Overview: This course is intended to provide an overview of research and theory in areas such as social perception, attitude and attitude change, social influence, interpersonal attraction, altruism, aggression, and small group processes. We will also focus on the insights that social psychology can provide into understanding aspects of daily life, both personal and professional.

This class will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 17:30 (5:30pm) to 18:30 (6:30pm), in Chester New Hall, Room 104. Please note that neither the TA’s nor the instructor can return long distance telephone calls. Accordingly, please use email or available office hours.

Prerequisite: PSYCH 1AA3 or 1A06 or registration in Honours Biology and Psychology.


http://www.psychology.mcmaster.ca/beckerlab/showell/2c03/
**A word about Course Notes**

Course notes (overheads) are provided on the web ahead of time. Some students have found it helpful to print them off and use them to take notes on during the lecture. They are available as one per page (slides) or 2 per page (2-up). Note that most printers on campus will support printing multiple pages per page, so if you want to do it that way yourself, download the 1-up version (slides). Otherwise, most people agree that the 2-up is the best to use; it saves paper and is still readable.

**Please note:** Having a copy of the overheads does not mean that you do not need to attend class; you just don’t need to madly scribble down the overheads, and can instead actively think about the lecture and take notes on what I say. I will also try to get as much class interaction as possible, even though this is a very large class. Also, I will elaborate the overheads considerably during the lectures, this elaboration is the sort of reasoning that you would be expected to do on an exam short-essay question. There is an occasional diagram that for technical reasons is not in the notes; they will be noted during the lecture. Also, don’t bother to read the notes in advance of the class; just follow along as I lecture.

Do not download the overheads too far in advance of the date, as I do update them throughout the course, and you want to make sure you have the correct version. Up to a week in advance is probably ok. Check back frequently to the web site to see if anything else has been updated.

**Course outline, and links to course notes (pdf format):**

(Subject to change)

1  07/01- 10/01  Chapter 1: Introduction, history, and research methods  
   Notes:  [Slides] (2-up)  
   09/01 - Movie: The Stanford Prison Experiment

2  14/01- 17/01  Chapter 2: Social Development (Briefly):  
   Skim chapter and focus on Sections 2.5, 2.7-2.7.4)  
   Chapter 5: Social Cognition II: The attribution approach  
   Notes:  [Slides] (2-up)

3  21/01- 14/01  Chapter 4: Social Cognition I: Perception of self and others  
   Notes: The Social Self  [Slides] (2-up)

4  28/01- 31/01  Chapter 3: Attitudes, values & Behavior  
   Notes:  [Slides] (2-up)
******** EXAM 1 (CHAPTERS 1,2,4 & 5) Monday, February 4th in Class **********

Exam 1 Comments:

Exam 1 Marking Key Now Posted HERE. Grades are posted HERE.

Romina marked short answer #1, Alex marked #2, Sam marked #3, and Christine marked #4. Please see the key first, then the TA’s. If you can’t settle things with your TA, only then please come see me. Note: Don’t try to get your TA’s to re-mark more leniently. The adjustment for our marking hard is in the +7% that we are adding to the midterm 1 grades. Only see your TA’s if you think they’ve overlooked something, or made an arithmetic error, or you don’t understand the mark you got.

The class average was 60% before adjustment, 67% after adjustment. A good number of people did manage to do well. However, many people did very poorly on short answer #1 (somewhat understandably, if you didn’t read that section of the text) and on #3 (very surprising – we covered it in detail in class and the notes). #2 and #4 were generally well done, although it was difficult to get a 5 or a 6 on question #4 unless you had a really great answer.

Exam 2 will not be marked quite as hard as this one. Note that in general I do pay some attention to a student’s progress over the term when assigning final grades for the course. If you do substantially better on the next two exams, I will normally take that into consideration.

Finally, note that in spite of the fact that the material may seem easy during the lectures, or may seem like just common-sense at times, that’s not all there is to it. You need to understand the material WELL, so that you can reason with it, come up with examples for it, or respond quickly with a concise answer on an exam. There’s a lot of similar terms that are used in different ways, and you need to be able to keep different things straight, such as different self-related terms and processes, or the difference between self-presentation or impression management and self-verification. If you don’t understand something during lecture or when reading the text, ask a question in class! Likely other people want to know the answer as well.

5 06/02 – 07/02  Chapter 3 continued: Attitude change and persuasion
   Notes: (Slides) (2-up)
   “New Look” model of Cognitive Dissonance slide

6 11/02 – 14/02  Chapter 8: Social Influence: Conformity, Compliance and obedience
   Notes: (Slides) (2-up)
   18/02-23/02  Mid-term Recess - No classes

7 25/02-28/02  Chapter 6: Non-verbal communication and interpersonal behaviour
   Notes: (Slides) (2-up)
Current marks are here, including revised Exam 1 marks. If you had to see a TA about problems with your paper on exam 1, please check to see that your mark is now correct under the Exam 1 column. See me, or e-mail me, if it isn’t.

The Marking Key is here. If there are problems with one of the short answer please see the appropriate TA. Sam marked #1, Alex marked #2, Romina marked #3, and Christine marked #4. If you have problems with your multiple choice, please see me.

Notes on the exam: Generally well done, class average 78%. Many people did very well, few people failed, there was a nice cluster in the C, B, A range. Much improved from last time, although it was a slightly easier exam. The final should be somewhere between the first two in difficulty.

13/03 Chapter 9: Prosocial Behaviour
18/03 Notes: (Slides) (2-up)

10 20/03 Aggression (Antisocial Behavior): 2nd Half of chapter 9
21/03 Notes: (Slides) (2-up)

11 25/03-28/03 Chapters 10 & 11: Conflict, Prejudice, and group performance
Notes: (Slides) (2-up)

12 01/04-08/04 Applied social psychology: Law & justice; health & illness;
Notes: (Slides) (2-up)

13 10/04 Review session for Final Exam

3 hr Final Exam (Chapters 1-11, plus applied material) in Exam Period

According to faculty regulations, Final exam marks cannot be published until after final course grades have been reported, so they will not be linked in here until at least then.

Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on the following: 1) two short in-class examinations, and 2) a final examination. No papers or assignments will be assigned. The format of the two in-class exams will be multiple choice, short answer, and short essay question. The first two exams will be administered during regular class times as noted above. The final exam will be CUMULATIVE and administered during the exam period. It will be of similar format to the two midterms, possibly with different
weighting of the different types of questions, and obviously longer.

**Grading Scale***:

Exam 1 = 30%
Exam 2 = 30%
Final exam = 40%

100-90 = A+
89-85 = A
84-80 = A-

79-77 = B+
76-73 = B
72-70 = B-

69-67 = C+
66-63 = C
62-60 = C-

59-57 = D+
56-53 = D
52-50 = D-

49 - 0 = F

*Note that the instructor reserves the right to adjust the final grade up or down, on an individual basis, under certain circumstances.

**Policy Reminder on Academic Dishonesty**: Attention is drawn to the Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty as found in the Senate Policy Statements distributed at registration and available in the Senate Office. Any student who infringes on one of these resolutions will be treated according to the published policy.

**Policy on Make-up Exams**: Make-up exams will be allowed ONLY in the case of extreme circumstances. Clear the exam dates on your schedule early!