

PSYCHOLOGY 308: Social Psychology (Winter 2019)

Tues/Thurs 2pm (SWNG-222)

Professor	Dr. Kristin Laurin
E-mail	klaurin@psych.ubc.ca
Office Location	Kenny 3507
Phone	(604) 822-4650
Course Website	Canvas; log in here: https://canvas.ubc.ca/
Office Hours	Thursdays 3:30-4:15, Kenny 3507*
	*EXCEPT: Jan 10, Jan 31, Feb 7

Teaching Assistant

Name	E-mail	Office hour
Holly Engstrom	h.engstrom@psych.ubc.ca	By appointment

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 with others? How do social stereotypes and self-serving motivations shape people's feelings about each other and the world around them? How do people think about morality, or about politics?). In this course, we will cover a broad range of topics, from self-knowledge and social perception to persuasion, attraction, and prejudice. While covering rather diverse topics, we will trace consistent themes of social psychology and examine how scientific knowledge builds over time. You will be encouraged to question existing ideas and build new ones.

Format of the course: This is a lecture-based course, though most lectures will include an interactive component. Also, rather than just teaching you about social psychology, we want you to *experience* social psychology in action. Therefore, you will be assigned to a small team, and over the course of the semester you will complete work with that team, both in and out of the classroom.

Required Materials:

- 1) We will be using the textbook called Social Psychology by Gilovich, Keltner, Chen and Nisbett. Readings from original scholarly sources (i.e., journal articles) will also regularly be assigned; these will be posted on the course website. **You are responsible for ALL the textbook material and posted readings, even (especially) material not discussed in class.** In fact, most of the reading material will *not* be discussed in class, so make sure you do your readings!!
- 2) You will need to subscribe to Top Hat for lecture participation. This service is free to UBC students this term. Please register right away at: <https://app.tophat.com/register/student/> as we will start using this system on January 15th. The join code is 615754. For this course, you will be required to use your first and last name as your username (e.g., KristinLaurin).

Grading

Midterm Exams (2): 35% total

Final Exam: 30%

Team term paper & video: 25%

Collaboration reflection: 5%

Participation: 5%

Marks will be posted on the course website as quickly as possible following submission. It is your responsibility to check these marks for accuracy.

Course Requirements & Expectations

1) *Exams*: The exams will include multiple choice and short essay questions; they will be cumulative (that is, each exam will cover material from the beginning of the course). Immediately after completing each exam on your own, you will get together with your assigned team and re-take a portion of the exam together. 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%. In other words, **the teamwork component can only help you**. When the teamwork component includes essay questions, you will be able to choose whether to submit your individual response or the group's response for marking. Taking tests in this way is likely to help you learn and stay engaged; for references on relevant research, please see <http://ow.ly/ztdv6>.

2) *Term Paper, Video, and Collaboration Reflections*: In collaboration with your team, you will write one 5-page paper and produce a 5-minute video on a similar topic. As an individual, you will write a brief Collaboration Reflection on each of these two components, in each case you must submit the reflection to receive any grade at all on the component in question. Late submission of the paper, video or reflections will result in stiff penalties. Further information will be provided in lecture in late January.

3) *Class Participation*:

- a. We may 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. These comprehension checks are extremely important in helping me to ensure that you understand the course material, and should be submitted through Top Hat. 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.
- b. 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. 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 about your question.
- c. Most weeks we will post surveys to the course website to help inform the following week's lectures. If you complete all questions, surveys and comprehension checks, you will automatically receive full marks for participation. To allow for illness or technical problems, you can miss up to 20% of participation opportunities, and I'll still give you full marks.

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, visit: <https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=/> 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

Got a question for us? Your first recourse should be to check the course website; there's a good chance the website contains the answer to your question, especially regarding course logistics (e.g., exam format, etc.). For questions about the term paper or video, please contact your TA. For questions about

lectures or exams, please contact Dr. Laurin, preferably in person (drop by office hours, or have a quick chat before or after class).

Prefer email? 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 in person as suggested in the paragraph above—if you think you'll need more than a couple of minutes, drop my office hours! 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.

Additional Course Policies

Lecture notes: I will post my Powerpoint slides on the course website after class, most typically once a week, since each week's lectures will cover a single topic. 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.

Laptops: You are welcome to use a laptop for taking notes in the class (no electronics [e.g., electronic dictionary] will be permitted in any exam). However I want you to know that research shows that taking notes by hand is more effective: It forces you to distil the material into succinct key points, whereas a laptop lets you type a lot more stuff, and later you might have a hard time figuring out what's important. I also want you to know, as if you didn't already, that laptops offer the temptation of the internet and all its associated pleasures. Research shows that if you surf the internet, use social media, watch Netflix, etc., during class, it will hurt not only your performance, but the performance of the students seated near you. Do yourself and your classmates a favour and keep your laptop use focused on class!

Attendance: If you miss all or part of any lecture, it is your responsibility to speak with one of your classmates to find out what course materials and announcements you missed. Attendance will not be directly taken, but will be reflected in your class participation through Top Hat.

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 midterms: if you miss a midterm due to documented illness, the points allotted to that midterm will be spread across the other midterm and the final exam.

Term Paper and Video: Absolutely NO extensions will be given. Sudden illness will not be considered as you will have weeks to complete the work. So don't do it at the last minute!

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.

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 should be 68, 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. Bottom line: Grades are never official until they appear on your academic record.

Equity statement

Like the broader UBC campus, the Psychology Department wants to work to build a community in which human rights are respected, and where students feel included and treated equitably during class activities. Psychology courses occur in learning environments that are inclusive of gender identity, gender expression, sex, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, political or religious affiliations, ability, age, etc. Students, instructors, visitors and readings will sometimes raise controversial issues. Learners and educators expect to be treated respectfully at all times and in all interactions; our goal is not to always agree, but rather to disagree without being disagreeable or offensive. If you feel that someone—me, your TA, a fellow student—is failing to live up to this goal, **I encourage you to either directly let me know, or tell your TA.** In this way you will be taking a positive action to educate others and promote an inclusive campus and classroom.

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. The Department subscribes to *TurnItIn*--a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials 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 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.

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: You are **strongly encouraged** to complete the assigned reading *after* class. Please note that the schedule or readings may be adjusted during the term.

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 3	Intro	
Jan 8 & Jan 10	Methods overview + worksheet activity	Chapters 1 & 2
Jan 15 & Jan 17	The self	Chapter 3 + posted reading
Jan 22 & Jan 24	Motivated cognition	Kunda (1990)
Jan 29 & Jan 31 Info on team paper / video	Goals and motivation	Posted readings
Feb 5 (NO CLASS FEB 7)	MIDTERM	MIDTERM
Feb 12 & Feb 14	Perceiving others: Attribution and person perception	Chapter 5 + posted reading
Feb 19 & Feb 21	READING WEEK	READING WEEK
Feb 26 & Feb 28	Perceiving others: Attraction and relationships	Chapter 10 + posted reading
March 5 & March 7 Team Paper + Collaboration reflection due	Perceiving others: Norms + social influence	Chapter 8 & 9
March 12 & March 14	Perceiving others: Intergroup dynamics / prejudice	Chapters 11 & 12
March 19 & March 21	Review / buffer + MIDTERM	MIDTERM
March 26 & March 28	Inequality / political psych / morality	Posted readings
April 2 & April 4 Team Video + Collaboration reflection due	Inequality / political psych / morality / course review	Posted readings