



SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 2330 – Section R50
Summer 2015

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Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the numerous and interesting ways in which our thoughts, emotions, and behaviours are affected by those around us and the situations we find ourselves in. You will learn about how and why we think about ourselves and other groups of people as we do, as well as about the scientific study of attitudes, persuasion, conformity, obedience, attraction, helping behaviour, aggression, group dynamics, conflict and cooperation, and prejudice. As a focus, you will be expected to learn and practice evaluative and critical thinking, and to apply what you study in the course to situations in every day life.

Course Learning Objectives:

At the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

- 1) Describe the research methods used in social psychology
- 2) Understand the various concepts, theories, findings and issues in the field of social psychology
- 3) Apply the various concepts, theories, findings and issues of social psychology to describe and explain aspects of their own lives, the lives of others and events in the broader social/cultural environment
- 4) Recognize practical applications of concepts, theories and findings to social psychological problems

Course Readings:

We will use an open textbook for this course that is [available online and free to download in a variety of formats](#). If you prefer you may also [purchase a print copy of this textbook](#).

Course format:

This course involves weekly interactive lectures that include demonstrations, exercises, small and large group discussions.

The lectures cannot cover all of the material in the readings; rather, the goal of the lectures is to 1) highlight the more significant aspects of the readings, 2) discuss topics not well-covered by the readings in more detail, and 3) pull together broad themes to make better sense of the readings. Not all of the material presented in the readings will be discussed in class, and vice versa.

Examinations (70%):

This course includes three examinations, each of which may include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions. Exams 1 and 2 each account for 30% of your course grade whereas Exam 3 accounts for 10% of your course grade.

Assignment (30%):

You will write an empirically supported op-ed of 750 words or less that brings relevant psychological research to bear on an important social problem (e.g., gang violence, homophobia, traffic congestion, organ donation, etc.). By the end of the course you should be prepared to submit your work for publication.

I must approve your proposed topic by June 17. You will submit a complete draft of your op-ed for evaluation (worth 10%) by July 2. The final version of your op-ed (worth 15%) is due by July 28.

The assignment includes an in-class peer assessment activity on July 22 (worth 5%) during which you will provide feedback to your peers and receive feedback from your peers. The assignment instructions and guidelines are posted on the course website.

Research study participation:

One of the best methods of learning about and understanding psychological principles is to participate in actual research. You have the opportunity to earn bonus marks for your participation in research being conducted by professors and students at Kwantlen. You can earn 0.5% for each 1/2 hour of your participation in a research study, up to a maximum of 2% bonus

marks for this course. Please sign up for research projects [by clicking here](#). Alternative options for obtaining bonus credits are available if you prefer not to participate in research (e.g., an article summary or withholding data).



Course Schedule:

Date	Topic
May 13	Revisiting the Stanford Prison Study
May 20	Social Cognition + The Self
May 27	Attitudes, Behaviour, & Persuasion
June 3	Perceiving Others
June 10	Exam 1
June 17	Influencing & Conforming <i>(Choice of topic due)</i>
June 24	Liking & Loving + Helping & Altruism
July 1	Canada Day (statutory holiday) <i>(Draft of op-ed due by July 2)</i>
July 8	Aggression + Group Dynamics
July 15	Exam 2
July 22	Competition & Cooperation + Peer assessments <i>(Op-Ed due by July 28)</i>
July 29	Stereotypes, Prejudice, & Discrimination
Aug. 5	Exam 3
Aug. 12	The Social Psychology of Genocide

Note: This schedule may be modified during the semester. You are responsible for being aware of any changes, whether or not you attended the class in which they were announced.

Grading Profile:

A+	90-100%	C+	64-67
A	85-89	C	60-63
A-	80-84	C-	56-59
B+	76-79	D	50-55
B	72-75	F	0-49
B-	68-71		

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Any instances will result in penalties ranging from a grade of zero on the assignment to a failing grade in the course to expulsion from the university. You are responsible for understanding [the university policies on plagiarism and cheating](#).

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

You are responsible for being aware of your rights and responsibilities, including those specified in [the university policy on student conduct](#).

Attendance and Punctuality:

Attendance will be taken regularly but does not factor into your course grade. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late will not be admitted into the classroom until the mid-class break. If you do miss a class I suggest that you obtain notes from two classmates.

Email Communication:

Please type your course and section number (PSYC 2330-R50) in the subject line of any email you send to me.

Questions appropriate for email are those that can be answered with 1-2 sentence replies. Anything longer than this (e.g., an explanation of a concept) requires a face-to-face meeting.

Please do not expect prompt replies to emails sent to me over the weekend or less than 24 hours before an exam.

Missed exams and Late Assignments:

Exams will not be rescheduled except in the case of a medical emergency. If you are severely ill and have to miss an exam, you or a caregiver must 1) notify me before the exam start time and then 2) provide a doctor's note within one week. Unless both conditions are met, you will receive a zero. If you are granted a make-up exam, it may be of a different format and may include an oral exam.

Late assignments will not be accepted but early submissions are welcome.

Laptops, Smartphones, & Electronic Devices:

Laptop users must sit towards the rear of the classroom so as not to distract other students.

Texting or otherwise using your phone during class is disrespectful to your instructor. If necessary, I would prefer that you excuse yourself from the classroom.

You may not make audio or video recordings of the lectures without my prior consent.

YouTube Playlist:

When possible, I post the video clips that I show in class to [the YouTube playlist I have set up for this course](#).

Digital Badges

You may earn digital badges for successfully completing or achieving mastery (scoring 80% or better) in this course.