Fall 2007
PSYC *2C03E*: Social Psychology
T 7-10pm, Burke Science Building (BSB) 147

<u>Please note</u>: The contents of this syllabus are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on our class website. It is your responsibility to keep track of changes.

Professor:	**Teaching Assistants**:
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Course Description: This course is designed to introduce you to research and theory in social psychology. We will pay special attention to how research is carried out in this very experimental field, and how research informs (and forms) theories of human social behavior. We will also think about how social psychology can apply to everyday life.

<u>Textbook</u>: Myers, D. & Spencer, S. (2006). *Social Psychology*, 3rd Canadian Edition.

<u>Website</u>: This course has a WebCT website (www.ltrc.mcmaster.ca/webct/). You are expected to check this website with regularity for announcements, updates, discussion board postings, and other valuable information.

<u>Evaluation</u>: You will be evaluated in two ways.

(1) Three exams (two midterms and a final), consisting of multiple-choice items and short essays (subject to change if circumstances warrant). These will be non-cumulative (*exception*: core concepts repeated throughout the course, e.g., research methods), and will cover lecture material *and* assigned readings, even readings not discussed in class. See schedule, below, for midterm dates. The final exam will be held during the examination period.

(2) One assignment, due on the last day of class (see schedule). The topic for this assignment will be posted on WebCT by Nov 20th. The assignment will be a *maximum* of 3 pages *double*-spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins. Any digression from this standard (e.g., smaller or different font, single spacing, the presence of a 4th page) will result in a partial letter-grade reduction.

<u>Final Grade Calculations</u>: The midterms and final are each worth 30% of your final grade; the assignment is worth 10% of your final grade (30+30+30+10=100).

Your final grade will be converted to a letter grade, according to the following scheme:

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

Note: The instructor reserves the right to adjust final grades up or down, on a individual basis, in the light of special circumstances. The instructor also reserves the right to alter the evaluation scheme if circumstances warrant it (e.g., TA loss).

Schedule
Dates are *Tentative* and Subject To Change

Date	Topic	Readings*
11 Sept	Introduction; Methods Social Influence	Ch 1 Start Ch 6
18 Sept	Social Influence	Ch 6; pp. 271-275
25 Sept	Social Influence	Ch 6
2 Oct	Persuasion	Pp. 116-127; Ch 7
9 Oct	**Midterm 1** Prejudice	 Start Ch's 12-13
16 Oct	Prejudice	Ch's 12-13
23 Oct	Aggression	Ch 10
30 Oct	Altruism	Ch 9
6 Nov	**Midterm 2**	
13 Nov	Self Attribution Theory	Ch's 2-3
20 Nov	Groups Cognitive Dissonance	Ch 8 Ch 4
27 Nov	Sex	Ch 11

***Note** that extra readings may be assigned as we go. These will be announced in class and on WebCT; links to extra readings will be posted on WebCT; it is your responsibility to keep track of extra materials.

Other Important Information: You are strongly encouraged to show up to all lectures, and *never to miss an exam or assignment due-date*. If something comes up that will interfere with your ability to meet class deadlines, *immediately* contact me or one of your TA's. If you miss an exam or assignment, you must provide a doctor's certificate (or equivalent for non-medical situations), or you will receive a zero (0) on that exam or assignment.

In-class and discussion board participation is strongly encouraged. Remember, if you have a question, your colleagues probably have one, too, and will appreciate it if you speak up. Don't be shy about asking questions!

Academic Integrity: You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g., a grade of zero (0) on an assignment, loss of course credit with a notation on the transcript ("grade F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonestly. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, at http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

In other words: Do not cheat on your tests. Do not copy information you find anywhere – whether from readings, the textbook, a friend, or a website – for your assignment. You must always cite your sources in academic papers, and you must always use quotation marks when using someone else's words. "I didn't know" will not be accepted as an excuse for cheating, so be sure to read your handbook.