

PSYCHOLOGY 308A: Social Psychology (Fall 2015)

Section 001: Tues/Thurs, 2-3:30, Chemistry D300

Professor: Dr. Elizabeth Dunn
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Course Website: <http://elearning.ubc.ca/connect/>
Office Hours: By appointment: Email your TF or professor to arrange a time.

Teaching Fellows:

Name	E-mail
Natasha Pestonji (Head TF)	natasha.pestonji@psych.ubc.ca
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Course Description:

Social psychology uses scientific methodology to address core questions about human social life that most people are naturally curious about (e.g., Why do people behave the way they do? What makes people happy?).

This section of Psyc 308 includes Small Group Active Learning sessions (i.e. seminars), and requires the completion of a term paper.

Format of the course: Rather than just teaching you about social psychology, we want you to *experience* social psychology in action. Therefore, most lectures will include an interactive component. In addition, lectures will be replaced with smaller seminar sessions on five days during the semester, allowing for more active participation. The seminar sessions will take place on September 24, October 13, November 3, November 19, and December 3. On these days, students should go directly to their seminar classroom rather than coming to lecture. TF assignments will be provided on the course website before the first seminar. A Teaching Fellow will lead active demonstrations and dynamic discussions designed to illuminate the course material. The seminars are an important part of the course and **attendance is required**. In addition, the exams include a teamwork component.

Required Materials:

- 1) Greenberg, J., Schmader, T., Arndt, J., & Landau, M. (2015). *Social psychology: The Science of Everyday Life*. (1st edition). The bookstore offers this textbook in two forms (additional options such as hardcover are available on Amazon):
 - o Loose-leaf (comes with e-access too): \$78
 - o E-access only: \$58
- 2) You will need to subscribe to Top Hat for lecture participation. For this course, we have a special rate of \$20. <https://app-ca.tophat.com/e/874333> (6-digit course code: **874333**)
- 3) Seminar readings will be freely available from the course website at least 2 weeks before each seminar.

Grading:

Assessment	Points to Earn
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	35%
Paper	20%
Seminar (attendance, participation & reading reflections):	20%
Lecture participation	5%

NOTE – Marks will be posted on the course website (by student ID# only). It is your responsibility to check these marks for accuracy. If you would rather not have your marks posted, you must make special arrangements with Dr. Dunn during the first week of class.

Course Requirements & Expectations

1) Exams: The midterm exam will be given in class, and the final exam will be scheduled by the university. The exams will include multiple choice and short essay questions. Immediately after completing each exam on your own, you will get together into small groups and re-take a portion of the exam as a team. For your multiple choice mark, your team score will count for 10%, and your individual score will count for 90%; however, if your individual score is higher than your team score, your individual score will count for 100%, so the teamwork component can only help you. When you are given the opportunity to complete essay questions with your group, you will be able to choose whether to submit your individual or group response for marking. Research shows that this innovative approach to testing improves student engagement and learning; for references on this research, please see <http://ow.ly/ztdv6>. Please bring a #2 pencil and eraser to all exams. You may be tested on any material covered in lectures, seminars, or readings (including material that only appeared in class or only appeared in the readings).

2) Term Paper: You will write one 3-page paper, in which you will (a) analyze a past experience you have had in terms of a theory covered in the course or (b) break a social norm and then analyze your experience in terms of social psychological concepts. Further information will be provided in lecture on October 8. You MUST email your TF a 2-3 sentence paper proposal by October 27 (or earlier). You should not start working on your paper until the topic has been approved. PAPER IS DUE NOVEMBER 19th. Note that you will be asked to submit an electronic copy to Turn it In (www.turnitin.com), as well as submitting a hard copy of your paper in seminar. Late submission of either the paper proposal or the paper (including hard or electronic copy) will result in stiff penalties.

3) Seminar: Attendance at all seminars is required. Any absences will be counted as

unexcused unless you provide written documentation to your TF within one week (see course policies). Active participation is required in seminars and will affect your seminar grade. If you are uncomfortable speaking in class, please see your TF during the first month of class to discuss this. You will be asked to turn in a brief Reading Reflection at the beginning of each seminar; no late assignments will be accepted. Seminar grades will be based on attendance, participation, and Reading Reflections.

4) Lecture Participation: We will be using an interactive system called Top Hat to facilitate lecture participation. <https://www.tophat.com>. In most lectures, you'll be given a chance to participate and check your understanding of the material by answering questions through Top Hat. In addition, I will reserve the last 3-5 minutes of every lecture to give you time to compose your own brief take-home message from the lecture, as well as a question about something you didn't understand or want to know more about. These comprehension checks are extremely important in helping me to ensure that you understand the course material, and should be submitted through Top Hat. I will address common points of confusion (and interest) during each subsequent class. Of course, not all submitted questions will be answered in class, but you are always welcome to see me before/after class or during office hours about your question. If you complete all Top Hat questions and comprehension checks, you will automatically receive full marks for lecture participation. To allow for illness or technical problems, you can miss up to 20% of participation opportunities, and we'll still give you full marks. You can connect with Top Hat using any device with wifi (e.g., laptop, iPad) or with your mobile phone. If you do not have such a device, contact me and I can help make special arrangements for you. Please visit the Top Hat website to register for a student account right away; we will begin using this system on Tuesday September 15.

