

**Faculty of Health**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 4020 6.0 C: SEMINAR IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Mondays 2:30 PM-5:30 PM Eastern Standard Time**  
**Term/Year Fall/Winter 2022-2023**

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Please note that this course will be offered in person, meaning that students are expected to attend our classes on Campus on **Mondays from 2:30PM to 5:30PM**. It is important that you demonstrate a continuous participation in class activities and discussions.

**Instructor:** Dr. Sayyed Mohsen Fatemi<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

**Email:** [smfatemi@yorku.ca](mailto:smfatemi@yorku.ca)

**Office Hours:** Based on appointment (Using Zoom Link)

**Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced**

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.
- HH/PSYC 2021 3.00 (Statistical Methods I) or HH/PSYC 2020 6.00 (Statistical Methods I and II)
- HH/PSYC 2030 3.00 (Introduction to Research Methods) or substitutes
- HH/PSYC 2120 3.00 (Social Psychology)
- Students must be in an Honours program in Psychology and have completed at least 84 credits

**Course Credit Exclusions**

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

**Course website:** [eClass](#)

All course materials will be available on the course eClass site, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. Slides, notes, mini reflection questions will all be posted on the course eClass site.

## **Course Description**

This is an advanced seminar course in social psychology or the study of how individuals think and feel about, relate to, and influence one another based on the actual, implied, or imagined presence of other individuals. During this course students will study, and critique theoretical and empirical issues related to several social psychological issues including health, media, relationship, interpersonal attraction, etc. We will also explore the implications of Langerian mindfulness in various realms of social psychology.

## **Program Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge in social psychology.
2. Critically evaluate, synthesize, and resolve conflicting results in social psychology.
3. Articulate trends in social psychology.
4. Locate research articles and show critical thinking about research findings in psychology.
5. Express knowledge of social psychology in written form.
6. Engage in evidence-based dialogue with course director and peers.
7. Demonstrate an ability to work with others.

## **Specific Learning Objectives**

1. Students will acquire in-depth knowledge in social psychology.
2. Students will learn critical approaches to evaluate, synthesize, and resolve conflicting results in social psychology.
3. Students will gain an understanding of trends in social psychology.
4. Students will apply their knowledge of social psychology by demonstrating the ability to apply concepts from the course material to real-life situations.
5. Students will learn to express knowledge of social psychology in written form.
6. Students will learn the applications and implications of Langerian mindfulness in social psychology.

## **Required Text**

The course will be based on a series of readings which will be posted on eClass. It is important that you come to the class with a solid understanding of the assigned readings for each class.

### Course Requirements and Assessment:

| Assessment  | Date of Evaluation (if known) | Weighting   |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Participation   | Ongoing                       | 10%         |
| Mini reflection   | Ongoing                       | 10%         |
| Peer Group Presentation                                   | November 21, 2022             | 5%          |
| A mindful and critical analysis & Individual presentation | November 28, 2022             | 15%         |
| Term paper  | March 27, 2023                | 20%         |
| Exam one  | December 5, 2022              | 20%         |
| Exam two  | March 27, 2023                | 20%         |
| <b>Total</b>  |                               | <b>100%</b> |

### Description of Assignments

#### Class Participation

Your proactive participation is an essential factor in your successful completion of the course. Your consistent attendance, your active involvement in the class discussions, your mindful participation in class presentations and your responses to readings will substantiate your proactive participation. Please come to the class with a solid understanding of the assigned readings. I will begin the class with a lecture on the topics of the day and then we will proceed with an interactive discussion. It is important that you demonstrate your rigorous participation and analysis during discussions.

