

PSYCHOLOGY 308A: Social Psychology (Fall 2017)

Section 1: Tues/Thurs 2pm (Chem D300)

Section 2: Tues/Thurs 3:30pm (Henry Angus 098)

Professor	Dr. Elizabeth Dunn
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Office Location	Kenny 2013
Phone	(604) 827-3144
Course Website	http://elearning.ubc.ca/connect/
Office Hours	By appointment—email your TF or professor to arrange a time.

Teaching Fellows

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Course Description: Social psychology uses scientific methodology to address core questions about human social life that most people are naturally curious about (e.g., Why do people behave the way they do? How do culture and social stereotypes shape people's perceptions of each other and the world around them? What makes people happy?). In this course, we will cover a broad range of topics, from self-knowledge and social perception to aggression, love, and prejudice. While covering rather diverse topics, we will trace consistent themes of social psychology and examine how scientific knowledge builds over time. You will be encouraged to question existing ideas and build new ones.

Format of the course: Rather than just teaching you about social psychology, we want you to *experience* social psychology in action. Therefore, although this is a lecture-based course, most lectures will include an interactive component. You will be assigned to a small team, and most work will be completed with your team. In addition, lectures will be replaced with smaller seminar sessions on five days during the semester, allowing for more active participation (see course schedule on last page for dates). On these days, students should go directly to their seminar classroom rather than coming to lecture. TF assignments & classrooms will be provided on the course website before the first seminar. A Teaching Fellow will lead demonstrations and active, dynamic discussions designed to illuminate the course material. The seminars are an important part of the course and attendance is required.

Required Materials:

- 1) There is no textbook. Because this is an upper-level course, all readings will be from original scholarly sources (i.e., journal articles). There is one reading for every lecture and seminar. Readings will be available from the course website.
- 2) You will need to subscribe to Top Hat for lecture participation. Top Hat is free for UBC students this year. Please register at: <https://app.tophat.com/register/student/> The join code for Section 1 (2pm class) is 683851 and the join code for Section 2 (3:30pm class) is 449674. For this course, you are required to use your first and last name as your username (e.g., ElizabethDunn or LizDunn).

Grading

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Term Paper: 15%

Team Presentation: 5%

Collaboration Reflection: 5%

Seminar (attendance, participation & reading reflections): 20%

Lecture Participation: 5%

NOTE – Marks will be posted on the course website (by student ID# only). It is your responsibility to check these marks for accuracy. If you would rather not have your marks posted, you must make special arrangements with Dr. Dunn during the first week of class.

Course Requirements & Expectations

1) *Exams*: You may be tested on any material covered in lectures, seminars, or readings (including material that only appeared in class or only appeared in the readings). The exams will include multiple choice and short essay questions. Immediately after completing each exam on your own, you will get together into small groups and re-take a portion of the exam with your team. For your multiple choice mark, your team score will count for 10%, and your individual score will count for 90%; however, if your individual score is higher than your team score, your individual score will count for 100%, so the teamwork component can only help you. When you are given the opportunity to complete essay questions with your group, you will be able to choose whether to submit your individual or group response for marking. Research shows that this innovative approach to testing improves student engagement and learning; for references on this research, please see <http://ow.ly/ztdv6>.

2) *Term Paper*: In collaboration with your team, you will write one 5-page paper, in which you will propose a new experiment to test a novel hypothesis, building on one of the articles you read in the course. Further information will be provided in lecture on September 28. Your team will give a 5-minute presentation on your proposed study in Seminar 4 and your paper is due in Seminar 5, along with your Collaboration Reflection. Note that you will be asked to submit an electronic copy of the paper to Turn it In (www.turnitin.com), as well as submitting a hard copy of your paper in seminar. Late submission of either the paper (including hard or electronic copy) or collaboration reflection will result in stiff penalties.

