

Course Syllabus
Fall 2007
Psychology 308A: Social Psychology

Section 001: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:30, Buchanan A106

Section 002: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-2:00, Buchanan A 100

Instructor

Dr. Ara Norenzayan
3102 Kenny (Psychology) Building
ara@psych.ubc.ca
<http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~ara/teaching.html>
604-827-5134
Office hours: Tue 2:30-4:00, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistants

Please contact your capable Teaching Assistants first before coming to me. In most cases they can offer help and attend to your problems. If they are unable to help you they will refer you to me.

(Student last names A-E): Jelena Brcic. Email: jelenabrcic@psych.ubc.ca

(Student last names F-J): Noah Forrin. Email: nforrin@gmail.com

(Student last names K-O): Will Gervais. Email: gervais@psych.ubc.ca

(Student last names P-T): Sabrina Kitching. Email: sabrinak@interchange.ubc.ca

(Student last names U-Z): Azim Shariff. Email: azim@psych.ubc.ca

Course Goals

This course is a broad overview of social psychology, the scientific study of human social thought and behaviour. After a brief theoretical and methodological introduction, we examine the various ways by which people perceive, think about, and feel about the social world, and how these processes shape behaviour towards others. We then explore how human thinking and behaviour is influenced by the social context, from interpersonal relationships to groups, to society and culture.

Textbook and Lectures

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., & Nisbett, R. (2005). *Social Psychology*. 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) novel material that goes beyond the textbook. If you miss a class, be sure to borrow notes from a classmate.

Evaluation

Students' mark will be based on two non-cumulative exams containing multiple choice and short essay questions (Each exam is 50% of the total mark). Exams will cover the assigned readings as well as lectures and class activities (e.g., films). First Midterm Exam will be on **Tuesday, October 16, 2006** in class. The second exam will be scheduled during final exam period sometime in **December 5-19**.

Makeup-exams are not allowed except in extraordinary cases of validated medical and personal/family emergencies. **This means that if you miss an exam without validation you will simply lose the number of points associated with it.** Contact your TA as soon as possible and be

prepared to provide written documentation in such cases.

Extra Credit

You will be given the opportunity to earn up to 2 extra credit points (i.e. 2% extra added to your final course grade) by participating in the Psychology Subject pool. You will be given more information about this option in class. These points are obtained by voluntary participation in studies in psychology. Go to <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca> where you will need to create an account to enter the system, to survey available studies for which you can earn extra credits, and sign up for participating in any of the studies. The credits are assigned as 1/2 point for each 1/2 hour of participation. As an alternative to the Subject Pool, you may obtain extra credits by completing a library research paper. If you choose this option, contact Dr. Peter Graf in Kenny 3110. For more information about the Subject Pool, go to <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.htm>. Your credits are added directly to your final grade at the end of the course.

Tentative Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
September 4	Overview of Course and Introduction	Chapter 1
September 11	The Social Self	Chapter 5
September 18	Causal Attribution	Chapter 9
September 25	Social Judgment	Chapter 10
October 2	Emotion	Chapter 12
October 9	Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Chapter 11
October 16	Midterm Exam (Oct 16) Attraction	Chapter 3
October 23	Relationships	Chapter 4
October 30	Social Influence	Chapter 6
November 6	Attitudes and Behaviour	Chapter 8
November 13	Groups	Chapter 2
November 20	Aggression and Altruism	Chapter 13
November 27	Aggression and Altruism (continued)	

Note that Chapter 7, Attitudes and Persuasion, and Chapter 14, Morality, Justice, and Cooperation, are not assigned.

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 good class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13). The corresponding figures for 100- and 200-level Psychology courses are 67, 65, and 63, with a standard deviation of 14. **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.

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 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. Do **not** use Google/Yahoo/MSN Search/etc. to find articles for assignments in this course. **Do** use any of the indexes and databases listed under Indexes and Databases, Subject Resources, OneSearch or Metasearch on the Library's website at <http://www.library.ubc.ca>. (Not sure which index to use? Click HELP on the library homepage at www.library.ubc.ca or try Subject Resources.)

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>).
