


Fall Term 2019  
Psychology 308A: Social Psychology

Section 001: MWF 11:00-11:50 Swing 121  
Section 002: MWF 12:00-12:50 Swing 121  
Section 003: MWF 2:00-3:00 AERL 120




Course Email: [308A@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:308A@psych.ubc.ca)  
Course Website: <https://canvas.ubc.ca>

### Instructor

<p>Dr. Ara Norenzayan</p> <p>Office: CIRS 4354 Office phone: 604-827-5134 Office hour: Thursdays 10:00-12:00 or by special appointment</p>	
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### Teaching Assistants

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

<p><u>Section 1 11:00-11:50 class</u></p> <p>Brent Stewart Office: Kenny 1908 Office hours: Wed 3:00-5:00</p>	<p><u>Section 2 12:00-12:50 class</u></p> <p>Rachele Benjamin Office: Kenny 1113 Office hours: Tue 12:30-2:30</p>	<p><u>Section 3 2:00-2:50 class</u></p> <p>Matt Billet Office: Kenny 1113 Office hours: Mon 10:00-12:00</p>
		

### Course Content and Goals

How much do we know ourselves? Why do people vehemently disagree about some moral issues? Why some relationships succeed whereas others fail? How do the social groups we live in transform us? These are some of the big questions of social psychology –the psychological study of

human social life. We will cover diverse topics such as the self, social thinking, emotions, relationships, groups, cultural diversity, human evolution, prejudice & stereotyping, and altruism & cooperation. Class time includes lectures, films and film segments, and class activities and discussions in which student participation is actively encouraged. The goals of this course are: (1) develop knowledge about the broad themes, basic theories, current debates, and interesting findings about social life (2) understand how this knowledge can be harnessed to enable human flourishing and develop solutions to today's pressing social problems (3) cultivate critical thinking skills about the scientific tools that enable us to learn about the social world and how it shapes human lives.

### Prerequisites

Either (a) PSYC 100 or (b) two of PSYC 101, PSYC 102, PSYC 205, PSYC 207, PSYC 208, PSYC 216, PSYC 217. Strongly recommended: PSYC 102 and PSYC 216 or 217.

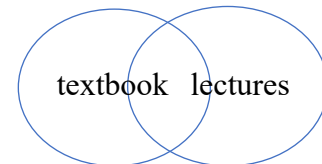
### Canvas, Textbook and Lectures

The course website is on Canvas. You can login here (<https://canvas.ubc.ca/>)

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. (2018). *Social Psychology*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. New York: Norton (Loose Leaf & Ebook, and Ebook-only versions available through the UBC bookstore. Both bundles come with InQuizitive, a very useful online learning tool for this course). 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. Lecture slides are posted at the end of the week. They are not a substitute for class notes. If you have to miss a class, be sure to borrow notes from a classmate. (Note that there are used copies on the market of the 4th edition, however, it overlaps only about 80% with the 5th edition. You'll be tested on the material from the 5th edition).

Several times in the term typically on some Fridays, I will lecture on a Timely Topic not covered in the textbook (e.g., self-compassion, religion). These lectures, just like anything else we do in class, can be on the exams.

Lectures and the textbook will have some overlap, but there will be assigned material in the textbook that will not be covered in the lectures, and some lecture material will not be covered in the textbook. Both will be independently represented in the exams.



### Top Hat

We will be using Top Hat's student engagement software. It will keep track of participation (see below) and also enable real-time in-class engagement. I've never used it before, so we're going to figure it out together. For now, do the following:

1. You can connect with Top Hat using any device with wifi (e.g., laptop, tablet, mobile phone). Go to <https://tophat.com/>. Login if you have an existing account or Sign-up > Student sign-up
2. When you see the join code field, enter 980160
3. Create your account. MAKE SURE THAT YOUR NAME AND STUDENT NUMBER MATCHES YOUR RECORD ON CANVAS.

## Evaluation of Learning

Students' **course mark** will be based on **three non-cumulative** exams, each worth 25% of the course mark. Exams consist of multiple-choice questions. Exam questions will be based on material from the lectures, the textbook, and other in-class content and activities (e.g., films). There is a short paper due at the end of the term, worth 15%, and participation is worth 10%. In addition, you may earn up to 3% Extra Credit points by participating in psychology research (see below).