Extra Credit: Because this course emphasizes active involvement in psychology, I will give

you up to 3 extra credit points (i.e., 3% added to your final course grade) for participating in accredited psychology experiments. To take advantage of this opportunity, you must visit <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca> by Sept 27th in order to create an account and profile. As an alternative to participating in studies, you may choose to complete library writing projects, in which you read and summarize a research article; each article summary counts as one hour of research participation. See the HSP website for detailed information including due dates and submission procedures for the library project.

Communication

Office hours & appointments: If you have questions about the course material or would like to discuss issues related to the course in more detail, you are always welcome to make an individual appointment with the professor or TF's or talk to us before/after class.

EMAIL POLICY: I will only provide 1-sentence responses via email. If you have a question that cannot be answered in a single sentence or less, please see me right before or after class or make an appointment and I will be happy to discuss it with you. Emails requiring responses longer than 1-sentence will not be answered. For all email responses, please permit more than 24 hours before a response can be expected (e.g., you are unlikely to receive a response the night before an exam/assignment). Emails will rarely be answered over the weekend.

Who to contact for your concerns or questions: First, if you have a question, please consult the course website; there's a good chance the website contains the answer to your question, especially regarding course logistics (e.g., seminar locations). Second, you can contact your Teaching Fellow. Third, if your question cannot be answered by your TF, you may contact the professor (of course, because there are 4 TF's and only 1 professor, you are more likely to get detailed information from the TF's).

Additional Course Policies

Lecture notes: I will post my Powerpoint slides on the course website following each class (usually the morning after). The point of posting the notes is to save you from having to scribble down every detail I present and to help you check the notes you take. The posted notes are not meant to stand alone and will often be hard to follow if you haven't been in class. I would recommend that you take your own notes in class, writing down key points, and then use the posted notes as a supplement. Notes will never be posted before class; the lectures will often contain twists, turns, and surprises that would be ruined if the notes were given ahead of time. If you do not own a copy of Powerpoint, you can download a free copy of Powerpoint Viewer (but this will not allow you to edit the slides, which you may wish to do, as the slides will be posted on the web in largely the same format in which they are presented in lecture).

Attendance: If you miss all or part of any seminar or lecture, it is your responsibility to speak with one of your classmates to find out what course materials and announcements you missed. Attendance will be taken in seminar and will influence your grade. Absences will be considered unexcused unless you provide your TF with a doctor's note within 1 week of the absence.

Exams: If you are severely ill and have to miss an exam, you or a caregiver must (1) notify me before the exam start time and then (2) provide a doctor's note within one week; unless both conditions are met, you will receive a zero. Note that there will be no make-up midterm (if you miss the midterm due to documented illness, your final exam grade will also count as your midterm grade).

Term Paper: Absolutely NO extensions will be given on the paper. Sudden illness will not be considered grounds for an extension as you will have weeks to complete the paper.

Special Accommodations: The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre and students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let me know in the first week of class if you will require any special requirements as such. Absences due to *varsity athletics, family obligations, vacations, work scheduling, or other similar commitments WILL NOT receive special accommodation.*

Electronics: Please turn off ringers during class. Laptops, phones, and other mobile devices may only be used for taking notes and responding to Top Hat questions during class. Using these devices for non-course related purposes (e.g, texting, Facebook, email) is extremely distracting for everyone, and we reserve the right to deduct participation marks in lecture or seminar for this. No electronics will be permitted in any exam (e.g., electronic dictionary).

Grade Scaling: In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70 for a good class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class (with a standard deviation of 13). Scaling is likely to be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor, department, or school. Therefore, grades are never official until they appear on a student's academic record.

Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct:

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the

Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to *TurnItIn*--a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>).

BOTTOM LINE:

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

Tentative Schedule of Topics, Readings, & Assignments

(note that adjustments to this schedule may be made at any time!)

Week	Date	Topics	Required readings
1	Tues Sept 8	IMAGINE DAY (no classes)	
	Thurs Sept 10	Course Introduction & Groups	Text Chapter 9
2	Tues Sept 15	Groups & Methodology	Text pp. 15-32 (methods review)
	Thurs Sept 17	Social Cognition	Text Ch. 3
3	Tues Sept 22	Social Perception	Text Ch. 4
	Thurs Sept 24	Seminar 1: Groups & Social Perception	Seminar 1 reading
4	Tues Sept 29	Self-knowledge	Text Ch. 5
	Thurs Oct 1	Self-esteem & Self-control	
5	Tues Oct 6	Authority	Text Ch. 7
	Thurs Oct 8	Conformity (paper assignment given)	
6	Tues Oct 13	Seminar 2: Social Norms	Seminar 2 reading
	Thurs Oct 15	Attitudes and persuasion	Text Ch. 8
7	Tues Oct 20	<i>MIDTERM</i>	
	Thurs Oct 22	No Class (Dr. Dunn away)	
8	Tues Oct 27	Aggression (paper proposals due)	Text Ch. 12
	Thurs Oct 29	Prosocial behaviour	Text Ch. 13
9	Tues Nov 3	Seminar 3: Prosocial behaviour	Seminar 3 reading
	Thurs Nov 5	Stereotypes/prejudice	Text Ch. 10
10	Tues Nov 10	Stereotypes/prejudice	
	Thurs Nov 12	Attraction	Text Ch. 14
11	Tues Nov 17	Close relationships	Text Ch. 15
	Thurs Nov 19	Seminar 4: Evolution & Attraction (papers due)	Seminar 4 reading
12	Tues Nov 24	Applications: Law	
	Thurs Nov 26	Catch-up Day	
13	Tues Dec 1	Happiness & Course Review	
	Thurs Dec 3	Seminar 5: Applying Social Psychology	Seminar 5 reading