

Department of Sociology
SOC 241 (B1): Social Psychology
Summer 2020

Instructor:	Laura Aylsworth
Office Hours:	1:30-2:30 pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays * See Communication Policy
Email:	Aylsworth@ualberta.ca * See Communication Policy
Course information:	Officially scheduled Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:30pm – 4:20pm, but delivered asynchronously through eClass. *See Course Format .

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Social psychology is the scientific study of how people think about, influence, and relate to one another. It is concerned with how humans perceive themselves and others, including the interconnections that exist between our beliefs and our attitudes. It looks at how we affect and are affected by other people, processes, and institutions. It also explains our connections with others, including why and how we help and hurt one another.

Taught from a sociological perspective, this class emphasizes the social and structural forces that shape our attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours, while attending to the significance of privilege and power. The resulting knowledge provides valuable insight on our social world and social interactions with others.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate central topics investigated by social psychologists
2. Identify and describe the major theories, concepts, and perspectives of Social Psychology
3. Demonstrate critical thinking skills regarding the influence of social structures, institutions, and processes on attitudes, beliefs, and actions.
4. Apply social psychological theory and principles to real-world problems and issues, including those encountered in their daily lives

COURSE PREREQUISITE:

Prerequisites: SOC 100, or PSYCO 104 or 105, or consent of instructor. Note: SOC 241 and PSYCO 241 may not both be taken for credit.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Myers, D., Jordan, C., Smith, S. & Spencer, S. (2018). *Social Psychology*, 7th Canadian Ed. McGraw Hill.

Note: If you desire a hardcopy of the text, the University Bookstore will ship purchases to Canadian addresses free of charge. Students are welcome to purchase electronic versions of this book, which come with additional resources. You can do so directly from the publisher at this link:

<https://www.mheducation.ca/social-psychology-9781259464287-can-group#tab-label-product-description-title>

*Additional required readings and activities will be indicated in eClass.

COURSE FORMAT:

This course is taught remotely. To respect students' geographical locations and their multiple, often conflicting, obligations, I will NOT be delivering live lectures (except for an optional introduction to the course on the first day, see [Lecture Schedule](#)). Instead, the course is comprised of pre-recorded lectures (typically offered as audio accompanying PowerPoint slides), assigned readings, and other assigned activities (such as films and other multimedia). Lectures will be available in "view only" format on Google drive, through a link on eClass.

Students are still expected to remain current with the lecture schedule and corresponding material. This means that you are expected to have reviewed the lectures, completed the readings, and fulfilled other assigned activities (i.e. watched video clip, read news article, etc.) within 24 hours of the scheduled lecture date. Evaluation components are designed with this expectation in mind.

NOTE: Lectures will not simply replicate the readings or assigned activities. They may explore, build on, and challenge key themes and concepts, as well as introduce new topics and examples. All material is subject to examination regardless of whether it is explicitly covered in lecture.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUMMER 2020 COURSES

Classes begin	July 6
Registration deadline (last day to add/drop classes)	July 9
Course withdrawal deadline (50% fee refund)	July 20
Course withdrawal deadline (no fee refund)	August 5
Classes end	August 12
Official final exam period	August 13-14

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Online Participation	10%	Due: by 11:59 pm on August 11
Critical Responses	15% (2 x 7.5%)	Due: 11:59 pm on July 21 and August 4
Quizzes	15% (2 X 7.5%)	Dates: 11:59pm on July 16 and August 6
Midterm Exam:	30%	Due: 11:59 pm on July 28
Final Exam:	30%	Due: 11:59 pm on August 16

Online Participation: Students will contribute to the learning that occurs in this course by participating in two activities:

1. Post a unique link to a media source (news article, documentary, movie, book, etc.) of relevance to social psychology. Include a brief summary of the source (2%) and analysis of its relation to course material (5%)
2. Provide a comment on a post other than their own that contributes to the discussion that demonstrates critical thinking and integration of additional material (3%)

Critical Responses: Students must develop responses (x2) to statements or questions related to course material. For example: "You uncle argues that conformity is always positive because it creates predictability and order. How do you respond?" Responses will be evaluated on their ability to build a cohesive argument, integrate course themes and material, and demonstrate critical thinking.

Quizzes: Quizzes are scheduled throughout the course to provide lower stakes opportunities to assess learning. Each quiz consists of a small number of applied multiple choice and/or fill in the blank questions completed through eClass. Quizzes are non-cumulative (note: they may still build on earlier material and themes) and students will have a 24 hour period to complete.

Midterm & Final Exams: Midterm and final exams will consist of several short essay questions. Students will have choice regarding which essay questions they complete (e.g., must answer 5 of the 8 essay questions provided). Exams are non-cumulative; however, questions on the final exam may build on themes/ material from the first half of the class and students may be required to integrate earlier themes/material in their essays to receive full marks.

