
Instructor: Richard Ennis
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Office: PAS 3017, 888-4567 ext 5333
Office Hours: Monday 12:30 - 2:00
Class Meetings: Monday & Wednesday, 2:30 - 3:50, RCH 307
Required Text: Myers, D. G. and Spencer, S. J. (2006). Social Psychology (3rd Canadian Ed.). Toronto, ON: McGraw-Hill.
Teaching Assistants: TBA

Course Objectives

We are social animals and our thoughts, feelings, and actions are strongly influenced by social environments. This course will introduce you to the many and varied ways of social influence. A primary objective of any "introductory" course is simply that: to introduce you to the subject matter of the discipline and to familiarize you with the vocabulary and concepts. We will explore topics that reflect the diversity of social psychological research such as prejudice, conformity, and relationships. You already have several years of experience in social psychology based on your own observations and knowledge about yourself and your environment. In this course you will see how research has been applied to test intuitive assumptions about social life. You will find that many of your beliefs are scientifically supported; but you will also find many beliefs are refuted by the evidence. Certainly, as a student in this course, you will receive a more comprehensive understanding of yourself and your social world. I also hope that you will develop greater skills of critical thinking that will make you a better consumer of psychological information.

I also hope that you will derive some personal benefits from the course by reaching a deeper understanding and acceptance of yourself and others. Hopefully, this class will enrich your personal relationships and contribute to your success in your future endeavors.

Course Requirements and Value

Discussion Papers:	20%
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	50%

Examinations

Both exams will consist of multiple-choice and written questions. The multiple-choice items will focus on textbook material while the written items will require a synthesis of lecture and textbook material. The midterm exam will be held during class time on Wednesday, June 27. The final exam will be 2 hours and will cover lecture material from the entire course and textbook material after the midterm. See the attached "Overview of Exams" for more detail.

Deferred Exams:

Deferred exams may be offered for students with exceptional circumstances with supportive documentation. You must see me to arrange a time and place. The deferred tests will NOT contain the same items as the scheduled test, therefore I cannot guarantee they will be equal in difficulty with the scheduled tests.

Discussion Papers

See the attached "Discussion Papers" for complete details.

Course Web Site

The ACE course website will provide you with lecture outlines and many of the overheads used in class. This material is designed and provided to help you prepare for lectures. It is NOT a substitute for attendance. Important course announcements will also be posted on the site so you should visit it on a regular basis. Grades will also be posted on the site.

There is also a publisher's website for the text (www.mcgrawhill.ca/college/myers) that offers a wide range of helpful items, such as practice quizzes, study aids, and interesting web links. Regular visits to this site will prove beneficial.

Additional Notes

Note for students with disabilities: *The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term."*

Note on avoidance of academic offenses: *"All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infousec/Policies/policy71.htm). If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to "group work" and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."*

"Avoiding Academic Offences" (http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html).

"Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>."

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week of	Topic	Readings
May 2	Introduction to social psychology Social Cognition	Chpt 1 Chpt 2
May 7 & 9	Social Cognition	Chpts 2 & 3
May 14 & 16	Social Identity	Chpts 2 & 3
May 23, 28 & 30	Prejudice <i>(May 23: Topic 1 due)</i>	Chpt 12
Jun 4 & 6	Relationships <i>(Jun 6: Topic 2 due)</i>	Chpt 11
Jun 11 & 13	Relationships	Chpt 11
Jun 18 & 20	Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviour <i>(Jun 20: Topic 3 due)</i>	Chpts 9 & 10
Jun 25	Attitudes and Persuasion	Chpts 4 & 7
Wed Jun 27	Midterm Exam (see Overview of Exams)	
Jul 4, 9 & 11	Social Influence <i>(Jul 11: Topic 4 due)</i>	Chpt 6
Jul 16 & 18	Group Dynamics	Chpt 8
Jul 23 & 25	Social Psychology of Cults	none

Final Exam Period August 2 to 15

DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD!

