

Social Psychology – 2C03 (Summer 2009)

Mon. & Wed 9:30am – 12:20pm

Dr. Kris Gerhardt – email: gerhard@mcmaster.ca

Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the topics that social psychology encompasses such as: attraction; attitudes and prejudice; altruism and aggression; personal and social identities; conformity; group influence. We will examine classic studies and more contemporary theories and research emphasizing a scientific approach to the study of the material. Hopefully you will be able to apply social psychological findings to real world events, and have a greater appreciation of the role of social and situational influences on human thought and behaviour.

Required Text: Social Psychology: 3rd Canadian Edition – Myers & Spencer.
McGraw-Hill Ryerson

Evaluation: Test #1 -- 25% (to be held on Wed. May 20, 9:30am – 10:30am)
Test #2 -- 25% (to be held on Wed. June 03, 9:30am – 10:30am)
Final Exam – 50% (to be held on Wed. June 17, 9:30am-12:30pm)

Term Tests and Final Exam:

All tests and exams will be comprised of multiple choice questions only. Both Term Tests are non-cumulative and will only cover the information indicated. The final exam is comprehensive (ie. covering the entire term) although there will be some extra emphasis on material covered after the second term test. ****there will be questions covering the Research Methods literature on both term tests and the final exam****

Test questions will be drawn from the textbook chapters and material discussed in lecture.

***there are NO make-up tests for the two midterms. If you miss either midterm, you will be assigned a 0 (zero) until you provide University accepted documentation for your absence directly to your faculty. **Any medical notes must clearly include information stating that you were unable to attend class on the specific date and time of any scheduled test.** Once I have received notification from your faculty that your documentation has been accepted, your final grade will be calculated by increasing the value of the remaining test based evaluations.

Note: To meet the grading system requirements, your final percentage will be converted to a letter grade, according to the following scheme.

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

Email:

Please email me at gerhard@mcmaster.ca if you have any questions pertaining to the course material. Please also be aware that my reply might not come from a McMaster email address if I am not on campus and that there will be instructions on any such email that clearly indicate that you should reply to gerhard@mcmaster.ca and NOT to Reply to an email from one of my other email addresses. Please do **NOT** use WebCT email to correspond with me since I will not be checking it on a regular basis.

You should include Psych 2C03 in the subject line of any email that you send to me, which will hopefully protect against your emails being diverted by a SPAM filter.

Please also be aware that I will attempt to answer any email that you send to me within 48 hours. If you do not receive a reply within 48 hours, please re-send your email since I cannot guarantee that I receive each and every email. My personal policy is to attempt to answer your emails when I receive them so hopefully my response will be made in less than 48 hours. I attempt to monitor my email between 9-5, Monday to Friday. Any emails sent after 5:00pm on Friday will be answered Monday after 1:00pm.

Try to be as specific as possible when sending an email. Point form questions are fine as long as I can understand your questions and the more specific your questions, the more specific I can try to make my answers.

Phone Calls:

I do not have a phone extension on the McMaster campus. In an emergency, you should contact the Main office in the Psychology department and they will take a message for me and contact me directly if needed. I will not return personal phone calls from a non-campus phone.

Webnotes: available on WebCT (please contact CIS for any WebCT problems)

Webnotes for this course will include any information that will appear on the screen during lectures. No film clips that are viewed in lecture will be included in the webnotes. Webnotes will be uploaded to WebCT within 24 hours of the **completion** of a lecture.

You should take detailed notes in any lecture that you attend and use the Webnotes as an organizational guide when constructing your study notes for this class. I will not release my personal lecture notes for any reason so if you miss a lecture, please contact one of your classmates for any notes that you have missed. In my opinion, the Webnotes that I provide do not contain enough detail to allow you to use them as your primary source of information for studying purposes.

WebCT:

There is a Group Discussion Board on WebCT titled "Main". You can use this board to communicate with each other. You can ask questions, make study group arrangements etc. I will NOT personally monitor this board, nor will I be checking any answers for accuracy. If you wish to ask me a question, please contact me in person or via email.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or the individual's total performance in the course.

Below find the tentative lecture outline. Topics may be changed and/or added as we go through the course. It will be your responsibility to see that you know of any changes in the topics and readings that are announced during the lecture periods. Similarly, any changes or additions in material that are required for the mid-term tests or final exam will be announced in class. It will be your responsibility to be aware of these changes.

May 04 – Course Outline, Introduction, Ch01 – Research Methods
May 06 – Ch02 – The Self in a Social World
May 11 – Ch03 – Social Beliefs and Judgments
May 13 – Ch04 – Behaviour and Attitudes
May 18 – OFF (Victoria Day)
May 20 – **Midterm 1 (Ch01-04)** followed by Ch05 – Culture and Language
May 25 – Ch06 – Conformity
May 27 – Ch07 – Persuasion
June 01 – Ch08 – Group Influence
June 03 – **Midterm 2 (Ch05-08)** followed by Ch09 – Altruism
June 08 – Ch09 & Ch10 – Aggression
June 10 – Ch11 – Attraction and Intimacy (***)
June 15 – Ch12 – Prejudice
June 17 – **Final Exam – Ch01-12**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.