

Department of Psychology
PSYC 2700H-A: Introduction to Social Psychology
WINTER 2012 OSHAWA

Instructor: Dr. Beth A. Visser
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 Office Hours: Thursday noon to 1:00 p.m. or by appointment
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Course Description: This course will introduce you to a wide range of scientific theories on the study of human social behaviour. We will examine the foundations of social psychology including attribution processes, social cognition, attitudes, prejudice, aggression, helping behaviours, groups, and conflict. In this course, you will learn about social psychology through observation, interactive activities, and reflection, in addition to your readings and lecture attendance.

Course Prerequisite: 60% or higher in PSYC 1010Y (101) or in both of PSYC 1020H (102H) and 1030H (103H). Excludes PSYC 271and 272H.

Course Format: **Lecture:** Thursday 2:10 to approximately 4:00
Seminar: Fortnightly, immediately following lecture for approximately 1 hour
 Lecture outlines, announcements, seminar readings/activities, and general information will be communicated via **mylearningsystem** (WebCT)
http://www.trentu.ca/oshawa/degrees_fallwinter.php

Required Readings: Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., Akert, R. M., & Fehr, B. (2010). *Social Psychology*. (4th Canadian ed.). Toronto: Pearson.
 American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Evaluation	1. Seminar participation	4%	
	2. Seminar reflections	12%	
	3. Midterm	29%	Feb. 16
	4. Essay	25%	Mar. 22
	5. Final exam	30%	Final Exam Period

It is the responsibility of each student to read and accept the due dates outlined on the course syllabi.

Learning Outcomes Students successfully completing this course will:

1. Write critically and reflectively about various social psychology principles and their implications.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of social psychology principles in written assignments and tests.
3. Apply understanding of social psychology principles through active learning activities.
4. Demonstrate the application of social psychology principles to the analysis and resolution of a current social problem.

Explanation of Assignments

Seminar Participation (4%): Participation grade will be calculated according to attendance, which will be taken for all seminars (1 = attended, 0 = did not attend). Students are expected to arrive having completed any posted activities/readings and to participate in all seminars.

Seminar Reflections (12%): Students will be required to bring a seminar reflection paper to each seminar meeting, demonstrating that they have completed and reflected upon the seminar reading or assignment. This reflection paper will be approximately two typed, double spaced pages plus title page. Papers must be handed in at the beginning of seminar. Late seminar papers will not be accepted.

Midterm Exam (29%): The midterm exam (2 hours) will be held on Feb. 16th and will cover all assigned readings as well as material covered in class and seminar.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam (2 hours) will consist of 90 multiple choice questions worth 1 mark apiece. The exam will cover all assigned readings, lecture, and seminar material covered following the midterm.

Essay (25%): The essay should be approximately 5 to 6 pages in length (plus references and title page), written in APA style. You will be asked to solve a social problem using the principles of social psychology. Topics, essay guidelines, and marking rubric will be posted on WebCT. You will be required to submit one copy of the assignment through WebCT as well as a hard copy in class. Both will be due at the beginning of class on Mar. 22nd. Emailed assignments will not be accepted.

Course Policy on Late Submissions

Out of fairness to all, extensions on written assignments will not be possible; no one can be given time that the others are not given. Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day (weekend counts as one day). No paper will be accepted more than one week after the due date. The late penalty will be waived only when requested in advance of the due date, and in cases of serious situations (such as major illness) that occurred over several days prior to the due date.

Course Policy on attendance in class/labs

Seminar attendance will be recorded and will contribute to your course grade. Attendance in lecture will not be recorded but is expected.

Course Policy on Missed Tests or Exams

If you are going to miss a test, it is very important that you email me as soon as you know that you will be missing the test. Missed tests will be accommodated only in circumstances that are unforeseen and extraordinary, and supported by documentation.