3) *Seminar*: Attendance at all seminars is required. Any absences will be counted as unexcused unless you provide written documentation to your TF within one week (see course policies). Active participation is required in seminars and will affect your seminar grade. If you are uncomfortable speaking in class, please see your TF during the first month of class to discuss this. You will be asked to turn in a brief Reading Reflection at the beginning of each seminar; no late assignments will be accepted. Seminar grades will be based on attendance, participation, and Reading Reflections.

4) *Lecture Participation*: We will be using an interactive system called Top Hat to facilitate lecture participation: <https://www.tophat.com>. In most lectures, you'll be given a chance to participate and check your understanding of the material by answering questions through Top Hat. In addition, I will reserve the last 3-5 minutes of every lecture to give you time to compose your own brief take-home

message from the lecture, as well as a question about something you didn't understand or want to know more about. These comprehension checks are extremely important in helping me to ensure that you understand the course material, and should be submitted through Top Hat. I will address common points of confusion (and interest) during each subsequent class. Of course, not all submitted questions will be answered in class, but you are always welcome to see me before/after class about your question. If you complete all Top Hat questions and comprehension checks, you will automatically receive full marks for lecture participation. To allow for illness or technical problems, you can miss up to 20% of participation opportunities, and I'll still give you full marks. You can connect with Top Hat using any device with wifi (e.g., laptop, iPad) or with your mobile phone. If you do not have such a device, contact me and I can help make special arrangements for you. Please visit the Top Hat website to register for a student account right away; we will begin using this system on the second day of class.

Extra Credit: Because this course emphasizes active involvement in psychology, I will give you up to 3 extra credit points (i.e., 3% added to your final course grade) for participating in accredited psychology experiments. To take advantage of this opportunity, visit: <https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=/> As an alternative to participating in studies, you may choose to complete library writing projects, in which you read and summarize a research article; each article summary counts as one hour of research participation. See the HSP website for detailed information including due dates and submission procedures for the library project.

Communication

Office hours & appointments: If you have questions about the course material or would like to discuss issues related to the course in more detail, you are always welcome to make an individual appointment with the professor or TF's or talk to us before/after class.

EMAIL POLICY: I will only provide 1-sentence responses via email. If you have a question that cannot be answered in a single sentence or less, please see me right before or after class or make an appointment and I will be happy to discuss it with you. Emails requiring responses longer than one sentence will not be answered. For all email responses, please permit more than 24 hours before a response can be expected (e.g., you are unlikely to receive a response the night before an exam/assignment). Emails will rarely be answered over the weekend.

Who to contact for your concerns or questions: First, if you have a question, please consult the course website; there's a good chance the website contains the answer to your question, especially regarding course logistics (e.g., seminar locations). For questions about seminars or the term paper, please contact your TF. For questions about lectures or exams, please contact Dr. Dunn, preferably in person (either before or after class or by appointment).

Additional Course Policies

Lecture notes: I will post my Powerpoint slides on the course website following each class (usually by noon the next day). The point of posting the notes is to save you from having to scribble down every detail I present and to help you check the notes you take. The posted notes are not meant to stand alone and will often be hard to follow if you haven't been in class. I would recommend that you take your own notes in class, writing down key points, and then use the posted notes as a supplement. Notes will never be posted before class; the lectures will often contain twists, turns, and surprises that would be

ruined if the notes were given ahead of time. If you don't have powerpoint, you can download it for free here: <https://it.ubc.ca/software-downloads>

Attendance : If you miss all or part of any seminar or lecture, it is your responsibility to speak with one of your classmates to find out what course materials and announcements you missed. Attendance will be taken in seminar and will influence your grade. Absences will be considered unexcused unless you provide your TF with a doctor's note within 1 week of the absence.

Exams: If you are severely ill and have to miss an exam, you or a caregiver must (1) notify me before the exam start time and then (2) provide a doctor's note within one week; unless both conditions are met, you will receive a zero. Note that there will be no make-up midterm (if you miss the midterm due to documented illness, your final exam grade will also count as your midterm grade).

Term Paper: Absolutely NO extensions will be given on the paper. Sudden illness will not be considered grounds for an extension as you will have weeks to complete the paper.

