

## PSYC 325 Fundamentals of Social Psychology Winter 2016 (3.0 Cr)

### Office Hours

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Instructor: M. Dean Graham, M.A., Ph.D.c.  
Class: Monday & Wednesday, 13:15-14:30, CC-116  
Office: SP253.11 (Loyola Campus)  
Office Hours: By appointment, email to set up a time  
Email: [m.dean.graham@concordia.ca](mailto:m.dean.graham@concordia.ca) (preferred method)  
**Be sure to write PSYC325 in email subject heading**

### Course Description

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Prerequisite: PSYC 310, 315, previously or concurrently.

Prisoner abuse, “reality” TV shows, suicide bombings, mercy killings, the Columbine shootings, the unrelenting hunt for terrorists. All of these topics provide fertile ground for exploring social psychology issues. In a nutshell, social psychology is a field of study that examines how the social context influences human thought, feelings, and behaviour. This course is an introduction to social psychology, and will provide you with a broad overview of the main areas relevant to contemporary social psychology. We will consider, for example, how individuals come to think about their social world, and how this influences their self-perceptions and understanding of others. We will also examine how these attitudes and perceptions influence individual, interpersonal, and collective behaviour. By the end of this course, you should have a better awareness of your social context and its impact on you. **This is an interactive class, so be prepared to contribute to class discussions.**

NOTE: Students who have received credit for PSYC 331 may not take this course for credit.

### Course Materials

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All course materials (lecture notes, homework, handouts, and assigned readings, etc.) will be posted on the course website. Students are encouraged to download and print out handouts *prior* to the class lecture, as handouts will *not* be distributed in class.

**My Concordia Portal** (select Course Websites under Menu, powered by Moodle)

<https://moodle.concordia.ca/moodle/course/view.php?id=84211> (PSYC 325 2015/4)

### Required Textbook & Readings

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Material for the course lectures will be based on a variety of sources, but drawn principally from the following text:

**Aronson, Wilson, Fehr, & Akert (2013). Social Psychology (5th Canadian Ed.). Toronto, ON: Pearson.**

\*\* Additional readings may be posted on Moodle, so check the course website regularly. \*\*

## Tentative Course Outline

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We will cover the material in this course in this general order; any variations will be posted on Moodle. If available, I will try to post pdf versions of the lecture slides on Moodle prior to the lecture.

Introduction to Social Psychology	Ch. 1
Social Cognition	Ch. 3
Social Perception	Ch. 4
Self-understanding	Ch. 5
Attitudes	Ch. 6

### Mid-term examination **Feb. 17**

Provided we have covered the above chapters, your mid-term will include all of the above (Ch. 1, 3-6) as well as any material presented in lectures or posted on Moodle. We will discuss what will be included prior to the mid-term. *All effort possible will be made to provide a mid-term exam review on Feb. 15.*

Conformity	Ch. 7
Group Processes	Ch. 8
Prosocial Behaviour	Ch. 10
Aggression	Ch. 11
Prejudice	Ch. 12
Social Psych & The Law	Ch. SPA-3

### Final examination **TBA**

*All scheduled lectures are subject to modification (due to semester progression, unforeseeable circumstances, etc.). You will be notified in class and/or on Moodle if necessary.*

## Other Important Dates

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Deadline to withdraw from tuition refund (DNE) is **Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

Deadline for academic withdrawal from winter-term courses (DISC) is **Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

Mid-term break runs from **Monday, February 22<sup>th</sup>, 2016** to **Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

University Closed for Easter: **Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016** to **Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

Last day of classes: **Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

Make up class: **Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016** (for classes that miss Easter Friday if needed).

Make up class: **Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016** (for classes that miss Easter Monday if needed).

Exam period runs from **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016** to **Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.**

## Grading System

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### Points

Midterm	30 points
Attendance*	6 points
Heroism Assignment	24 points
<u>Final Examination</u>	<u>40 points</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 points</b>

\*See note below on Attendance\*

**All grades are final.**

**Please note that I do not round up grades.**

### Letter Equivalents

A+	90 – 100%	
A	85 – 89.99%	Outstanding
A-	80 – 84.99%	
B+	77 – 79.99%	
B	73 – 76.99%	Very Good
B-	70 – 72.99%	
C+	67 – 69.99%	
C	63 – 66.99%	Satisfactory
C-	60 – 62.99%	
D+	57 – 59.99%	
D	53 – 56.99%	Marginal Pass
D-	50 – 52.99%	
F	< 50%	Poor - Failure

## Lectures

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The structure and content of the lectures will correspond approximately to those of the indicated chapters, but will not necessarily cover all material in each chapter. Additional material will also be discussed, and research and/or multimedia presentations (e.g., videos) will also be presented. This additional in-class material will not be posted to Moodle, but may appear on your exams; it is your responsibility (not mine) to catch up on any material missed due to absences (make a friend in the class!). Assigned chapter readings are to be done in advance of the class in which they are discussed. Any supplementary readings will be posted on Moodle for easy access, and you will be responsible for these on your exams.

## Exams

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There will be one in-class mid-term examination (worth 30% of final grade). Further details will be provided in class as the examination date approaches, and every effort will be made to provide a brief in-class exam review (subject to time constraints).

The final exam (worth 40% of final grade) will consist of all material covered in this course (cumulative), with emphasis on the material covered after the mid-term.

The final exam **MUST** be taken during the final exam period determined by the university (Apr 15 – May 1, inclusive), at the date, time, and place determined by the Examinations Office. Do not schedule anything until the end of the final exam period. You will not be able to take this exam earlier than the date set by the Examinations Office. No exceptions.

