



Psychology 2800A – Social Psychology

Spring 2013

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:25 to 10:40, in PE275

Instructor	Contact Info	Office Hours
Dr. Stephanie Hancock Psychology Department University of Lethbridge	Office: University Hall, D854 Email: stephanie.hancock@uleth.ca Phone: (403) 394-3930	Mon, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Thurs, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Or by appointment

Course Teaching Assistant: Brittany Thomas; email: b.thomas@uleth.ca

Please contact the course teaching assistant for clarification on basic course material and for an opportunity to review graded exams. If any questions remain, please contact the course instructor. I am happy to discuss any unresolved questions or concerns.

Course Description

Social Psychology is the scientific study of how people think about, influence, and relate to one another. *Social thinking* consists of how we view ourselves and others; the accuracy of our impressions, intuitions, and explanations; and the relationship between our attitudes and behaviours. *Social influence* may include persuasion, coercion, conformity, group influence, and the role of others in forming our attitudes and impressions. *Social relations* encompass friendships, attraction and romantic partnerships, and actions towards others such as altruism, but also aggression and discrimination.

In this course, students will be introduced to the major theoretical perspectives used in social psychology, the goals of social behaviour, the impact of personal characteristics and situations on social behaviour, and the research methods used in the study of social behaviour.

Required Text

Myers, D.G., Spencer, S.J., & Jordan, C.H. (2012). *Social Psychology* (5th Canadian ed.). Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Supplemental Materials

Check out the Student's Online Learning Centre for the text, found at: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0070319847/student_view0/. Choose a chapter from the dropdown menu. Within each chapter, you will find a variety of exercises and textbook-related content to help you acquire the course material. Resources include weblinks, practical application tutorials, interactive activities, scenarios, multiple choice and matching questions, flashcards, crossword puzzles, glossaries, and videos. Any additional required readings or materials to supplement the course text and lectures will be provided to you in class and/or through Moodle.

Outline of Topics and Course Structure

Time limitations prevent in-depth coverage of all chapters of the course text and some of the material covered in class will not come directly from the text, but from other scholarly sources. Class lectures will be structured for a more focused study of specific areas of interest and their content is essential to successful course completion. Details regarding the coverage of material for exams will be provided in class and/or posted through Moodle.

Grade Assessment

Your overall grade in the course will be determined by the following:

- Three term exams, in total worth 90%
 - Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions (answers must be spelled correctly). The exams are *non-cumulative* and will include material from the textbook, class lectures, class activities and discussion, videos, and any additional assigned readings and resources.
 - The tentative schedule for exams is as follows:
 - ✓ Exam 1: worth 20% of overall grade
 - opens Friday, February 8; closes Wednesday, February 13.
 - ❖ No class will be held on Tuesday, February 12, in order to allow students time to write the exam during scheduled class time, if you so choose.
 - ✓ Exam 2: worth 30% of overall grade
 - opens Wednesday, March 20; closes Monday, March 25.
 - ❖ No class will be held on Thursday, March 21, in order to allow students time to write the exam during scheduled class time, if you so choose.
 - ✓ Exam 3: worth 40% of overall grade
 - opens Monday, April 22; closes Friday, April 26 (during the final exam period).
- In-class group work, collaborative learning sessions, and assigned homework and readings: 10%
 - Students often don't know what they don't know until asked to apply the course concepts. In-class group activities and assigned-reading quizzes give you an opportunity to self-evaluate and discover what you know and don't know to help you better prepare for exams.

Exam Procedures

Exams will be closed-book, written out of class at the University of Lethbridge Testing Facility, using the online Moodle testing utility (<https://moodle.uleth.ca>). Your Moodle username is equivalent to your U of L email username (the part of your email address that comes before "@uleth.ca") and your Moodle password is your email password. Should you require assistance with your Moodle account, please contact the Curriculum Redevelopment Centre (CRDC) in L1108.

