformity and persuasion, prejudice, as well as intimacy and attraction. The first goal of this course, therefore, is to provide you with the opportunity to learn more about the field of social psychology. We will examine how people influence, and are influenced by, their social environments and how seemingly minor changes in the social situation can have an important effect on individuals’ thoughts, feelings, and behaviours. A second goal is to allow you to learn more about those around you, and about yourself.

Course Requirements and Grading:

It is expected that you watch and take notes on each online lecture and that you read each of the assigned chapters from the textbook. Lectures will not cover the exact material presented in the text and **a good portion of each exam will be based on topics presented exclusively in either the lecture or the text.** In addition, you will be invited to watch supplementary videos and take part in brief exercises to help you to learn the relevant material. These supplementary materials are considered part of the course content and therefore there is a good chance that questions about this material will also appear on your exams.

You must be available to write the midterm and final exams. If your travel time to York exceeds 3 hours (one-way) you can make arrangements through the office for Distance Education to write the exams off-campus instead. There are typically additional fees for **each** off-campus exam - please see their website (<http://www.yorku.ca/laps/disted>) for more information.

Course Grading Scheme:

- Midterm 1:** 30%
2 hours. Multiple choice (80 questions) and short answers (2 of 3)
This midterm will cover material from the textbook and lectures for chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4.
- Midterm 2:** 30%
2 hours. Multiple choice (80 questions) and short answers (2 of 3)
This midterm will cover material from the textbook as well as lectures notes for chapters 5, 6, 7, and 10
- Final Exam:** 40%
3 hours. Multiple choice (90 questions; non-cumulative) and short answer (6 of 8 cumulative).
The multiple choice portion of the exam will cover material from the textbook as well as lectures notes for chapters 8, 9, 11, 12 and Module D
The short answers will cover material from all of your lectures notes and chapters 1-12, and Module D.
Please note: You must take the final exam in order to receive a grade in this course. You will **not** be tested on Modules A, B, or C.

Corresponding with the professor or TA:

In any correspondence with the professor or TA, **please indicate the course and section number (Psyc 2120M) in the subject heading and be sure to include your full name and student number in the body of the email.** You are also encouraged to post questions about course material directly on the course website. If you are unclear about a point, there is a good chance others are as well.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MISSING AN EXAM

Students are expected to write each test on the dates specified. If you are unable to come to the York Campus to write the exam, you will need to make other arrangements through the Centre for Distance Education. You can find more information about this option at:

<http://www.yorku.ca/laps/disted/offsiteExam/index.htm>

There will be **no make-up exams**, except under extraordinary circumstances. If you miss an exam with no legitimate excuse, you will receive a grade of zero. If you have a legitimate reason (e.g., death in the family, severe illness, etc.) for being excused from an exam, and have documentation to verify your absence (please see below), you may take a make-up exam in lieu of the missed exam. Please note that I am extremely strict about the conditions that will allow you to write a make-up examination – nonetheless, you should contact me regardless of your reason if you have or will miss an examination. You must contact me at least one day in advance of the exam and provide documentation in order to be permitted to take a make-up exam. In the case of an emergency, **contact me, cc:ed to your course TA, as soon as possible. In this email, please (a) outline the reason for your absence, and (b) confirm that you have medical or other relevant documentation to support this reason.**

Please note that there will be *one* set date for the make-up examination. If you are unable to make this date, other arrangements might not be possible until the end of term – so please make every effort to make this date. The nature of the makeup exam will be at my discretion; if Midterm 1 is missed, you might be asked to write a joint Midterm1/Midterm2 examination worth 60% of your final grade (although this is not the norm). Note also that deferred final exams are often held on a single common date determined by the Department of Psychology. No individualized testing is available unless arranged formally through one of the offices at the University (e.g., Counselling and Disability Services; <http://www.yorku.ca/cds/lds/learningdisabilities/exams.html>).

Documentation when missing an exam

If you produce a valid medical document, signed by a physician, stating that you were medically unable to take the exam, you will be able to take a makeup exam. If you miss an exam for non-medical reasons, you still must produce supporting documentation (e.g., death certificate, obituary notice, automobile accident report, airline ticket for emergency travel, etc.). Missing an exam for a vacation, etc., is not an acceptable reason. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN MUST BE WILLING TO STATE THAT YOU WERE MEDICALLY UNABLE TO TAKE THE EXAM, AND YOU MUST PRODUCE THE DOCUMENT WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE MISSED EXAM AND TELEPHONE THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN ADVANCE OF THE EXAM IF YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO TAKE THE EXAM.** If you are ill or facing extreme personal circumstances and are unable to get the required documentation, I highly recommend that you consider dropping the course.