Exams must be uploaded to eClass by the indicated deadline, after which point the system will close. Email submissions will not be accepted. Each exam must be uploaded as a single document in doc or docx format. No changes are permitted after it has been submitted. Precise details and example questions will be made available prior to examinations.

**** Additional details for all evaluative components will be made available on eClass. Students are NOT permitted to work collaboratively on any component.**

Classroom Policies/Atmosphere:

Course code of behaviour:

This course maintains the requirement for students to be respectful, open-minded and aware. It is possible that students may be introduced to topics and lifestyles through course material and/or the experiences of others that challenge or conflict with their own life experiences (i.e. work, personal, or family history). Discussion and debate are encouraged, but there is zero tolerance for disrespectful, discriminatory, or offensive behaviour (language included).

Students are required to read the syllabus and are responsible for the content within. If you have a question about course material and requirements, you should first check whether it is addressed in the syllabus. I welcome inquiries or further discussion after this condition is met.

Communication policy:

I will be available for questions and further discussion in a variety of ways throughout the term. For all meeting options, students are *encouraged* to use video to foster a sense of connection; however, this is entirely optional and should only be done if safe and feasible. If a situation arises whereby I am unable to participate with video, I will notify prior to the session. Sessions will not be recorded.

1. Virtual office hour meetings: Students have the option of signing up for 15 minute sessions during my scheduled office hours. This is the preferred option for students with lengthy inquiries, requiring more extensive clarification, wishing to engage in further conversation about a topic, or intending to discuss personal matters
2. Virtual meetings by appointment: Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate meeting requests outside of office hours to respect the different circumstances in which we find ourselves. Students desiring this option should contact me by email, preferably 24 hours prior to their desired meeting time, and indicate their availability.
3. Free-for-all meetings: At various times during the semester, I may make available online outside of office hours for a free-for-all session accessible to all students. This is an opportunity for students to ask questions, discuss themes, or just chat in a larger group format. There is no requirement to participate.
4. Email: I can also be reached by email. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours M-F, after which students are welcome to send a follow-up email. Emails may not be answered after 5pm during the week or over the weekend. This option should not be used to lengthy inquiries or extensive clarification. I will only reply to emails sent from official UAlberta email addresses.

Technology:

This course relies heavily on eClass for information about assigned activities, changes to topics/schedule, grading, and course announcements. Students are expected to have access to and regularly check eClass. Students should also have reliable access to the internet to view lectures and complete additional activities. The 24-hour window by which students are expected to have completed readings/activities and viewed lectures is a concession to accommodate temporary technology issues and conflicting obligations/life circumstances.

NOTE: The instructor is NOT an IT specialist. If students encounter technological issues, they should contact University of Alberta's Technical Support staff (<https://www.ualberta.ca/computing-science/resources/technical-support/index.html>) or the eClass staff (<https://support.ctl.ualberta.ca/index.php?/IST/Knowledgebase/List/Index/22/eclass>).

Be aware that lectures and virtual meetings are only intended for students personal viewing within the context of this course. Any duplication or sharing of these files outside of this context (including the participation of a non-registered individual without permission of the instructor) is prohibited and may result in academic penalties.

GRADING:

Marks for graded course requirements are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below. Marks are assigned based on the individual merits of students as reflected through course evaluation components. Requests for grade modifications (including rounding or to meet a quota) will not be considered. Marks for grades are not curved or scaled.

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100	4.0	Excellent
A	90-94	4.0	
A-	85-89	3.7	
B+	80-84	3.3	Good
B	75-79	3.0	
B-	70-74	2.7	
C+	66-69	2.3	Satisfactory
C	62-65	2.0	
C-	58-61	1.7	
D+	54-57	1.3	Poor
D	50-53	1.0	Minimal Pass
F	0-49	0.0	Fail

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES, AND MISSED GRADE COMPONENTS:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance. In this course, 'attendance' takes the form of timely completion of readings, activities, assignments, and lecture viewings. Summer courses are condensed and it is easy to fall behind on course material and readings. This is particularly true with online courses, which require additional self-motivation and time-management. It is much easier to stay current with the material than scrambling to catch up. The 24-hour window after the scheduled lecture date is intended to accommodate different circumstances while assisting you to stay on schedule. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult the [Attendance](#) section of the University Calendar.

Absence/Missed Grades from Term Work

Students are expected to complete term work by the indicated dates. Students who are unable to meet a deadline for term work risk receiving a zero on the assignment/examination. For some assignments, accommodations may be made for students with excused absences. To be eligible for an excused absence, students are required to contact me within two working days following the missed due date (or as soon as possible, considering the circumstances) and complete a "[Request for Excused Absence or Deferral of Term Work](#)" form.

