Psychology 1AA3 —Interpersonal Behaviour

Mondays & Wednesdays 6:30-9:20pm
Hamilton Hall Rm 302
Instructor: Jeff Nicol
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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, the focus is primarily on how cognitive and social development shape our interpersonal style. In the second half, the focus is on personality and psychopathology. 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 behavior.

Required Textbook:

Evaluation:
Midterm test (30%) – written in class on Mon. July 9 (2hrs)
Writing assignments (30%) – two assignments 15% each (due July 9 & July 30)
Final examination (40%) – a cumulative exam written in class on Wed. August 1 (3hrs)

Bonus marks: up to 3% will be added to your final mark for participation in experiments (1.5% each) posted on the Experimetrix website: https://experimetrix2.com/mac/

Writing Assignments (Maximum 2 pages): summarize and support a theory of interpersonal behaviour covered in the course. The instructor will provide a list of terms to choose from. First, the chosen concept/theory should be clearly defined and summarized. Then an empirical study that supports that theory should be summarized. A discussion concerning how/why the results of the study support the theory should also be included. A copy of the abstract of the empirical study must be handed in with the assignment.

Note: under no circumstances will extensions be granted for the assignments and the midterm examination cannot be re-scheduled or re-written. There are no make-up exams and assignments will only be accepted on their respective due date, by the end of class. If you miss an examination, or do not hand-in an assignment, you will be assigned a zero until you provide University accepted documentation. 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.
Note: the instructor reserves the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in light of special circumstances and/or the individual's overall performance.

Grading Scheme:
90-100 = A+  77-79 = B+  67-69 = C+  57-59 = D+  0-49 = F
85-89 = A  73-76 = B  63-66 = C  53-56 = D
80-84 = A-  70-72 = B-  60-62 = C-  50-52 = D-

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. Please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at: http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/ac_integrity.htm

Tentative Course Outline:

June 18  Cognition & Social Behaviour  Ch. 10
June 20  Biology, Emotion & Social Behaviour  Ch. 11
June 25  Physical and Cognitive Development  Ch. 12
June 27  Sociobiology  Lecture
July 2   No Class – Canada Day
July 4   Social Development  Ch. 13
July 9   Midterm Exam (2 hours in class)  Assignment 1 due
July 11  Intelligence  Ch. 14
July 16  Freud  Lecture
July 18  Personality  Ch. 15
July 23  Psychopathology  Ch. 16
July 25  Psychopathology & Treatment  Lecture & Ch. 17
July 30  Review  Assignment 2 due
Aug 1    Final Exam (3 hours in class)