

FACULTY OF HEALTH
Department of Psychology

Course: Seminar in Social Psychology; PSYC 4020 3.0, Section M
Winter, 2014
Classes: Thursdays 4PM – 7PM, VH 1005
Moodle site is available

Instructor: Krista K. Trobst, Ph.D.
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Office hours: by appointment

Prerequisites/Corequisites: AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.0 or AK/PSYC 2410 6.0 with a minimum grade of C; AK/AS/HH/SC/ PSYC 2030 3.0 or AK/PSYC 2530 3.0 or substitute; one of AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2021 3.0, AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 2020 6.0, AK/ HH/PSYC 2510 3.0 or substitutes; and AK/AS/HH/SC PSYC 2120 3.0 or AK/PSYC 3210 3.0. Students must be in an Honours Program in Psychology and have completed 14 university courses or 84 credits (Excluding Education Courses).

Text: Baumeister, R. F., & Finkel, E. J. (2010). *Advanced social psychology: The state of the science*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Course Overview and Objectives

In this course we will be learning about advanced issues and research in Social Psychology. Students will also be able to learn more about a specific area of social psychology through their preparation of a paper on an approved topic. By the end of the course you will:

- have a critical understanding of social psychological theories
- be able to critically examine research findings in social psychology
- develop a deeper understanding of a particular topic in social psychology
- understand how social psychology is connected to other areas of psychology
- develop the ability to write about and present information within a topic area

Evaluation *

Participation: Attendance in class and participation in class discussions will comprise 10% of your final grade.

Exams: There will be two exams, a midterm and a final, each worth 20% of your final grade. These two exams will cover the readings and lecture materials reviewed in the time frame indicated. Multiple choice and short essay questions will be included.

Presentation: Students will prepare and present a brief (5-10 minute) presentation regarding their chosen paper topic and ideas to be conveyed in order to receive feedback and suggestions from class members. This component comprises 10% of your final grade.

Paper topic summary: Students will submit a 2-3 page summary of their paper topic including how they plan to approach and structure the topic in their final papers. This component comprises 10% of your final grade.

Paper: Students will submit an approximately 15 page paper on a social psychology topic that the instructor has approved. Papers must be a “thought piece” on a subject matter, rather than simply a review of the literature. More information regarding the form and content of the paper will be discussed in class. The paper comprises 30% of your final grade.

Grading components: The final grade for the course** will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:

Participation:	10%
Exams: Midterm	20%
Final	20%
Presentation:	10%
Paper topic summary	10%
Paper	30%

* The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade (see the policy for exceptions to this aspect of the policy - <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/gradfeed.htm>).

** If final grades will be subject to grades distribution adjustment, it should be specifically noted in this section by including the following statement: “Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.”

*** An exam or term test worth more than 20% of the final grade may not be given during the final two weeks of classes.

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties, and Missed Exams

Conversion of Percentages to Letter Grades:

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point
90-100	A+	9	60-64	C	4
80-89	A	8	55-59	D+	3
75-79	B+	7	50-54	D	2
70-74	B	6	48, 49	E	1
65-69	C+	5	0-47	F	0

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar (http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf).

Assignment Submission: Assignments for this course are to be printed and submitted to the course instructor during class time on the day they are due, AND via Moodle electronic submission.

Lateness Penalties: 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 received later than the due date will be penalized 1 point per day from total earned on the assignment. 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).

Missed Exams: If an exam is to be missed:

1) The student must contact me by phone or email or the course secretary by telephone (Zehra Bandhu ext. 66232) within 48 hours of the examination. You must clearly state the following:

- your name (it helps to spell your last name)
- your student number,
- course and section
- phone number at which you can be reached
- best time to call you back

2) If you cannot contact me or the secretary during this 48 hour period, subsequent documentation accounting for the delay must be provided.

3) Appropriate documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed examination must be provided at the time specified by the instructor. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of F on the missed examination.

What is appropriate documentation?

a) Medical circumstances – tests/exams missed due to medical circumstances must be supported by an attending physician’s statement or a statement by a psychologist or counselor. The physician’s statement must include the following: i) full name, mailing address, and telephone number of the physician. ii) state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered), and iii) an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have SERIOUSLY affected the student’s ability to write the exam.