Once you have contacted Dr. Steele and your TA, you will need to complete the Faculty of Health Missed Test Document for missed midterm exams (available at the course website) or the Final Exam Deferred Standing Agreement Form (<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/exams/deferred/>) for missed final exams. These should be brought to Dr. Steele's mailbox (located on the first floor of the BSB; if the mail room is closed try the undergraduate office) or faxed to the psychology department (with Attention Dr. Steele) at 416-736-5814. You will need to receive confirmation of the make-up examination date from me and/or your TA; you should be back in touch within a few days if you have not heard back.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS

Note that each lecture is available exclusively online as of the date listed below.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Tues Jan 7 th Thurs Jan 9 th	Introduction to Social Psychology The Self in a Social World (Part 1)	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
Week 2	Tues Jan 14 th Thurs Jan 16 th	The Self in a Social World (Part 2) Optional Orientation Meeting from 6-7pm	
Week 3	Tues Jan 21 st Thurs Jan 23 rd	Social Beliefs and Judgments (Part 1) Social Beliefs and Judgments (Part 2)	Chapter 3
Week 4	Tues Jan 28 th Thurs Jan 30 th	Behaviour and Attitudes (Part 1) Behaviour and Attitudes (Part 2)	Chapter 4
Week 5	Midterm 1 – Thursday February 6th 5:30pm-7:30pm		
Week 6	Tues Feb 11 th Thurs Feb 13 th	Conformity Persuasion	Chapter 6 Chapter 5
	<i>Reading Week (February 17-21)</i>		
Week 7	Tues Feb 25 th Thurs Feb 27 th	Group Influence Culture	Chapter 7
Week 8	Tues March 4 th Thurs March 6 th	Attraction and Intimacy (Part 1) Attraction and Intimacy (Part 2)	Chapter 10
Week 9	Midterm 2 – Thursday March 13th 5:30pm-7:30pm		
Week 10	Tues March 18 th Thurs March 20 st	Sources of Prejudice (Part 1) Sources of Prejudice (Part 2)	Chapter 11
Week 11	Tues March 25 th Thurs March 27 th	Consequences of Prejudice (Part 1) Consequences of Prejudice (Part 2)	Chapter 12
Week 12	Tues April 1 st Thurs April 3 rd	Aggression Altruism	Chapter 9 Chapter 8; Module D

Final exam to be held during exam period (April 8th – April 24th)

Some Additional Considerations:

The Psychology Department lists a number of student responsibilities and requirements, two of which are presented here.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that courses are selected in accordance with current degree/certificate and program requirements. Please check to make sure that the course that you enroll in fits with your degree requirements.

All students are required to satisfy all of the co-requisite(s) and prerequisite(s) for courses selected for enrolment. You may be de-enrolled from a course for which you lack the required co- or prerequisite(s). Do not rely on the enrolment system to block your enrolment from such courses. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that co- and prerequisite requirements have been satisfied. Please note that such de-enrolment could occur even after the course has started, leaving you with few or no options in terms of replacing the course. As noted on the website, the pre-requisite for this course is AK/HH/AS/SC/PSYC 1010 6.0 or AK/PSYC 2410 6.0, with a minimum grade of C. If you do not meet this requirement, you will want to drop the course and/or contact the Psychology Office (416-736-5117 or 416-736-5202) asap.

What should I do if I have questions about the course or course material?

If you have read through a chapter or viewed a lecture and you have outstanding questions, you should contact your TA for clarification. The best way to reach TAs is via email. Note that Meghan George has been assigned to answer questions from students whose last name starts with the letters A-L; Joshua Guilfoyle will respond to questions from students whose last name starts with the letters M-Z.

In the subject heading, please write "Psych 2120M question". The TA will do his/her best to respond within 72 hours, and will respond as quickly as possible close to exam dates. Responses will generally be cc:ed to me, and when appropriate, responses will also be posted on the course website - so you may want to check the discussion board when reviewing for exams, to see if there are questions and answers that you find to be helpful. You can also post your question to the discussion section of the website, where you might provide a quicker response.

Also, before getting started, please be sure to take a good look through all of the documents in the Getting Started Section of the website. I sincerely hope that you enjoy the course.