OVERVIEW OF EXAMS

TOPIC & READINGS	Midterm		Final	
	Multiple Choice	Written Questions	Multiple Choice	Written Questions
Introduction Chpt 1	4	?	3	?
Social Cognition Chpts 2 & 3	5	?	3	?
Social Identity Chpts 2 & 3	5	?	3	?
Prejudice Chpt 12	8	?	4	?
Relationships Chpt 11	10	?	4	?
Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviour Chpts 9 & 10	8	?	3	?
Attitudes and Persuasion Chpts 4 & 7			10	?
Social Influence Chpt 6			10	?
Group Dynamics Ch 8			10	?
Social Psychology of Extremist Groups Lecture Only			10	?
TOTAL ITEMS	40	2	60	4
VALUE OF EACH ITEM	1/2	5	1/2	5
TOTAL VALUE	20	10	30	20
DATE	June 27		August 12-15	
TIME	2:30 - 3:50		TBA	
DURATION	80 minutes		2 hours	

DISCUSSION PAPER

What is the assignment? At the conclusion of Wednesday lectures on May 16, May 30, June 13, and July 4, I will provide a discussion topic based on the current material. It will require you to apply the material or engage in theoretical speculation. The assignment is designed to encourage you to think analytically about the material and to make it more personally relevant.

How many papers must be submitted? You may choose any one of the four topics offered during the term. If you submit a paper for the May 16 or May 30 topics, you will have the opportunity to submit a second paper if you are not satisfied with your mark on the first paper. Your mark on the second paper will be the grade you receive (i.e., we will NOT take the "best" mark; only the last mark). Obviously you must submit one of the first two papers to take advantage of this opportunity. These early submissions will be returned promptly.

How much is the paper worth? The discussion paper is worth 20% of your final grade. That is a substantial portion of your grade and your performance and effort should reflect that value.

How long does it have to be? These discussion papers are intended to get you to work with the material. They are not intended to be time-consuming essays. Therefore, there is a strict limit of five (5) pages of text.

Are there any format instructions I should know about? You MUST conform to the following format rules:

- 1) Your paper MUST be machine printed (i.e., typewriter or computer printer).
- 2) The body of your paper MUST be double-spaced with 1" margins all around.
- 3) Your text MUST be in 11 or 12 point font. Please avoid italicized or script fonts as these are very difficult and aggravating to read. This text, for example, is 11-point Arial.
- 4) You MUST NOT use any fancy covers or binders. These do not enhance the quality of your paper and they are an irritating obstruction when reading and a horrific nuisance when marking. A SIMPLE STAPLE WILL DO!

What about spelling, grammar, and writing style — does it matter? YES IT DOES! As university students what are tops of the intelligence world you must can be expected to know how to write how to spell and use commas etc and other punctuation etc that is essential parts of communicating good and not driving your reader batty. Good ideas require good writing. Bad writing makes all ideas bad; including good ones. If you do not care about your work, why should your reader? Proofread your work and use the speller and grammar features in the word processing programs. For example, my spell-checker found twelve misspelled words and my grammar-check identified nine grammatical errors in this paragraph.

When are the papers due and what are the rules on late submission? Each paper is due at the start of the following Wednesday class after the topic is offered. In other words, you have one week to write your paper. Given the many opportunities, late submissions will NOT be accepted.

How will the papers be evaluated? The paper will be evaluated by addressing the following questions:

- 1) Is the paper presented in the student's own words (i.e., has the student refrained from the lazy tactic of quoting from the text)?
- 2) Has the student properly addressed the topic? Is there clear evidence the student has closely examined the resource materials and extracted the relevant social psychological evidence?
- 3) Has the student provided valid and adequate support for their arguments? Has the social psychology and resource material been synthesized? Is there a valid social psychological interpretation of the evidence? Does the evidence support the social psychological arguments?
- 4) Is the paper well written? Does it conform to the guidelines described above? Is there evidence that the student took the assignment seriously and exerted the effort worthy of 20%?