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| <p style="text-align: center;">PS270 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY Sections A & B, Fall 2009</p> |
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PRE-REQUISITE COURSE:

PS100

LECTURES:

Section A: Tuesday, Thursday, 11:30 - 12:50, SBE1220

Section B: Tuesday, Thursday, 2:30 - 3:50, N1002

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Roger Buehler

Office: N2074 - J

Phone: 519-884-0710 ext. 3036

E-mail: rbuehler@wlu.ca

Webpage: http://www.wlu.ca/homepage.php?grp_id=217&f_id=44

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday 1:00 - 2:00

Wednesday 1:00 - 2:00

(or by appointment)

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Sam Al-Dabbagh

Office Hours: TBA

E-mail: alxd6060@wlu.ca

TEXT:

Myers, D., & Spencer, S. (2009). *Social Psychology: Fourth Canadian Edition*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a broad overview of the field of social psychology. Social psychology is the scientific study of how people think about, influence, and relate to one another. We will explore topics in each of these three broad areas: *social thinking* (attitudes, social cognition, the self-concept), *social influence* (conformity, persuasion, group influences), and *social relations* (prejudice, aggression, altruism, close relationships).

Throughout the course, our goal will be to understand how social psychologists can apply scientific research methods to gain insights into social behavior, and how a social psychological perspective can help us to understand people's thoughts, feelings, and behavior in everyday life. The course introduces you to the field of social psychology in three ways:

1. *The textbook by Myers, Spencer, and Jordan*. This text provides excellent coverage of research findings in social psychology. It presents both classic and contemporary theory and research findings. It places special emphasis on Canadian issues and research conducted by Canadian social psychologists. It is also very current, incorporating recent research across a wide range of topics.

2. *The lectures.* My lectures will often cover different material than the textbook, because my goal is to provide you with in depth coverage of particular topic areas that represent important aspects of the field. I may go into considerable detail about a particular topic of interest from the text, and I may sometimes introduce material not covered in the text at all. I will also provide a number of demonstrations and short video presentations. Thus lecture attendance is very important. In addition, certain text chapters may not be addressed in the lectures. Based on the lectures and the text combined, you will hopefully come away from this course with both a general framework for major areas of social psychology, as well as more in depth knowledge of specific research topics within these areas.

3. *The (optional) assignments.* Throughout the term, you will have the opportunity to complete two optional assignments for bonus grades. Detailed instructions concerning the content and requirements for the assignments will be distributed in class. In brief, the assignments will ask you to discuss material learned in the course and apply it to real-life situations that you encounter. It is hoped that the assignments will lead you to connect social psychological insights with your own day-to-day experiences, and to gain a greater appreciation for the role of social and situational influences in people's lives.

INFORMATION POSTED ON WEBCT:

There is a WebCT site for this course. You can access WebCT by going to the WLU homepage and selecting: Resources, WebCT, and Login. Or you can access WebCT directly at <http://webct.wlu.ca/webct>. You will need to log in with your Novell username and password.

Course information will be posted regularly including: the syllabus, assignment instructions, lecture outlines (powerpoint slides), grades, and announcements. It is your responsibility to check WebCT on a weekly basis so that you do not miss any announcements that may be posted.

The lecture outlines (powerpoint slides) for each week will usually be posted by the Monday of that week so that you can print them and bring along to class for further note taking.

EVALUATION:

25% Midterm 1 – Tuesday October 20

25% Midterm 2 – Tuesday November 24

50% Final Exam – Exam period December 10 - 22

[2% bonus points Assignment 1 – due Tuesday November 3]

[2% bonus points Assignment 2 – due Thursday December 3]

Exams:

All exams will consist of both multiple choice questions (approximately 75%) and short answer questions (approximately 25%). The exams will test your knowledge and understanding of the assigned text chapters and the lectures. Approximately half of the exam questions will be from the material in the text (which may or may not have been covered in lecture) and the other half will be from the lectures (including demonstrations and videos).

The midterm exams will be written during regularly scheduled class time. Failure to write a

midterm exam will result in a grade of zero for the exam, unless an acceptable and documented excuse is given (see the WLU Calendar for information on religious holidays, medical excuse slips, and the writing of exams through the Accessible Learning Office).

The final exam will be 2-3 hours in length, scheduled by the registrar for the final exam period (December 10 to 22). It will be comprehensive, covering the entire course.

Optional Written Assignments:

As noted above, you will have the opportunity to write and submit two optional assignments, each due at a specified time throughout the term. Due dates for these assignments are *Tuesday November 3 and Thursday December 3*. Detailed instructions for each of the written assignments will be provided approximately two weeks before the due date. Each assignment will be about 5 pages in length and will require you to draw connections between course concepts and real-world events and experiences. The assignments are completely optional; you will not lose any marks for not submitting an assignment.