Make-up exams consist of essay questions, and apply only in extraordinary cases of validated conflicting responsibilities, medical or compassionate grounds. For Senate Policy on Academic Concessions see <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0>

Contact me and your TA as soon as possible in these situations. **This means that if you miss an exam without validation you will simply lose the percentage of points associated with it.**

1) *Exams (75% of course mark)*. The exams are non-cumulative and will have multiple choice format. Any material covered in lectures, readings, and in class activities (including films) can be tested on the exams. This includes material that was covered only in class or covered only in the readings. Immediately after completing each exam individually, you will re-take the exam in a team-effort. Your team score will count for 20% of each exam, and your individual score will count for 80% of each exam (put another way, for each exam, your individual effort is worth 20% of the course mark, and the group effort is worth 5% of the course mark). However, if your individual score is higher than your team-effort score, your individual score will count for the entirety or 100% of the exam, so the teamwork component can improve your exam score but not lower it. Research shows that this “two-stage” testing improves student engagement and learning.

2) *Short Paper (15%)*: You will write a research paper on a social psychological topic (detailed instructions will be provided later in the semester). You will be asked to submit an electronic copy of the paper to Turn it In ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)), which scans the paper for potential plagiarism, as well as submitting it on Canvas before the deadline. (Your short paper should be maximum 3 pages, double spaced, with 12-point font and one-inch margins, plus title page and references). Late submission is not allowed, as Canvas will decline to accept late papers (so if you do not submit a paper by the deadline, you get a zero for this part of your grade). Only papers that are submitted both through Turnitin and through Canvas will be accepted.

3) *Participation (10%)*: You will receive participation marks for answering questions on an interactive system we will be using called Top Hat ([tophat.com](http://tophat.com)). If you complete all Top Hat questions 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 participation marks.

## Communication

*Course Email Address*

308A@psych.ubc.ca

Send questions or issues related to the course to the course email address above. It will be monitored by the Professor and the TAs; someone will get back to you within 48 hours excluding weekends.

*Email Policy.* Due to the large size of this course with 3 sections, email communication is limited. Here is the proper email etiquette to follow. If you have a simple question that can be answered in two-three sentences, email is an appropriate way of communicating. If not, come to office hours and one of us will be happy to discuss it with you at more length. Emails requiring long responses will not be answered. Instead we will ask you to come to office hours.

*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, reach out to your Teaching Assistant. Your TAs are highly capable, knowledgeable graduate students specializing in social psychology. They can provide information on course logistics and content, and help you prepare for exams. However, if your question is not answered on the course syllabus and cannot be answered by your TA, contact the professor for help.

*Office Hours.* I have an open-door policy during office hours. You are welcome to drop by with any questions you have. Similarly, take advantage of weekly office hours held by the TA assigned to you. If you are experiencing difficulties, come and see me or your TA right away – it's far more effective than getting help in the last minute or at the end of the term.

### **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/> All of your credits for study participation or the library option will be added to your final course grade, after any scaling is applied (if at all).

## Tentative Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Sep. 4	Overview of Course	1
Sep. 9	Research Methods	2
Sep. 16	The Social Self Timely Topic #1: Self-compassion	3
Sep. 23 <b>Sep. 27</b>	Social Cognition <b>Exam #1</b> (Ch. 1-4, TT1)	4
Sep. 30	Social Attribution	5
Oct. 7	Emotion Timely Topic #2: Emotional Intelligence	6
<b>Oct. 14</b> Oct. 16	<b>No Class -- Thanksgiving Holiday</b> Attitudes and Behavior	7
Oct. 21 Oct. 25	Social Influence <b>Exam #2</b> (Ch. 5,6,7,9, TT 2)	9
Oct. 28	Relationships and attraction	10
Nov. 4	Prejudice and Discrimination	11
<b>Nov. 11</b> Nov. 13	<b>No Class -- Remembrance Day</b> Groups	12
Nov. 18	Altruism and cooperation Timely Topic #3: Religion	14
Nov 25 <b>Nov. 29</b>	Last week of class: work on short paper <b>Research Paper Due</b>	
<b>Dec. 3-18</b>	<b>Exam #3</b> (Ch.10, 11,12, 14 & TT3)	

Notes. Chapter 8: Persuasion and Chapter 13: Aggression, are not assigned. The schedule of readings may be adjusted during the term.

## **University Values and Policies**

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available [here](https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success) (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success> )

## **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** may 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>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>).