Students should familiarize themselves with Testing Centre procedures and hours of operation before arriving to write the exam (see: http://fusion.uleth.ca/crdc/testcenter/testcenter_student_info.htm). Access is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Once you enter the facility, you will be required to present valid picture ID (either your student card or a valid driver's license) and to fill out a brief form that registers your exam. All students must submit their exam by the closing date and time of the testing centre. Please allow yourself adequate time to complete your exam. It is strongly recommended that students write the exam as early as possible during the scheduled exam time because seating in the Testing Centre is limited and demand for seats is high.

Missed Exam / Missed Class Activity Policy

If a student is unable to write an exam during the assigned exam period, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible. Medical reasons must be supported by a physician's statement that test performance would be seriously affected by the illness, along with the physician's name and contact information. Non-medical reasons must also be supported. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to set up a make-up exam. Unless a medical note, documentation of bereavement, or other acceptable documentation is presented, a grade of 0% will be assigned for any exam not written at the designated time.

All students enter this course with a grade of 0%. You *earn* your grades. Should you be absent from class on a day during which group-work grades are earned, you cannot earn those grades and the worth of those points cannot be "made up" in any way.

Grade Ranges

The following ranges will be employed in assigning grades in this course:

A+ > 90	B+ 77 - 79.9	C+ 67 - 69.9	D+ 55 - 59.9
A 85 - 89.9	B 73 - 76.9	C 63 - 66.9	D 50 - 54.9
A- 80 - 84.9	B- 70 - 72.9	C- 60 - 62.9	F < 50

Students with Special Needs

If you are a student with a disability and need help with your classes, you may receive help by contacting the Disabilities Resource Centre (<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/disabilities/index.html>).

University, Classroom, and Teaching Policies

- ❖ *Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts* (Sociologist and U.S. Senator, Daniel Moynihan). Given the nature of the course material, a diversity of viewpoints will inevitably exist in the classroom. Voicing well-reasoned disagreement with others' viewpoints is perfectly fine; being combative, intolerant, or disrespectful towards others is not (see Section 6.b.I).
- ❖ As per the University Calendar, Section 6.h.I.: "When a student disrupts instructional activities, the instructor may exclude the student immediately from instructional space and/or from future scheduled instructional meetings of that course pending further actions by the Dean." When students talk amongst themselves during lectures, it disrupts instructional activities and, consequently, I will respond accordingly. On this note, please turn off your cell phone or any other noise-emitting device prior to the beginning of class. Please do not engage in off-task internet use during lectures as it distracts you and others around you.
- ❖ Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Academic Offences section of the Student Discipline Policy of the University of Lethbridge Academic Calendar (<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/sites/ross/files/imported/academic-calendar/2012-13/part04.pdf>)
- ❖ In all email messages addressed to the instructor or teaching assistant, include the course name and topic of your email in the Subject line. Address the recipient appropriately (e.g., "Hi Dr. H. ..." or "Dear Brittany..."), and end the email by typing your full name. If you fail to structure your email correspondence by these guidelines, or if you email the instructor or teaching assistant with a question that has been answered on Moodle or in this course outline, do not expect a reply.
- ❖ Following tests, the teaching assistant will be available to meet with you, discuss your test results, and show you the correct answers. Contact the teaching assistant for available meeting times. Students who wish to meet with the teaching assistant to discuss their results should come prepared with specific questions and explain why they think there might be a problem with a particular question (i.e., "I think I should have received a mark for this because on page XX of the textbook, it says "XXXX"). If students meet with the teaching assistant as part of a fishing expedition for marks (i.e., "I think I should have done better, tell me why you docked marks!"), then the student risks having marks deducted. If a legitimate grading error has been made, please contact the teaching assistant or instructor immediately so that the situation can be resolved.
- ❖ Instructor course notes/PowerPoint presentations will not be provided to students. Supplemental materials will be posted on Moodle and/or emailed to your student U of L account.
- ❖ I will not provide study guides or designate class time solely for the purpose of exam review.
- ❖ Additional work will not be assigned for those who wish to improve their course grade.
- ❖ The weighting of exams will not be changed under any circumstances.
- ❖ If you miss a class video, it cannot be borrowed from the instructor and there will be no second screening.

Enjoy a great semester!