

**YORK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
FACULTY OF HEALTH
PSYC 4020 6.C: SEMINAR IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
FW 2014-2015**

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Class Meetings: Thursdays, 2.30 - 5:30 p.m. in VH 1158

Course Content

A number of methodological and applied issues will be examined by the class from a social psychological perspective. In addition, each student will individually research a specific social psychological issue each semester and share findings with the class.

Format

The class will meet weekly for 3 hours. During the first semester the course will have 3-hour sessions of lectures, and/or media and articles presentations. Certain major readings will be assigned to all students. Individual students will also be assigned selected articles or book chapters for classroom presentation.

In the second semester students will present investigative research projects within a seminar format. Discussion of the projects by all class members is expected. Throughout the course emphasis will be placed on active class participation.

Course Learning Objectives

The purpose of this course is to assist students in understanding a wide range of social issues, as well as their application to everyday life.

Readings

Textbook: Schneider, F.W., Gruman, J.A., Coutts, L.M. (2012) Applied Social Psychology, Nelson Canada (to be purchased in the bookstore)
Sadava, S.W., McCreary, D.R. (1997) Prentice Hall - Chapt. 8 – Social Psychology and the Forensic Interview (pp.136 - 155) and from the Chapt. 5 -

Social Psychology of Health Care - pp. 81 - 90. That material is available at the Scott Library Reserve desk.

Various assigned journal articles and book chapters are either available online or will be provided by the instructor.

Assignments and Course Evaluation

Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	20%
Article(s) Presentation:	10%
Research Project	40%
Participation:	10%

Grading: 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 –

<http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2014-2015/academic/index.htm>

Assignment Submission and Lateness Penalty: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be handed to the course director in class. **Please note** that except for documented medical reasons, failure to write the midterm exam or present a seminar (article or your research) when scheduled, will count as “0” (zero) for that portion of the course. Please notify the instructor in advance if any such emergency arises so that a make-up exam or rescheduling (where possible) can be arranged. Please also note that only one make-up exam will be scheduled.

Papers received later than the due date will be penalized by taking 10% of the grade per week. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds etc., may be entertained by the course instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g. a doctor's letter).

Additional Information

A Midterm Exam (Exam #1) based on essay questions will take place in class on October 23rd. The exam will cover all material assigned in class from the text, (Schneider, Gruman, Coutts: Chapters 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 and Sadava & McCreary: from chapter 5 pp. 81 - 90), from the class lectures and from the assigned articles' 1 – 10 presentations. The second exam will take place on January 15th, 2015 and will cover the text (Schneider, Gruman, Coutts: chapters 11, 12, 13, 17 and Sadava & McCreary: chapter 8, class lectures, as well as the articles 11 – 19 presented in class.

Article(s)

A number of articles related to the material covered in class and/or by the text will be assigned by the instructor to individual students for an in-class presentation. The presentation should be accompanied by a typed summary (not in a point form) distributed by the presenter to all class members.

Research Project

In class you will receive a list of topics that you can choose from for your research. Look over the list and think about your possible research interest. By September 25th you have to sign up for a topic that you will be working on and for a consultation with the instructor to take place on November 6th. Findings of your research will be presented to the class during second semester. The purpose of the presentation is to give your colleagues a thorough understanding of a particular social issue. The presentation should be accompanied by a written summary (4 - 5 typed pages, double spaced, not in a point form) with references. You are responsible for providing this summary to all class members. The seminar presentations will start on January 22, 2015. The paper reflecting the presentation (15 - 20 pp.) will be due the week following the class presentation. The paper should have a copy of your power point presentation attached.

Dates to Remember

- September 25: By this date you must choose your research project topic and sign up for the consultation with the instructor.
- October 23: **Midterm exam – in class**
- November 6: **Consultations with the instructor about research projects**
- January 15: **Exam #2 - in class**
- January 22: **Research presentations begin**

NOTE: All 4000-level Psychology courses require the following general prerequisites:
AK/AS/SC/PSYC 1010 6.0 or AK/PSYC 2410 6.0, with a minimum grade of C
AK/A/SC/PSYC 2030 3.0 or AK/PSYC 2530 3.0;
AK/AS/SC/PSYC 2021 3.0, AK/AS/SC/PSYC 2020 6.0 or AK/PSYC 2510 3.0 or
equivalents;
AK/AS/SC/PSYC 2020 6.0 and AK/AS/SC/PSYC 2030 3.0 or equivalents are
not required if Psychology is the Minor.
Prerequisites for AK/AS/SC/PSYC 4000 6.0 and PSYC 4170 6.0 are listed
with each course.

The Course Prerequisites

PSYC 2120 3.0. Students must be in an Honours Program in Psychology and have completed 14 university courses or 84 credits (Excluding Education courses)

Drop Date Last day to drop a full-year course without receiving a grade is Friday, February 6, 2015

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) –
<http://www.yorki.ca/secretariat/senate/committees/ascp/index-ascp.html>