

Psychology 241:
Social Psychology Fall, 2018

Instructor: Thomas Vaughan-Johnston

Email: 13tvj@queensu.ca

Office hours: By appointment

Class meets: Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in BioSci Auditorium

Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in BioSci Auditorium

Teaching Assistants: James Hillman (Ojh85@queensu.ca),
Charlie Shen (charlie.shen@mail.utoronto.ca), and Ziyi Lai (ziyilai2@gmail.com)

Textbook: Myers, D. G., Jordan, C. H., Smith, S., & Spencer, S. J., & (2018). *Social Psychology* (7th Canadian ed.). McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

**Please note, this textbook has an “e-version” as well, which you can purchase instead of the hard copy. Either option is fine. Also, this book has several online resources associated with it. You are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of these resources but they are not formally part of the course content (i.e., they are optional). If you choose to buy an older edition of this textbook, please note that you are responsible for all of the information in the 2018 version.

Description of Course: The goals of the course are as follows:

- To develop an understanding of the methods used by social psychologists.
- To learn about social psychological science, particularly through the lens of historical and ongoing debates that have facilitated the growth of knowledge.
- To introduce studies and theories concerning the self in the social world.
- “” concerning heuristics, persuasion, and social judgment.
- “” concerning group identity, conflicts, and prejudice.

Course Philosophy and Policies: Because of the size of the class (potentially > 400), it will be largely lecture-based by necessity. However, I do welcome class participation and will intersperse opportunities to ask questions throughout the lectures. The class is more fun when everyone gets involved, so please be respectful toward your classmates to make them feel comfortable in speaking.

As a scientist and instructor I follow a philosophy I call *scientific agonism* (from the Greek *agon*, referring to struggle in the sense of competition, contest), in which science is characterized by an endless series of conflicting positions which stimulate the growth of knowledge. These conflicts can be addressed through adversarial collaboration, respectful debate, and critical tests. This philosophy informs how I lecture (I focus on scientific debates in preference to listing dry facts), and how assignments are designed (see below). Another consequence of this philosophy is that you are expected to learn *which* psychologist(s) made *what* claim and *why*, as well as learning their opponents in similar detail. In the first lecture I will describe this philosophy briefly.

It is very important that you arrive on time, even for the Monday 8:30am section: bring a big coffee or tea, as this course has a lot of material to cover. I will dismiss class at 9:50am on Mondays, and 11:20am on Thursdays. Please do not start packing up and leaving before that, as it may be distracting to others.

Schedule: It is strongly recommended that you read the assigned chapter *before* each class--the lectures will be more meaningful if you are familiar with the material to be discussed.

Week	Dates	Topic	Key Debate(s) / Other Notes	Reading
0	September 6	Introduction to Course	N/A	-
1	Sept. 10, 13	Introducing Social Psychology	BIRT implicit measures are better than explicit measures.	Chapter 1
2	Sept. 17, 20	The Self in a Social World	BIRT the self is culturally variant Sociometer versus Terror Management Theory	Chapter 2
3	Sept. 24, 27	Social Beliefs and Judgments	BIRT people's social judgments are ultimately rational Debate paper 1 assigned.	Chapter 3
4	Oct. 1, 4	Behaviour and Attitudes	Cognitive Dissonance versus Impression Management versus Self-Affirmation versus Self-Perception	Chapter 4
5	Oct. 8, 11	Persuasion	TBA	Chapter 5
6	Oct. 15, 18	Conformity	BIRT the Stanford Prison Experiment is high quality psychological science Debate paper 1: due October 18th 11:59pm	Chapter 6
7	Oct. 22, 25	Group Influence	TBA Midterm 1: held in class October 22nd.	Chapter 7
8	Oct. 31, Nov. 1	Altruism: Helping Others	TBA	Chapter 8
9	Nov. 5, 8	Aggression: Hurting Others	BIRT violent video games cause real world violence. Debate paper 2 assigned.	Chapter 9
10	Nov. 12, 15	Attraction and Intimacy	TBA Guest Lecture: James Hillman	Chapter 10
11	Nov. 19, 22	Sources of Prejudice	TBA	Chapter 11
12	Nov. 26, 29	Consequences of Prejudice	TBA Debate paper 2: due November 29th 11:59pm	Chapter 12

Grading System

1. **Debate Paper 1** (due October 18, 11:59pm EST): 10%
2. **Midterm** (during class on October 22): 40%
3. **Debate Paper 2** (due November 29, 11:59pm EST): 10%
4. **Non-Cumulative Final Examination** (during final examination period, TBA) 40%

Debate Papers

You will be assigned two paper assignments that will give you the opportunity to apply what you have learned in the course. Please note that we will be enforcing a very strict word limit on these papers (1000 words maximum). I will assign those papers three weeks before they are due with additional details. They will be turned in and handed back online via Turnitin.com. In brief, each assignment will have two parts. In Part A you will argue for one side of a major scientific debate, and in Part B you will argue for the opposite side of that debate.

Examinations

There are two exams. The marking scheme for each is as follows:

Part A. Fifteen multiple choice questions, @ 1 marks = 15 marks.

Part B. Five short answer questions, @ 2 marks = 10 marks.

Part C. One short essay question @ 5 marks = 5 marks.

Notes: The exams, including the final examination, are non-cumulative (i.e., the content will focus on one half of the course material each). If you are unable to write an examination, you will be required to show a medical certificate or other documentation. In such cases, the other examination will be worth 80% of your grade. For obvious reasons, you should avoid this situation if possible.

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks (e.g. 70%). The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale, as follows (e.g. 70% → B-):

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Statement on Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity is constituted by the six core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senate/report-principles-and-priorities>).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1>), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/academic-integrity>), and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Copyright of Course Materials

Course materials are copyrighted and are for the sole use of students registered in Psychology 241. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in Psychology 241. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

Final Examination Policy

The exam dates for each Term are listed on the Faculty of Arts and Science webpage under "Important Dates." Student exam schedules for the Fall Term are posted via SOLUS immediately prior to the Thanksgiving holiday; for the Winter Term they are posted on the Friday before Reading Week, and for the Summer Term they are individually noted on the Arts and Science Online syllabi. **Students should delay finalizing any travel plans until after the examination schedule has been posted. Exams will not be moved or deferred to accommodate employment, travel/holiday plans or flight reservations.** Also, as indicated in Academic Regulation 8.3, students must write all final examination in all on-campus courses on the Kingston campus.

Disability Accommodations

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (DSO) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the DSO website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/hc/ds/>

Extenuating Circumstances

Queen's University is committed to providing academic consideration to students experiencing extenuating circumstances that are beyond their control and are interfering with their ability to complete academic requirements related to a course for a short period of time, not to exceed three months. Students receiving academic

consideration must meet all essential requirements of a course. The Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances was approved at Senate in April, 2017 (see <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.uslcwww/files/files/policies/senateandtrustees/Academic%20Considerations%20for%20Extenuating%20Circumstances%20Policy%20Final.pdf>) Each Faculty has developed a protocol to provide a consistent and equitable approach in dealing with requests for academic consideration for students facing extenuating circumstances. Arts and Science undergraduate students can find the Faculty of Arts and Science protocol and the portal where a request can be submitted at: <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/accommodations>. Students in other Faculties and Schools who are enrolled in this course should refer to the protocol for their home Faculty.