Psychology 241: Social Psychology
Fall, 2012

Instructor: Dr. T. MacDonald
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Office hours: Friday, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., or by appointment
Class meets: Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Ellis Auditorium

Teaching Assistants:

Joshua Guyer (email: joshua.guyer@queensu.ca)
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Textbook:

Miller, R. S. (2012). Myers, D. G., Spencer, S. J., & Jordan, C. H. (2012) Social Psychology (5th Canadian ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

**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 a number of 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 2012 version.

Description of Course

The study of social psychology is a fascinating field, certainly one that readily applies to our lives. In this course, I will provide you with a general overview of research and theory in social psychology, based on classic and contemporary findings from the social psychological literature. This course is research-oriented. You will also learn about the scientific methods used by researchers in social psychology to conduct valid research.

Course Policies

Because of the size of the class, it will be largely lecture based. I do, however, encourage (and welcome!) class participation. If you have a question, please feel free to ask it! I also will incorporate class demonstrations and activities as time permits. The class is more fun when everyone gets involved.

Please be respectful toward your classmates. Try to show up to class on time. I will dismiss class at 2:20 on Tuesdays, and 12:50 on Thursdays. Please do not start packing up and leaving before that—it's distracting! Also, turn off cellphones or put them on silent mode. If your cellphone goes off during class, I reserve the right to answer it on your behalf!

If you wish to discuss something, you are welcome to see me during office hours or make an appointment. If it is a question about course material, please post it to the Moodle site, and myself or one of the teaching assistants will respond, usually within 24 hours.

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	Reading Assignment
1	September 11 and 13	Introducing Social Psychology	Chapter 1
2	September 18 and 20	The Self in a Social World	Chapter 2
3	September 25 and 27	Social Beliefs and Judgments	Chapter 3
4	October 2 and 4	Behaviour and Attitudes	Chapter 4
5	October 9 and 11	Persuasion	Chapter 5
6	October 16 and 18	Conformity	Chapter 6
7	October 23 and 25	Group Influence	Chapter 7
8	October 30 and November 1	Altruism: Helping Others	Chapter 8
9	November 6 and 8	Aggression: Hurting Others	Chapter 9
10	November 13 and 15	Attraction and Intimacy	Chapter 10
11	November 20 and 21	Sources of Prejudice	Chapter 11
12	November 27 and 29	Consequences of Prejudice	Chapter 12

Grading System

1.	Thought Paper 1 (due October 18)	5%
2.	Examination 1 (to be held during class on October 9)	30%
3.	Examination 2 (to be held during class on November 6)	30%
4.	Thought Paper 2 (due November 29)	5%
5.	Final Examination (during final examination period, to be scheduled)	30%
		100%

Description of Grading System

Thought Papers

You will be assigned two papers 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 (500 words maximum).

Examinations

There are three 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 worth 5 marks = 5 marks

Notes: The exams are non-cumulative (i.e., the content will focus on one third of the course material). 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 two examinations will be worth 45% of your grade.

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. 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:

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 five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (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/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html).

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/2011-2012-calendar/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.

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