



Psychology 205 - 002

Contemporary Issues in Psychology: Culture and Evolution in Social Behaviour

COURSE WEB SITE

<http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~gwatson/205-001/Index.htm>

Information on the website: Course Outline; Course Notices; Lecture Notes; Grades; Practice Tests; Booklist.
Please check "Course Notices" on the web site regularly for any changes in course information.

COURSE TOPIC

This class will explore a question central to contemporary social psychology: The extent to which our social behaviour is influenced by culture and evolution. After introducing these two contrasting theoretical perspectives, the course will focus on a number of topic areas where this question is currently being debated, moving from the examination of internal cognitive and emotional processes, to more social and interactive aspects of behaviour. Some of the topics through which this issue will be explored are nonverbal communication and cognition, the sense of self, attitudes and prejudice, passionate love relationships; helping, altruism, and aggression.

	INSTRUCTOR		TEACHING ASSISTANT
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Office Hours	Mon. & Wed. 12:30 – 1:30pm, or by appointment		Wednesday 1:30 – 2:30pm

Office hours: No appointment is necessary for regular office hours. These hours are changed occasionally. Please check "Course Notices" on the web site before attending.

E-mail: Emails will be answered during normal working hours. If you have a complex question that cannot be answered in one or two sentences, bring it to office hours where we will be pleased to discuss it with you.

READINGS

- Baron, R.A., Byrne, D. & Watson, G. (2005). *Exploring social psychology: Fourth Canadian edition*. Toronto: Allyn & Bacon. – PAPERBACK
- Readings Package for Psyc 205-002– Package available in UBC bookstore

EXAM DETAILS

Evaluation	Weight	Date
Midterm Exam 1	35 %	Monday, February 11, 2008
Midterm Exam 2	35 %	Wednesday, March 26, 2008
Final Exam	30 %	Exam Period: April 15–29, 2008
	100 %	

Exams: There will be three exams: two midterms and a final. Each exam will focus on material from a particular section of the course. However, theoretical themes introduced in the first part of the course are discussed throughout the course.

Midterm exams consist of both multiple choice (20 points) and short answer questions (20 points): **Exam 1** tests material from Weeks 1-5; **Exam 2** tests material from Weeks 6-11

Final exam consists of 70 multiple choice questions only. It covers material from weeks 12-14, as well theoretical themes of the course. **Note:** The Registrar's Office schedules the Final exam any time during the examination period noted above. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are available throughout that period.

WITHDRAWAL DATES

If you wish to withdraw from this course without any record of the course on your transcript, you must do so on or before **January 21, 2008**. If you wish to withdraw with a "W" on your transcript, you must do so by **February 15, 2008**.

GRADING & ATTENDANCE

Exam Grading:

The marks for each exam will be posted on the course web site (see "GRADES" in the web page Index) with student numbers but not the names of students. Students have the right to request that their own grade is not posted. Such students can come to office hours to see their own grades. Students who wish to inspect their exams may do so by visiting the teaching assistant during office hours.

All faculties, departments and schools at UBC reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to university, faculty, department or school norms. Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty or department. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record. With regard to this grading practice, 1st and 2nd year courses in Psychology are obliged to achieve a grade average at the end of the course of between 63 - 67%. Although this occurs infrequently, grades may be scaled to meet this requirement.

Attendance: Classes & Exams:

It is important that lectures are attended as there is information introduced that is not in the text or readings. However if you do have to miss a class you are responsible for getting class notes from another student.

If an exam is missed, a medical note from a physician is required to ensure no loss of marks. Please hand this in to the instructor as soon as you return to school. Also contact the teaching assistant to arrange a time to take a make-up exam, usually during office hours. The make-up exam will consist of three written questions (no multiple choice).

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University also accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance or scheduled tests or exams. Please let the instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Other absences for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments are not part of University policy and students should not assume they will be accommodated. Please discuss this with the instructor before withdrawal dates – see above.

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 has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. You should bring picture I.D. (e.g., student card) to all examinations.

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 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>).

EXTRA CREDIT SCHEME

You can gain extra credit for this course (maximum 2 % for the course) by participation in accredited psychological experiments or by completing a library project. Participation in the Subject Pool scheme is at the discretion of the instructor - other 2nd year Psychology Instructors may allow up to 4% extra credit.

Experimental Participation : You can earn 1 credit point (1%) for each hour of participation in experiments. Students are required initially to request a HSP user account using the self-creation tool, at <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>. You can then browse advertised experiments for credit, view available time slots, sign-up for experiments, and register or check-on course credits you've earned.

Library Option: As an alternative to experimental participation, students may obtain extra credit by completing a library project. Such projects consist of reading and summarizing (in written form) a recent **peer-reviewed research article** in a journal published by the American Psychological Society, American Psychological Association, Canadian Psychological Association, or Psychonomic Society. The article must have been published **within the last 12 months**, and the summary should be about **500 words** in length. The student will receive **one participation credit (1%)** for each article summary. Article summaries, together with copies of the summarized article, must be submitted to Dr. Peter Graf, in Kenny 3110, at least **10 days before the last day of classes in the term**.

COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned Readings	
			Text	Package
1. INTRODUCTION				
Week 1	Jan. 7 – 11	Overview & Introduction to Psychology	Ch. 1	Reading 1
Week 2	Jan 14 – 18	History of the Nature-versus-Nurture Issue/ Basic Theories of Evolution and Culture	Ch. 1	Reading 2
2. THE HUMAN MIND				
Week 3	Jan 21 – 25	Non-verbal Communication & Cognition	Ch. 2	Reading 3
Week 4	Jan 28 – Feb 1	Cognitive Biases	Ch. 2	Reading 4
Week 5	Feb 4 - 8	The Self: cognition, evolution and culture.	Ch. 4	
3. ATTITUDES & PREJUDICE				
Week 6	Feb 11 – 15	*** EXAM 1 – Feb. 11*** Attitude formation & Influence	Ch. 3	
Week 7	Feb 18 – 22	MIDTERM BREAK – No Lectures		
Week 8	Feb 25 – 29	Prejudice & Discrimination: Sources & effects	Ch. 5	
4. RELATING TO OTHERS				
Week 9	Mar 3 – 7	Relationship Formation/ Passionate Love	Ch. 6	Reading 5
Week 10	Mar 10 – 14	Gender Differences & Mating Strategies	Ch. 6	Reading 6
Week 11	Mar 17 – 21	Relationship Problems & Infidelity Good Friday – UBC Closed Mar 21		Reading 8*
5. HELPING & HARMING				
Week 12	Mar 24 – 28	Easter Monday – UBC Closed Mar 24 *** EXAM 2 – Mar 26*** When We Help: Social Influences	Ch. 7: p. 247-257	
Week 13	Mar 31–Apr 4	Why We Help: Altruism & Egoism Cooperation & Competition	Ch. 8: p. 281-301 Ch. 9: p. 348-352	Reading 7
Week 14	Apr 7 – 11	Aggression: An Evolved or Learned Response? Cultural Differences in Aggression	Ch. 8: p. 301-325 Ch.10: p.390-392	
*** FINAL EXAM ***				
During Examination Period: April 15–29, 2008				

* This reading is additional to the Readings Package from the UBC Bookstore and can be accessed online through UBC Library E-Journals - see reverse.

Readings Package for Psyc 205:
Culture & Evolution In Social Behaviour
available in the UBC Bookstore

1. **The Nature and Nurture of Behaviour**
Module 5: Genetic Influences on Behavior
Module 6: Environmental Influences on Behavior
[from Myers, D.G. (2001). *Psychology, 6th edition*. NY: Worth.]
 2. **Common Misunderstandings about Evolutionary Theory**
[from Buss, D.M. (1999). *Evolutionary psychology: The new science of the mind*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon. p. 18-22]
 3. **Evolutionary Cognitive Psychology**
[from Buss, D.M. (1999). *Evolutionary psychology: The new science of the mind*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon. p. 374-384]
 4. **Culture and Causal Cognition**
[Norenzayan, A. & Nisbett, R. E. (2000). Culture and causal cognition. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 9, 132-135]
 5. **Strategies of Human Mating**
[Buss, D. M. (1994). Strategies of human mating. *American Scientist*, 82, 238- 249]
 6. **Men's and Women's Mating Preferences: Distinct Evolutionary Mechanisms?**
[Miller, L.C., Putha-Bhagavatula, A. & Pedersen, W.C. (2002). Men's and women's mating preferences: Distinct evolutionary mechanisms? *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 11, 88-93.]
 - *8. **Adaptations to Ovulation**
[Gangstadt, S. W., Thornhill, R. & Garver-Apgar, C. E. (2005). Adaptations to ovulation: Implications for sexual and social behaviour. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 14, 312-316]
- Note:** This reading is not in the package but it can be downloaded from UBC Library E-Journals.
How to access the article in the E- Journal:
- 1) Access the University network, by using a computer in the library for example, or, if you are doing this from home, use a proxy-server or VPN - (see <http://www.library.ubc.ca/home/proxyinfo/> - for instructions). Without the use of a proxy-server or VPN you will be asked to pay for the journal article when downloading from home.
 - 2) Once connected to the University network then click on <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loc/cdir/14/6>
This takes you directly to the edition of this journal in which you will find the above article.
 - 3) Scroll down and click on the PDF button next to the article. You can then save the article to your computer and/or print it.
7. **New Evolutionary Perspectives on Altruism**
[McAndrew, F. T. (2002). New evolutionary perspectives on altruism: Multilevel-selection and costly-signaling theories. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 11, 79-82.]