Course Syllabus
Winter 2018
Psychology 308A: Social Psychology

Section 003: TTh 2:00-3:20 Geog 100
Section 004: TTh 3:30-4:50 Math 100

Instructor
Dr. Ara Norenzayan
Office: CIRS 4354
Email: ara@psych.ubc.ca
Office phone: 604-827-5134
Course Website: http://elearning.ubc.ca/connect/
Office hour: Mondays 1:30-2:30, and by special appointment.

Teaching Assistants
Please contact your capable Teaching Assistants first before coming to me. In most cases they can offer help and answer your questions (see them during their office hour or by appointment). If they are unable to help you they will refer you to me.

Section 003 2:00-3:20 class
Adam Baimel. Office (Kenny 1908). Email: adambaimel@psych.ubc.ca
Office Hour: Wednesdays 1:00-2:00

Section 004 3:30-4:50 class (last names A-L)
Holly Engstrom. Office: (Kenny 2002); Email: h.engstrom@psych.ubc.ca
Office hour: Thursdays 10:00-11:00

Section 004 3:30-4:50 class (last names M-Z)
SeoAm Hur. Office (Kenny 2101): Email: seoam.hur@gmail.com
Office hour: Wednesdays 3:00-4:00

Course Content and Goals
This course is a broad overview of social psychology, the scientific study of how people perceive, think about, and feel about the social world and behave towards it. We explore how human thinking and behaviour is influenced by, and in turn give shape to the social context, from interpersonal relationships to groups, to society and culture. The course consists of two classes per week, which includes lectures, full-length films and film segments, and class discussions in which student participation is encouraged. The goals of this course are: (1) deepen knowledge about the basic principles and findings of social psychology (2) understand how this knowledge is harnessed to encourage human flourishing and develop solutions to today’s social problems (3) train critical thinking skills about the tools that social psychologists and social scientists use to learn about the social world and how it shapes human lives.

Textbook and Lectures
Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. (2015). Social Psychology, 4th Ed. New York: Norton. Students are required to read the assigned chapters for each week before coming to class. Lectures are based on 1) the assigned readings from the textbook, as well as 2) new material that is NOT in the textbook. I post lectures online after each class (never before). Lecture slides are not a replacement for class notes. If you have to miss a class, be sure to borrow notes from a classmate (I do not share detailed lecture notes with students).

Evaluation

Students’ mark will be based on two non-cumulative exams (one midterm and one final), each worth 50% of the course mark, containing multiple choice and short answer questions. Exams will cover the assigned readings as well as lectures and class activities (e.g., films). The Midterm exam is on Thu Feb 15 2018. The Final exam is scheduled by the university during the formal examination period in April. Marks will be posted on the course website (by student ID# only). Exam questions (multiple choice and short essay) will be based on material from the lectures, the textbook, and in-class films and activities. Make-up exams consist of all essay questions, and apply only in extraordinary cases of validated medical and personal/family emergencies. Contact me and your TA as soon as possible and provide documentation in such cases. This means that if you miss an exam without validation you will simply lose the percentage of points associated with it.

Communication

Who to contact for your concerns or questions. If you have a question, please consult the course website and this syllabus first. There is a good chance that the answer to your question is provided. Second, contact your Teaching Assistant. Your TAs are highly capable, knowledgeable graduate students specializing in social psychology or a related field. They can provide information on course logistics and material, and help you prepare for exams. Finally, if your question is not answered on the course syllabus and cannot be answered by your TA, contact the professor for help.

Email Policy. Due to the large size of this course, email communication is limited. Here is the proper email etiquette to follow. If you have a simple question that can be answered in a single sentence, email is an appropriate way of communicating with me or the TA. If not, and if your question cannot be answered by your TA, please see me right before class (not after), or come to office hours and I will be happy to discuss it with you at more length. Emails requiring responses longer than a sentence will not be answered. Please allow at least 48 hours before a response can be expected. I do not answer emails over the weekend.

Extra Credit

SUBJECT POOL EXTRA-CREDIT POINTS. One way to learn more about psychology is to be a participant in ongoing research projects. You may earn up to 3 points of credit toward your course grade by participating in studies. Please register on the online system as soon as possible at https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=/ All of your credits for study participation or the library option will be added to your final course grade, after any scaling is applied.
Tentative Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Overview of Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>Chapters 2</td>
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<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>The Social Self</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Social Cognition and Attribution</td>
<td>Chapters 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Emotion</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>No class (Dr. Norenzayan away)</td>
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<td>On Feb 15</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Feb 19-23</td>
<td>Reading Break: No Classes</td>
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<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Attitudes and Behavior</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>Social Influence</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Relationships and Attraction</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>Prejudice and Discrimination</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<td>Mar 27</td>
<td>Groups</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<td>Apr 3</td>
<td>Altruism and Cooperation</td>
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**April 10-25**   **Final Exam** during Final examination period

Notes. The university will schedule the Final exam during the formal examination period in April. Chapter 8: Persuasion and Chapter 13: Aggression, are not assigned and will not be on the exams.
**Psychology Department’s Policy on Grade Distributions and 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 strong 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 or department.

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**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 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](http://students.ubc.ca/calendar) and read the University’s Policy 69 (available at [http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html](http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html)).