PSYC 2700H-A, WINTER 2012 Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Seminar
Jan. 12	Introduction to social psychology	1	
Jan. 19	Social Cognition	3	A: Seminar 1
Jan. 26	Social Perception	4	B: Seminar 1
Feb. 2	Self-Knowledge	5	A: Seminar 2
Feb. 9	Attitudes & Attitude Change	6	B: Seminar 2
Feb. 16	Midterm Exam		
Feb. 23	READING WEEK: No Class		
Mar. 1	Conformity	7	A: Seminar 3
Mar. 8	Group Processes	8	B: Seminar 3
Mar. 15	Prosocial Behaviour	10	A: Seminar 4
Mar. 22	Aggression Note: Essays due	11	No Seminar
Mar. 29	Prejudice	12	B: Seminar 4
Apr. 5	Course wrap-up, remaining material	TBA	Make-up seminar
Apr. 11 - 24 (check exam schedule)	Final Exam		

University Policies

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from a 0 grade on an assignment to expulsion from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's *Academic Integrity Policy*. You have a responsibility to educate yourself – unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse. You are strongly encouraged to visit Trent's Academic Integrity website to learn more – www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity.

ACCESS TO INSTRUCTION:

It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact the Disability Services Office (DSO office #111, 905-435-5100) disabilityservices@trentu.ca as soon as possible. Complete text can be found under Access to Instruction in the Academic Calendar.

Departmental Policy on Tests, Exams, and Assignments

A. MIDTERMS & FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Midterm examinations for half courses within the Psychology Department are scheduled by the instructor of the course. Midterm examinations for full courses and final examination for all courses are scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Students are strongly urged NOT to make any commitments (i.e., vacation, job related, or other travel plans) during either the term as a whole or the final examination period. Students are required to be available for all examinations during the periods for which they are scheduled (as published in course syllabi).

B. DEFERRAL OF MIDTERM / FINAL EXAMINATIONS and/or TERM WORK

Extensions of deadlines for completion of assignments or writing of midterms/final examinations may be granted to students on the basis of illness, accident, or other extreme and legitimate circumstances beyond their control. Consideration for deferrals will not normally be granted on the basis of vacation/travel plans or job-related obligations.

C. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Students should expect that supporting documentation will be required and must be submitted before a deferral is approved. For illness or accident, supporting documentation will take the form of: (1) the Trent University Medical Certificate from Health Services: (<http://www.trentu.ca/healthservices/medical.html>), or (2) a certificate or letter from the attending physician clearly indicating the start and end dates of the illness and the student's inability to write an examination, complete assignments, and/or attend classes, as relevant to the particular request. For other circumstances, students should consult the individual Psychology faculty member about acceptable forms of documentation.

Notes

1. Academic Integrity:

For the purpose of interpreting and applying the University policy on academic dishonesty, the Department of Psychology has adopted the following:

When a student submits a piece of written work in fulfillment of an assignment, he/she implicitly acknowledges the following: a) that she/he is the sole author of the work; b) that the wording and organization of the work, apart from acknowledged quotations, is her/his own; and c) that she/he has not and will not submit this work, either as a whole or in part, to satisfy another course requirement. These basic assumptions will be reasonably interpreted. They do not preclude collaboration between students upon a single project, by prior arrangement with the instructor, for shared academic credit (either for written or oral presentation).

For an elaboration of the Department's policy on, and for specific examples of, plagiarism, students should consult p. 178 in the APA (2010) and the sections on academic honesty (pp. 6-8), and appropriate citing and referencing (pp. 135-137, 169) in Mitchell et al. (2010) on reserve in the library. Students who have doubts about what might be considered academic dishonesty are urged to consult the instructor of the course. Ignorance of the University or Department policy does not excuse academic dishonesty. Submissions that fail to meet one or more of these considerations will be subject to procedures laid down in the policy on academic dishonesty as stated in the University calendar.

2. It is the policy of the Department NOT to accept faxed assignments.
3. The same assignment cannot be submitted in more than one course without the prior written permission of all instructors concerned. The written approval must be attached to the work when it is submitted.
4. Students are required to use American Psychological Association style (6th edition) for all written assignments.
5. Please see the Trent University academic calendar for University Diary dates, Academic Information and Regulations, and University and departmental degree requirements.
6. Last date to withdraw from a Winter half-term course without academic penalty in 2011-2012 is March 9, 2012.