Special Accommodations: The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre and students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let me know in the first week of class if you will require any special requirements as such. Absences due to *varsity athletics, family obligations, vacations, work scheduling, or other similar commitments WILL NOT receive special accommodation.*

Electronics: Please turn off ringers during class. Laptops, phones, and other mobile devices may only be used for taking notes and responding to Top Hat questions during class. Using these devices for non-course related purposes (e.g, texting, Facebook, email) is extremely distracting for everyone, and we reserve the right to deduct participation marks in lecture or seminar for this. No electronics will be permitted in any exam (e.g., electronic dictionary).

Grade Scaling: In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70 for a good class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class (with a standard deviation of 13). Scaling is likely to be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor, department, or school. Therefore, grades are never official until they appear on your academic record.

Section Hopping: You must attend your own assigned section (2pm or 3:30pm). If you are unable to attend your own section, attending Dr. Dunn's other section is better than missing class entirely, but you will be unable to receive TopHat points and you may not be able to participate in team-based activities. Also, material covered may be slightly different between sections, and different exams will be given.

Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. The Department subscribes to *TurnItIn*--a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials that students

submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>).

BOTTOM LINE: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

Tentative Schedule of Topics, Readings, & Assignments

NOTE: Although you must complete the assigned reading before class on seminar days, you are **strongly encouraged** to complete the assigned reading *after* class on lecture days. Please note that the schedule or readings may be adjusted during the term.

Week	Date	Topics	Required readings
1	Tues Sept 5	IMAGINE DAY (no classes)	
	Thurs Sept 7	Course Introduction & Social Cognition	Kahneman & Tversky (1974): Read pp. 1124-1129 only
2	Tues Sept 12	Social Perception	Ross & Sicoly (1979): Read all except Experiments 4 & 5
	Thurs Sept 14	Groups Part 1 & Methodology	Schroeder et al (2016): Read all except Experiment 3
3	Tues Sept 19	Groups Part 2: Team Effectiveness	Wooley et al (2010): Read all
	Thurs Sept 21	Seminar 1: Groups & Social Perception	Krueger et al (2005): Read all
4	Tues Sept 26	Authority	Burger (2009): Read all
	Thurs Sept 28	Conformity (paper assignment given)	Cialdini (2003): Read all
5	Tues Oct 3	Seminar 2: Social Norms	Gilovich et al (2000): Read all
	Thurs Oct 5	Self-control & the Nature of Science	Simmons et al (2011): read all but "Guidelines for Reviewers" section
6	Tues Oct 10	Self-esteem & Self-knowledge	Dunning et al (2003): read all
	Thurs Oct 12	No Class (Dr. Dunn away)	
7	Tues Oct 17	MIDTERM	
	Thurs Oct 19	Attitudes & team workshop	Festinger (1962)
8	Tues Oct 24	Prosocial behaviour	Latane & Darley (1968)
	Thurs Oct 26	Seminar 3: Prosocial behaviour	Bryan & Test (1967): Read all except Experiment 4 Collaboration Plan Due
9	Tues Oct 31	Stereotypes & prejudice (part 1)	Nosek, Banaji, & Greenwald (2002): read first half
	Thurs Nov 2	Stereotypes & prejudice (part 2)	Nosek, Banaji, & Greenwald (2002): read second half
10	Tues Nov 7	Aggression	Gross et al (2013)
	Thurs Nov 9	Attraction	Hunt, Eastwick, & Finkel (2015): read all
11	Tues Nov 14	Close relationships	Finkel et al (2016): read all
	Thurs Nov 16	Seminar 4: Evolution &	Haselton & Buss (2000)

		Attraction	Team Presentations
12	Tues Nov 21	Applications: Law	Frenda, Nichols, & Loftus (2011): read all
	Thurs Nov 23	Catch-up Day	
13	Tues Nov 28	Happiness & Course Review	Dunn, Aknin, & Norton (2014)
	Nov 30	Seminar 5: Applying Social Psychology	Hsee et al (2013) (papers due)