
Social Psychology
PSYC 2120 3.0 (Section A)
SU 2017 – Internet Course

Instructors:

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Course Web Address:

Available at: moodle.yorku.ca with your Passport York Account.

Required Text:

Greenberg, J., Schmader, T., Arndt, J., & Landau, M. (2015). Social Psychology: The Science of Everyday Life (First Edition). New York, NY. Worth Publishers: Macmillan Higher Education.

ISBN-10: 0-7167-0422-6; ISBN-13: 978-0-7167-0422-5

Available from the York bookstore

The textbook is available in hardcopy, loose leaf, and e-book versions.

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 people’s thoughts, feelings, and behaviours regarding themselves and the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others”. 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%
75 minutes
Multiple choice (60 questions)
Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 14 + Lectures

Midterm 2: 30%
75 minutes
Multiple choice (60 questions)
Chapters 15, 5, 6, 7, 8 + Lectures

Final Exam: 40%
2 hours.
Multiple choice (60 questions; non-cumulative)

- Chapters 9-13 + Lectures

Short answer (2 of 3).

- Videos (cumulative)

Please note: **You must** take the final exam to receive a grade in this course.

Our grade policy is consistent with the grading scheme currently used at York University:

90-100% - A+	60-64% - C
80-89% - A	55-59% - D+
75-79% - B+	50-54% - D
70-74% - B	40-49% - E (marginally failing)
65-69% - C+	0 - 39% - F (failing)

Please note that according to this grade scheme 49% results in a grade of E, 79% results in a grade of B+ and 89% results in a grade of A. If your grade is on the cusp of a higher grade, please do not contact me to ask for a higher grade. If you would like a higher grade, you will want to work to ensure that your grade falls in the appropriate range (50% or above for a passing grade, 80-89% for an A, 90-100% for an A+). Although these cut-offs may seem arbitrary and the counterfactuals may provide some distress when you are on the cusp of a higher grade (more on counterfactuals in the course!), out of fairness to all of the students, we do follow these grading guidelines strictly and do not make exceptions. There will be no bump up grades.

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. As noted earlier, there are typically fees associated with off-site exams. 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 (see below), you may take a make-up exam in lieu of the missed exam. Please note that we are extremely strict about the conditions that will allow you to write a make-up examination – nonetheless, you should contact one of us regardless of your reason if you have or will miss an examination. You must contact us 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 Joshua or Meghan, cc:ed to your assigned 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.**

For any missed tests, students **MUST ALSO** complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. [HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](http://psychology.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=16179) (<http://psychology.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=16179>). Failure to complete the form within 7 calendar days of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment.

Please note that there will be *one* set date for the make-up examination at the end of the semester. If you are unable to make this date, other arrangements will **not** be possible – make every effort to make this date, **otherwise you will receive a grade of 0**. The nature of the make-up exam is that all missed exams will be written at the end of the semester at the exact same time, shortly after the final exam. 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 **at the specific time of 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, etc.). Missing an exam for a vacation, etc., is not an acceptable reason. There will be no exceptions for family holidays or celebrations (e.g., pre-purchased travel tickets, weddings, etc). If you are aware that you have an upcoming event or obligation that would preclude you from taking one of the exams, it is in your best interest to drop the course.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN MUST BE WILLING TO STATE THAT YOU WERE MEDICALLY UNABLE TO TAKE THE EXAM AT THE SPECIFIC TIME THE EXAM WAS HELD, AND YOU MUST PRODUCE THE DOCUMENT WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE MISSED EXAM AND EITHER EMAIL THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR AND TA OR TELEPHONE THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN ADVANCE OF THE EXAM IF YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO TAKE. YOU MUST ALSO COMPLETE THE ONLINE FORM WITHIN 7 DAYS FOR THE UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW.

If you are very ill or facing extreme personal circumstances and are unable to get the required documentation, we highly recommend that you consider dropping the course.

