

SYLLABUS
PSYCHOLOGY 2C03
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour
McMaster University
Winter Term 2008

Course time: MW 2:30 & F 4:30

Course location: CNH 104

Professor:

Dr. Jennifer M Ostovich

Email: jmostovich@mcmaster.ca (or ostovij@mcmaster.ca)

Phone: ext 28665 (email is better)

Office: PC 415A

Office hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistants:

Marla Anderson: andermv@mcmaster.ca

Jenna Cheal: chealj@mcmaster.ca

Jessie Miller: millej6@mcmaster.ca

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.

Textbook (required): Myers, D. & Spencer, S. (2006). *Social Psychology*, 3rd Canadian Edition. I strongly recommend against substituting a previous edition of this text for the edition listed here. Several used copies of this text should be available at the bookstore.

Website: This course has a WebCT website (www.ltrc.mcmaster.ca/webct/). You are responsible for all information posted on this website. You are expected to check this website regularly for changes to our schedule, announcements, discussion board postings, and other valuable information.

Participation: In-class and discussion board participation are 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!

See the link on WebCT for information on how to use the discussion board appropriately.

Assessment: Your final mark will be based on the following.

- (1) A brief quiz on research methods = 5%
- (2) Midterm 1 = 25%

- (3) Midterm 2 = 30%
- (4) Final Exam = 40%

The midterms will be non-cumulative (*exception*: research methods), and will cover lecture material *and* assigned readings, even readings not discussed in class. The final exam will be cumulative, and will be held during the examination period. All tests will be comprised of some combination of multiple choice and short essay questions. See “Schedule”, below (also posted as a stand-alone document on WebCT under “Important Information”), for assessment due-dates.

Missed Assessments: You are strongly encouraged *never to miss a test*. If something comes up that will interfere with your ability to meet class deadlines, *immediately* contact me or one of your TA’s – *before* the deadline, not after the fact. If you do not contact me in a timely manner, your grade in the course will suffer as a consequence.

If you miss an assessment, then you must provide a doctor’s certificate (or equivalent for non-medical situations) to your Dean’s office, or you will receive a zero (0) on that assessment.

See the link on WebCT for more information on missed assessments.

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

<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>	<u>Percentage (Grade)</u>
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)

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>.

SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Also available as a stand-alone link on WebCT

This course is divided into three (3) sections. Below is a list of topics (with associated readings listed in [blue](#)) that I expect to cover in each of these sections.

At the end of each section, you will write an exam. You will also write a quiz on research methods after we have finished discussing research methods. Here are the pertinent dates:

Quiz: Either January 11 or January 14 (depending on when we finish our discussion of research methods).*

Midterm 1: February 1

Midterm 2: March 7

Final Exam: To be scheduled by the Registrar

*Please do not misunderstand me here: There is *one* opportunity to write the quiz, but the date of the quiz depends on the pacing of the class.

A note on the midterms: I have booked our classroom for an extra 30 mins on Feb 1st and Mar 7th, so that you can have more time to write. Please let me know *now* if you have a class at 5:30 on one of these days, and alternative arrangements will be made for you.

A note on the readings: I will not be deleting any of the readings listed below. Plan carefully so that you do not find yourself “cramming” the readings at the last minute. Emails asking whether I plan to delete any readings will be ignored, and discussion board posts asking same will be deleted from the board.

Please note as well 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.

SECTION 1: JAN 7 TO FEB 1

Research Methods

Read Ch 1

Social Influence (conformity, bystander intervention, obedience to authority, brutality)

Read Ch 6 *and* pages 117-118 (on Role Playing, relevant to Brutality) *and* pages 271-275 (on Minority Influence)

Persuasion

Read Ch 7 *and* pages 121-123 (on Foot-in-the-Door)

SECTION 2: FEB 4 TO MAR 7

Prejudice

Read Ch's 12 *and* 13

Aggression

Read Ch 10

Altruism *aka* Prosocial Behaviour

Read Ch 9

SECTION 3: MAR 10 TO APR 9

Self Esteem

Read Ch 2; supplementary information on cross-cultural thinking on the self available in Ch 5

Attribution Theory

[Read Ch 3](#)

Group Behaviour

[Read Ch 8](#)

The Attitude-Behaviour Connection: Dissonance Theory

[Read Ch 4](#)

Sex

[Read Ch 11](#)