It is your responsibility to be familiar with all policies pertaining to cases of illness, missed exams, and incomplete work as described in the Undergraduate Calendar. In this course, there will be NO supplemental or make-up examinations (including the in-class test) other than in the case of illness with an explicit and clearly dated official letter from a medical doctor. In such cases, this make-up exam may be an oral exam. Failure to write the final exam will result in a failure mark in this course.

## Heroism Assignment

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You are required to write a paper (15 written pages max, not including appendices, references, etc., which can be any length) covering a variety of sections and activities pertaining to the topic of Heroism. Part of the purpose of this class is to have you apply lessons learned in class to your everyday life, and to enhance not only your own experience but society as a whole. The goal of this paper is have you reflect intelligently on what you have learned and to think about how to put that knowledge into action. You will examine three different perspectives on heroism (your own, the medias, and every day people you interview), and examine whether these perspectives fit with that of Zimbardo. This assignment is due **Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, at 15:00** and is worth 24 points. More information will be posted on Moodle, and discussed in class. Late submissions will lose 10% per day late, up to a maximum 5 days late, after which you will receive a grade of 0.

## Attendance\*

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Since this class is on the fundamentals of social psychology, being active and available in class (i.e., being *social*) is an important component. To this end I will be regularly taking attendance and asking class questions throughout the semester using an application called “Top Hat” to do so (<https://tophat.com/>). This application needs to be purchased for you to use it in class, and thus to receive the attendance grade (worth 6% of the final grade). If you do not wish to do so, there is an alternative set of assignments I have available (see below), but this decision **MUST** be made within the first two weeks of class only (deadline: **Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**). More details will be available during the first lecture, or you may speak to me about this privately.

## **Alternative Assignments\*: Online Experiments Exercises**

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If you do not wish to purchase the Top Hat application, and thus not receive the attendance grades, you may instead complete and report on a set of 4 social psychology experiments. For each experiment, you will be asked to print your results page and answer a few questions about the study and your results. Each write-up is worth 1.5 points (for a possible total of 6 points). You will be graded on how well you relate your findings to class material. Therefore, in choosing an experiment, be sure to select one that is related to what has been or will be covered in class. If you are unsure if a particular experiment is acceptable, please consult me *before* you do the experiment. Assignments are due at the beginning of the lecture on **Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**. More information will be posted on Moodle, and discussed in class. Late submissions will **not** be accepted.

**Reminder:** Choosing to do the online experiments exercises **MUST** be made by **Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**. Any failure to inform me of this choice will result in you being responsible for the Attendance portion (and thus purchasing the Top Hat application).

## **Code of Conduct - Academic Honesty Policy**

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**Please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism (from website):**

The most common offense under the Academic Code of Conduct is plagiarism which the Code defines as "the presentation of the work of another person as one's own or without proper acknowledgement."

This could be material copied word for word from books, journals, internet sites, professor's course notes, etc. It could be material that is paraphrased but closely resembles the original source. It could be the work of a fellow student, for example, an answer on a quiz, data for a lab report, a paper or assignment completed by another student. It might be a paper purchased through one of the many available sources. Plagiarism does not refer to words alone - it can also refer to copying images, graphs, tables, and ideas. "Presentation" is not limited to written work.

It also includes oral presentations, computer assignments and artistic works. Finally, if you translate the work of another person into French or English and do not cite the source, this is also plagiarism.

In Simple Words:

*Do not copy, paraphrase or translate anything from anywhere without saying where you obtained it!*

*(Source: The Academic Integrity Website: <http://provost.concordia.ca/academicintegrity/plagiarism/>)*

## **Concordia Services Available to Improve Students' Academic Experience**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Psychology Department Academic Advisors</b><br/>(514) 848-2424 x2222 for appointment</li><li>• <b>Concordia Counseling and Development</b><br/>Offers career services, psychological services, student learning services, etc.<br/><a href="http://cdev.concordia.ca/">http://cdev.concordia.ca/</a></li><li>• <b>The Concordia Library Citation and Style Guides (APA)</b><br/><a href="http://library.concordia.ca/help/howto/citations.html">http://library.concordia.ca/help/howto/citations.html</a></li><li>• <b>Advocacy and Support Services</b><br/><a href="http://supportservices.concordia.ca/">http://supportservices.concordia.ca/</a></li><li>• <b>Student Transition Centre</b><br/><a href="http://stc.concordia.ca/">http://stc.concordia.ca/</a></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>New Student Program</b><br/><a href="http://newstudent.concordia.ca/">http://newstudent.concordia.ca/</a></li><li>• <b>Access Centre for Students with Disabilities</b><br/><a href="http://supportservices.concordia.ca/disabilities/">http://supportservices.concordia.ca/disabilities/</a></li><li>• <b>Student Success Centre</b><br/><a href="http://studentsuccess.concordia.ca/">http://studentsuccess.concordia.ca/</a></li><li>• <b>The Academic Integrity Website</b><br/><a href="http://provost.concordia.ca/academicintegrity/">http://provost.concordia.ca/academicintegrity/</a></li><li>• <b>Financial Aid and Awards</b><br/><a href="http://web2.concordia.ca/financialaid/">http://web2.concordia.ca/financialaid/</a></li><li>• <b>Health Services</b><br/><a href="http://www-health.concordia.ca">http://www-health.concordia.ca</a></li></ul> |
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**In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.**