#### Mini-reflections (P/F; for Engagement Points)

Mini-reflections will be completed in class, and must be submitted to eClass by *11:59pm the day of class (Monday)*. These reflections will be based on provided questions regarding your learning and experiences throughout the course and should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. If you are unable to participate in a class, for whatever reason, you will lose the opportunity to receive marks for whatever you miss. **The mini reflections will be worth a total of 10%.**

## **A mindful and critical evaluation of a social psychological problem**

You are required to present a critical and mindful analysis of a social phenomenon. You need to discuss the topic with me earlier. This might be a critical and mindful examination of topics such as specific report or news in media, an experiment in social psychology, a field interview, etc. I will elaborate this in class as we move on. **This will be worth 15% of your final grade.** You will also need to have an individual presentation where you can discuss your analysis. The submission will be due on Nov. 28, 2022. Individual presentations for this assignment will begin as of Jan. 23, 2023.

### **Term Paper**

Written Assignment: You will also have one paper to write for the course. **This paper is worth 20% of your final grade.** The deadline for the ONLINE submission will be March 27, 11:59 pm (online submission to TurnItIn). More information regarding the paper will be provided later in the term.

### **Peer Review**

You will be required to submit a rough draft of your Final paper by Nov.21, 2023. Upon submission, you will receive drafts from other peers to review. The purpose of the peer review is to help your peer improve his/her paper. You will be evaluated on the quality of your suggestions and the thoroughness of your reading. Failure to submit a draft will result in not having the opportunity to participate in peer review and losing the mark. **This will be worth a total of 5%.** In reviewing the paper, you may want to follow the six section headings listed below.

1. What is good about the paper (in being critical, we must not forget to be encouraging and supportive as well!)?
2. Is the purpose of the paper clearly laid-out in a succinct introduction?
3. Are there any terms or concepts that need further clarification?
4. Is the evidence that the author provides to support his/her position good? Sufficient?
5. Are there other factors that the author might want to consider (other types of evidence, other points of view, etc.)?
6. Anything else that might be helpful to the author.

Write the peer review as though it were a letter to the author. Speak to him or her directly; there is no need to refer to him/her in the third person.

There is no need to summarize the work either. The author knows what he/she has written. Include in the peer review only suggestions on how to improve the paper and what you have found valuable in the work.

If you wish, the peer review can be written in bullet format (as long as you can still clearly express your suggestions to the author). I would expect that the review would be about 2-3 pages long.

### **Exams:**

Exams will be based on lectures, discussions, and readings. There will be two exams. Each is worth 30% of your final grade. The 1st exam will be given **on December 5, 2022 and the 2nd will be given on March 27, 2023. Each exam will consist of a series** of short answer and/or essay style questions.

### **Class Format and Attendance Policy**

This course will be offered SYNCHRONOUSLY, meaning that students are expected to attend our ZOOM classes on Mondays from 2:30PM to 5:30PM on classes, while other opportunities to work with the course material will be offered asynchronously. It is important that you demonstrate a continuous participation in class activities and discussions.

### **Grading as per Senate Policy**

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests\* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar – [Grading Scheme for 2022-23](#)

### **Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment**

For any missed quiz or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician's Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed quiz or late assignment.

## Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Late assignments will be accepted up to one week after the deadline including weekend days. If your assignment is late, you will be deducted a late penalty of 5% per day, including weekend days. **Late assignments will not be accepted after one week of the missed deadline (35% penalty).**

Students with a documented reason for missing a deadline, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at:

<http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

If you are missing a deadline due to illness, compassionate grounds, etc., you must contact me ([smfatemi@yorku.ca](mailto:smfatemi@yorku.ca) or [smfatemi@hotmail.com](mailto:smfatemi@hotmail.com)) to submit documentation within 48 hours of missing the deadline in order to have your work considered for grading without a late penalty.

## Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

For any missed tests or late assignments, students **MUST** complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment.

## Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2022-23 Important Dates](#)

|   | Fall<br>(Term F)    | Year<br>(Term Y)      | Winter<br>(Term W)     |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)            | Sept. 20            | Sept. 20              | Jan. 22                |
| Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)               | Oct. 4              | Oct. 25               | Feb. 6                 |
| Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)          | Nov. 11             | Feb. 10               | Mar. 17                |
| Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below) | Nov. 12 -<br>Dec. 7 | Feb. 11 -<br>April 11 | March 18 -<br>April 11 |

## Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

### **Information on Plagiarism Detection**

Turnitin Service and Moodle: Students will hand in all written assignments to Turnitin – a service that York University has enrolled in, which helps professors identify plagiarism and helps students maintain academic honesty. You will be able to access Turnitin through the Moodle application for this course. Please note that I will be making use of Moodle to post important information and any changes to the course – be sure to check Moodle regularly

### **Academic Integrity for Students**

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

### **Test Banks**

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

### **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to discuss their

accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

### **Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses.

Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

### **Course Materials Copyright Information**

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 4020 6.0 C course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

### **Calumet and Stong Colleges' Student Success Programming:**

[Calumet](#) and [Stong](#) Colleges aim to support the success of Faculty of Health students through a variety of **free programs** throughout their university career:

- [Orientation](#) helps new students transition into university, discover campus resources, and establish social and academic networks.
- [Peer Mentoring](#) connects well-trained upper-year students with first year and transfer students to help them transition into university.
- [Course Representative Program](#) supports the academic success and resourcefulness of students in core program courses through in-class announcements.
- [Peer-Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\)](#) involve upper-level academically successful and well-trained students who facilitate study sessions in courses that are historically challenging.
- [Peer Tutoring](#) offers one-on-one academic support by well-trained Peer Tutors.

- Please connect with your Course Director about any specific academic resources for this class.
- Calumet and Stong Colleges also support students' [Health & Wellness](#), [leadership and professional skills development](#), [student/community engagement and wellbeing](#), [Career Exploration](#), [Indigenous Circle](#), [awards and recognition](#), and [provide opportunities to students to work or volunteer](#).
- For additional resources/information about Calumet and Stong Colleges' Student Success Programs, please consult our websites ([Calumet College](#); [Stong College](#)), email [scchelp@yorku.ca](mailto:scchelp@yorku.ca), and/or follow us on Instagram ([Calumet College](#); [Stong College](#)), Facebook ([Calumet College](#); [Stong College](#)) and [LinkedIn](#).
- Are you receiving our weekly email (Subject: "Calumet and Stong Colleges - Upcoming events")? If not, please check your Inbox and Junk folders, and if it's not there then please contact [ccscadm@yorku.ca](mailto:ccscadm@yorku.ca), and request to be added to the listserv. Also, make sure to add your 'preferred email' to your [Passport York personal profile](#) to make sure you receive important news and information.

#### Instructor's Bio



Dr. Sayyed Mohsen Fatemi completed his postdoctoral studies in the department of psychology at Harvard University where he has also served as a Teaching Fellow, an Associate, and a Fellow.

Dr. Fatemi is an adjunct faculty member in the Graduate Program in the Historical, Theoretical, and Critical Studies of Psychology in the Department of Psychology at York University, Canada.

He is a frequently published author and has served as the keynote speaker of numerous international conferences.

His publications appear in Springer, Wiley, Templeton Press, Routledge, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Lexington publication, Roman & Littlefield, Palgrave McMillan, American Psychiatric Association, and Journals such as APA's Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology and International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis.

In addition to teaching at Harvard, he has also taught for the department of psychology at the University of British Columbia, Western Washington University, University of Massachusetts in Boston, University of Toronto, York University, Endicott College, and Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis and a few other institutions. He has supervised both master and doctoral students for their research projects and dissertations. He has served as a keynote speaker of a number of international conferences and run workshops and seminars across the USA, Canada and Overseas.

He brings mindfulness in his psychological and therapeutic interventions and has run training and coaching programs for clinicians, practitioners and corporate people in North America, Europe and overseas. He has practiced psychotherapy and hypnotherapy for more than a decade. His treatment areas of work include anxiety, depression, OCD, trauma, PTSD and relationship problems.

Dr. Fatemi is the recipient of the Ellen Langer international Mindfulness Award and is an active member of the APA with numerous presentations at APA annual meetings.