You MUST use the recommended physician’s form found at

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attend_physician_statement

NOTE: the physician's office may be contacted to verify that the forms were completed by the physician.

b) Non-medical circumstances – tests/exams missed due to non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/bus ticket/receipt for emergency travel (with date of booking on ticket), etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. *Having to work at the time of a test is not considered a valid excuse for missing the test.*

4) The manner in which the missed examination (which has been legitimately documented) is handled will be at the discretion of the course director. E.g., In the case of a make-up exam, you must be prepared to write the test at the make-up date. Although the content to be examined will be the same, the format may or may not follow that of the original test/exam. YOU must check with me for the date and time of the make-up. A conflict in another course during the time of the make-up is not an acceptable reason for missing the make-up (unless there is an examination in the other course at that time). You should be aware that if you miss the exam before the official drop date, you may not have the requisite feedback on your course work to determine if you need to drop the course or not. As a result, it is in your best interest to write the exam at the time it is scheduled.

Cheating/Plagiarism/Impersonation

The University does not look favorably on cheating of any kind and the penalties for doing so are very harsh. Become familiar with the rules and regulations regarding

cheating/plagiarism. You can find them listed on pages 6-7 of the Undergraduate Psychology Supplemental Calendar. In summary, you can avoid problems by following some simple rules. a) Do your own work and present your own ideas in your own words. Do not merely repeat or reword sections from other sources. b) Don't copy from friends or neighbors and don't let friends or neighbors copy from you. c) If you have any doubts about the appropriateness of what you are doing -- ASK.

Writing Help: If you would like professional assistance while writing your paper, please talk to the writing department, <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/>. Online writing help websites are unlikely to be an adequate resource. I welcome your requests for help with writing. For APA style, please purchase the APA manual or see <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

Library Skills: For general assistance using the library, see <http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/undergraduate/>. If you need help locating research articles, the psycinfo database and Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com/>) provide excellent search tools. A tutorial on how to locate and download articles is at <http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/journalarticles>.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) -

http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Writing Help: If you would like professional assistance while writing your paper, please talk to the writing department, <http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/>. Online writing help websites are not an acceptable resource. I welcome your requests for help with writing. For APA style, please purchase the APA manual or see <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

Library Skills: For general assistance using the library, see <http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/undergraduate/>. If you need help locating research articles, the psycinfo database and Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com/>) provide excellent search tools. A tutorial on how to locate and download articles is at <http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/journalarticles>.

Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
Jan. 9 th ; Week 1	Introduction History of Social Psychology	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
Jan. 16 th ; Week 2	Social Cognition Prosocial Behaviour	Chapter 3 Chapter 8
Jan. 19th	Last day to enroll without permission of the instructor	
Jan. 23 rd ; Week 3	Personality The Self	Chapter 21 Chapter 5
Jan. 30 th ; Week 4	Attraction and Rejection Intimate Relationships <i>Last day to submit a one-paragraph statement of proposed paper topic to instructor via email for approval/feedback</i> <i>OPTIONAL but recommended</i>	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
Jan. 31st	Last day to enroll with permission of the instructor	
Feb. 6 th ; Week 5	<i>Student Presentations</i> 5-10 minute talk on chosen paper topic for class feedback 10% of final grade <i>Students presenting on this date must submit their 2-3 page paper topic summary/outline Feb. 27th. 10% of final grade.</i>	
Feb. 13 th ; Week 6	EXAM #1: Multiple choice and short essay questions 20% of final grade	Chpts. 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12, 13, 21; Lectures from Jan. 9th to Jan. 30th
Feb. 16 th -23 rd	READING WEEK	
Continued on next page		

Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
Feb. 27 th ; Week 7	<p>Student Presentations 5-10 minute talk on chosen paper topic for class feedback 10% of final grade Students presenting on this date must submit their 2-3 page paper topic summary/outline Mar. 6th. 10% of final grade.</p>	
Mar. 6 th ; Week 8	<p>Student Presentations 5-10 minute talk on chosen paper topic for class feedback 10% of final grade Students presenting on this date must submit their 2-3 page paper topic summary/outline Mar. 13th. 10% of final grade.</p>	
Mar. 7th	Last day to drop course without receiving a grade	
Mar. 13 th ; Week 9	Attitude Structure Attitude Change	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
Mar. 20 th ; Week 10	Aggression Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotyping	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
Mar. 27 th ; Week 11	Connections to Related Fields Social neuroscience Health Psychology	Chapter 16 Chapter 19
Apr. 3 rd ; Week 12	<p>Connection to Cultural Psych. Applications of Social Psych. PAPERS DUE: Approximately 15 pages of text on chosen and approved paper topic. 30% of final grade</p>	
Apr. 8th – Apr. 24 FINAL EXAM PERIOD	EXAM #2: Multiple choice and short essay questions 20% of final grade	Chpts. 6, 7, 9, 10, 16, 18, 19; Lectures from Mar. 13th to Apr. 3rd