Each assignment will be worth up to 2% in bonus points which will simply be added on to your percentage grade at the end of the semester. Assignments will be graded by the instructor or the TA using the simple 3-point system outlined below.

Full marks (2%) will be earned when:

- each of the questions for the assignment has been adequately addressed
- the answers demonstrate a clear understanding of the concepts involved
- there is evidence of adequate effort and insight in answering the questions
- the assignment is the correct length and is typed (12 or 14 point font)
- the assignment is free of typographical, grammatical, and spelling errors
- the assignment is submitted by the specified due date

Part marks (1%) will be earned if one or two of the criteria above have not been met, i.e.:

- not all questions have been adequately addressed
- incomplete understanding of at least one concept
- evidence of only minimal effort and insight in answering the questions
- the assignment is too short or too long or is not typed
- there are typos, spelling errors, or many awkwardly worded passages
- the assignment is late by one day

Zero marks (0%) will be earned if:

- several of the problems mentioned above are evident
- the assignment is late by more than one day

Thus, by completing both of the assignments you could increase your final course grade by up to 4%, an amount which could potentially improve the letter grade you receive (e.g., from a B+ to a A-). More importantly, by completing the assignments you could gain a deeper understanding of the course concepts and how they apply to the world around you.

Your final letter grade in the course will follow the system outlined in the WLU calendar (i.e., A+ = 90 – 100, A = 85 – 89, etc.).

COURSE SCHEDULE:

| WEEK | TOPIC | CHAPTER |
|-------------------|--|----------------|
| 1. Sept 15, 17 | Introduction to Social Psychology | 1 |
| 2. Sept 22, 24 | Attitudes and Behavior | 4 |
| 3. Sept 29, Oct 1 | Social Judgment: Attribution | 3 |
| 4. Oct 6, 8 | Social Judgment: Schemas, Memories, Expectancies | 3 |
| 5. Oct 13, 15 | Self, Identity, and Culture | 2, 8 |
| 6. Oct 20, 22 | Group Processes MIDTERM EXAM: Tuesday October 20 LECTURES WEEKS 1-5; CHAPTERS 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 | 7 |
| 7. Oct 27, 29 | Conformity and Obedience | 6 |
| 8. Nov 3, 5 | Persuasion OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENT 1: due Tuesday November 3 | 5 |
| 9. Nov 10, 12 | Prejudice | 12 |
| 10. Nov 17, 19 | Aggression | 10 |
| 11. Nov 24, 26 | Altruism MIDTERM EXAM: Tuesday November 24 LECTURES WEEKS 6-10; CHAPTERS 5, 6, 7, 10, 12 | 9 |
| 12. Dec 1, 3 | Attraction and Close Relationships OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENT 2: due Thurs Dec 3 | 11 |
| | FINAL EXAM: SCHEDULED BY REGISTRAR LECTURES WEEKS 1-12 CHAPTERS 1-12 (omit Modules A, B, C) | |

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS:

New Course Drop Dates 2009/2010:

Please refer to the Undergraduate Academic Calendar - Academic Dates 2009-2010 – For details of course add/drop dates, etc.

Examination Deferrals:

The Academic Date section of the Calendar (Web Site Version) clearly states the examination date period for each semester. **Students must note that they are required to reserve this time in their personal calendars for the examinations. The examination period for this school year is December 10-22, 2009 for Fall Term, and April 8 - 27, 2010 for Winter Term.** Students who are considering registering to write MCAT, LSAT or GMAT or a similar examination, should select a time for those examinations that occurs outside the University examination period. For additional information that describes the special circumstances for examination deferral, consult the University calendar.

Student Awareness of the Accessible Learning Office:

Students with disabilities or special needs, are advised to contact Laurier's Accessible Learning Office for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.

Academic and Research Misconduct:

Academic misconduct is an act by a student, or by students working on a team project, which may result in a false evaluation of the student(s), or which represents a deliberate attempt to unfairly gain an academic advantage, where the student either knew or ought reasonably to have known that it was misconduct. Please refer to the University Calendar Web Site for further clarification of academic and research misconduct.

Plagiarism Detection Software:

Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.

Learning Services:

Please go to the Learning Services webpage for detailed information at www.wlu.ca/learningservices. The Learning Services office is located on the first floor of the WLU Library.

Laurier Email Account:

Students are expected to regularly check their Laurier email account for important notices from the university community. Students are also expected to send emails to official members of the university community from their Laurier email account in order to ensure delivery.

Foot Patrol:

