Psychology 1AA3 — The Psychology of Interpersonal Behaviour

Mondays & Wednesdays 6:30-9:20pm
Psychology Complex Rm 155
Instructor: Jeff Nicol
Office: PC-145
Phone: 905.525.9140 ext.24824
Email: nicoljr@mcmaster.ca

Course Objectives:
The course introduces students to a variety of topics relating to interpersonal behavior and social psychology. In the first half of the course, we will focus primarily on how cognitive and social development shape our interpersonal style. In the second half we will focus on personality and psychopathology in order to examine individual differences in interpersonal behaviour. The course will rely on both theory and empirical research to examine the above topics, so that upon completion students will have acquired a broad understanding of both the classical and contemporary issues in the area of interpersonal behaviour.

Prerequisite:
Psych 1A03 or registration in the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) program or Level II of a Medical Radiation Sciences specialization.

Required Textbook:

Evaluation:
Midterm test (30%) – written in class on Mon. July 10 (2hrs)
Writing assignment 1 (10%) – definition
Writing assignment 2 (20%) – essay
Final examination (40%) – a cumulative exam written in class on Wed. August 2 (3hrs)

Bonus marks: up to 2% will be added to your final mark for participation in experiments (1% per experiment) in the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour

Writing Assignments: the first (10%) assignment requires students to define a psychological concept related to the course. The instructor will provide a list of terms to choose from. The second assignment (20%) requires students to choose a side within one of a number of popular scientific debates in the field of interpersonal behavior (topics chosen by instructor) and defend their stance using evidence from at least 2 empirical sources. More details regarding both writing assignments will be provided in class.

Please note that under no circumstances can the midterm examination be re-scheduled or re-written. There are no make-up exams. If you miss an examination you will be assigned a zero (0) until you provide University accepted documentation. Assignments
will only be accepted on their respective due date, by the end of class. Any medical notes must clearly include information stating that you were unable to attend class on the specific date and time of a given examination or deadline. Notes for missed exams or late assignments must be given to the Dean’s office. It is that office that considers the circumstances and determines whether special consideration is permissible.

**Grading Scheme:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>A</td>
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**Academic Integrity:**
Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences to your academic record. It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Ignorance is not an excuse. For information please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at: [http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/ac_integrity.htm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/ac_integrity.htm)

**Tentative Course Outline:**

- **June 19**  Cognition and Social Behaviour Ch. 10
- **June 21**  Biology, Emotion, and Social Behaviour Ch. 11
- **June 26**  Physical and Cognitive Development Ch. 12
- **June 28**  Social Development Ch. 13  **ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE**
- **July 3**  No Class – Canada Day
- **July 5**  Intelligence Ch. 14
- **July 10**  MIDTERM EXAM (2 hours)
- **July 12**  Freud  Lecture
- **July 17**  Personality Ch. 15
- **July 19**  Psychopathology Ch. 16
- **July 24**  Psychopathology: Special Topics Lecture  **ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE**
- **July 26**  Statistics & Treatment Ch. 17 & Appendix
- **July 31**  Review
- **Aug 2**  FINAL EXAMINATION (3 hours)