Acceptable reasons for an excused absence may include incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction or religious reasons and students may be asked to provide supporting documentation. Unacceptable reasons include vacations, travel arrangements, weddings, and student negligence. Excused absences are not automatic and at the instructor's discretion. Misrepresentation of Facts to gain an excused absence is a serious breach of the *Code of Student Behaviour*.

Policy for Critical Responses: Late submissions of Critical Responses will result in a 10% penalty per day, including weekend days, for a maximum of 5 days (unless otherwise approved). After 5 days it will no longer be accepted and a raw score of zero will be assigned.

Policy for Online Participation: No extensions will be granted for the online participation, as there is substantial leeway regarding submission (submissions are accepted from July 7 until August 11). Failure to submit one or both activities for online participation by the deadline will result in a raw score of zero for the activity(ies) not submitted. NOTE: Students are eligible to receive marks on one of the activities if submitted on time, even if they do not complete the other activity.

Policy for Quizzes: No extensions or make-up quizzes will be granted for missed quizzes. Any quizzes not completed within the designated 24-hour period will be assigned a raw score of zero.

Policy for MIDTERM and FINAL exams: Late submissions of Midterm and Final exams will NOT be accepted unless the student has an excused absence. Excused absences will only be granted in extreme circumstances. Depending on the circumstances, students with an excused absence will either be granted an extension, write a make-up exam, or have the weight of the missed exam distributed to other term work, at the instructor's discretion. Students with unexcused absences and students with

excused absences who do not submit their exam by the prescribed time set by the instructor (whether in the case of extension or alternate exam) will be assigned a raw score of zero.

Grade Appeal Policy:

I impose a strict 24-hour no-contact period after the return of all evaluative components before considering inquiries and appeals related to those components. This period allows students to carefully review assignment expectations, grading rubrics, and provided feedback – all of which contextualize the grade received – before initiating contact. All students are welcome to request additional feedback on assignments or recommendations for improving their writing after the 24 hour period has passed! If you are struggling with the course material and/or assignments, do not hesitate to contact me.

Students may appeal a grade they received on an evaluation component after the 24-hour period has passed, on the following basis: they believe the instructor has applied inappropriate criteria in the evaluation and/or has unfairly interpreted the work in light of stated criteria. To appeal a grade, students must craft a written argument (approximately 250 words) for why the grade they received is not an accurate representation of the quality of your work and/or inconsistent with the grading outlined in the assignment details/grading rubric. This must be provided no later than 5 days after the return of the evaluative component in question.

NOTE: Course requirements must be applied fairly and equally to all. Accordingly, requests to re-write evaluative components or submit extra work to increase grades will not be considered.

STUDENT RESOURCES:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>. Students are encouraged to take their mental health and leaning needs.

Accessibility Resources (1-80 SUB): The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information or to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB): [The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall): [The Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support webpage](#).

Office of the Student Ombuds: [The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

LEARNING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. This includes virtual environments and platforms.

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

REQUIRED NOTES:

Academic Integrity

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <https://www.ualberta.ca/governance/>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

An instructor who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty.. Students are expected to know what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts, and participation in an offence, as well as the sanctions that follow academic offences and the processes through which academic offences will be investigated.

Ignorance is NOT an acceptable defense in cases of academic offences. All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#) and ask the instructor if they have any questions.

Audio or Video Recording

“Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the Instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or Instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).”

Course Outline Policy

“Policy about course outlines can be found in [Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading](#) of the University Calendar.”

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

*Lecture schedule and accompanying readings are subject to change. You will be notified accordingly. Additional required activities and sources will be indicated on eClass

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Readings</u>
July 7	Introduction to Social Psychology	Ch 1
	*I will hold a LIVE introduction to the course at 1:30 pm, during which I will position myself and review the syllabus. This introduction does not include a lecture (posted separately). You are <u>NOT</u> obligated to join; however, it is a great opportunity to connect and pose questions about the course. Video participation is welcomed, but not mandatory and should only be done if safe and feasible. This introduction <u>will</u> be recorded and made available on eClass.	
SOCIAL THINKING		
July 9	The self	Ch 2
July 14	Social beliefs & judgments	CH 3
July 16	Behaviour and Attitudes * Quiz #1(covers July 7-July 14)	Ch 4
SOCIAL INFLUENCES		
July 21	Persuasion *Due: Critical Response	Ch 5
July 23	Conformity	Ch 6
July 28	Group Influence *Due: Midterm (covers material from July 7 to July 23)	Ch 7
SOCIAL RELATIONS		
July 30	Altruism & Liking Others	Ch 8 Ch 10 (ONLY pgs. 329-337, 346-352)
August 4	Aggression *Due: Critical Response	Ch 9
August 6	Sources of Prejudice *Quiz # 2 opens (covers material from July 28 – August 4)	Ch 11
August 11	Consequences of Prejudice *Deadline: Online Participation	Ch 12
August 16	* Final exam due (covers lectures July 28 to August 11)	