Once you have contacted Joshua or Meghan, 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 the Undergraduate Psychology Office, BSB 292, or scanned and emailed to Joshua or Meghan and your assigned TA. You will need to receive confirmation of the make-up examination date from us/or your TA; you should be back in touch within a few days if you have not heard back from either of us. It is your responsibility to ensure you get an opportunity to write the make-up exam.

Corresponding with the instructors or TA:

In any correspondence with the instructors or TA, **please indicate the course and section number (PSYC 2120A) 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 that others are as well.

Email Etiquette:

When composing an email to a course instructor in a university setting, you typically hope to make a lasting, positive impression – or at the very least, to get a favourable response. Here are some suggestions regarding what is typically considered acceptable in an email correspondence with a university professor or course instructor. Following these suggestions will help you to seem like a responsible, considerate student, and will likely increase the probability that the instructor or professor will respond favourably to your request.

Before sending an email DO:

- Check the course materials (e.g., the syllabus, course website), to see if the answer is already provided
- Avoid using informal salutations and/or language
- Proof read your email for spelling, grammatical, and punctuation errors
- Send your email well in advance of when a response is required
- Follow-up within 3-7 days if a response from your professor or TA has not been received
- Be sure to include your course name and number (ideally in the subject heading) as well as your full name and your student number

Appropriate ways to address a course instructor:

Dear/Hello/Hi Mr.Guilfoyle, Dear/Hello/Hi Mrs. George

Inappropriate ways to address a course instructor:

Hey, Hi there, Dear Ma'am/Sir

Appropriate email:

Dear Mr. Guilfoyle or Mrs. George,

I had some questions about the upcoming exam in Social Psychology (PSYC 2120A) and was wondering if I could set a time to meet with you. Ideal days for me would be Monday afternoon (12-5pm) or anytime on Tuesday. Please feel free to let me know if a time on either of these days would work for you. Thank you in advance for your help.

Student's full name (student number)

Inappropriate email:

Hey,

I haven't been able to study much and getting worried about the exam. Can we meet?

Student's first name

TAs should typically be addressed by their first name (e.g., Dear Alex or Dear Leah, not simply Dear TA).

WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS

Note that each lecture is available exclusively online by 5pm on the date listed below.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Wednesday May 3 rd	Getting Started	
	Thursday May 4 th	Introduction to Social Psychology, Culture, and Social Behavior	Chapter 1 & 2
Week 2	Wednesday May 10 th	Social Cognition	Chapter 3 & 4
	Thursday May 11 th	Interpersonal Attraction	Chapter 14
Week 3	Wednesday May 17 th 7:00 – 8:15 pm	Midterm #1	
	Thursday May 18 th	Close Relationships	Chapter 15
Week 4	Wednesday May 24 th	The Self	Chapter 5 & 6
	Thursday May 25 th	Social Influence, Attitudes, and Behavior	Chapter 7 & 8
Week 5	Wednesday May 31 st 7:00 – 8:15 pm	Midterm #2	
	Thursday June 1 st <i><u>Last day to drop course without receiving a grade: June 2nd</u></i>	Group Processes	Chapter 9
Week 6	Wednesday June 7 th	Prejudice, Stereotyping, & Discrimination	Chapter 10 & 11
	Thursday June 8 th	Antisocial and Prosocial Behavior	Chapter 12 & 13

FINAL EXAM TO BE HELD DURING EXAM PERIOD (June 14th – 16th)

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.

In the subject heading, please write "PSYCH 2120A question". The TA will do his/her best to respond within 24 hours, and will respond as quickly as possible close to exam dates. Responses will generally be cc:ed to one of us, and when appropriate, responses will also be posted on the course website - so you may want to check the POST QUESTIONS HERE section as well as other discussion forums 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 receive a faster 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.

We hope that you enjoy the course.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge of social determinants of behaviour.
2. Describe and evaluate current theory and research in social psychology.
3. Understand and interpret principles of social psychology in everyday life.
4. Define causes of social behaviour from different perspectives.

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.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination:

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

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 [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. **Policy Statement**

Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

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 **PSYC2120A** 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.

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