

Topics in Social Psychology – PSYC-4400-001
Fall 2021 Course Outline
Tuesday/Thursday 10:00am – 11:15am Online Live

Professor: Dr. Lisa Sinclair (she/her)
Office: Virtual

Phone: Zoom
Office Hours: by appt.

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Course Description and Objectives: This course will focus on a number of topics in social psychology related to prejudice and discrimination that are of interest to seminar members. The objectives of this course are:

- 1) to provide students with an overview of some of the theory and research in social psychology.
- 2) to give students the opportunity to examine the methodologies employed by social psychologists.
- 3) to improve students' ability to *read, critique, present, discuss* and *write about* research.

Discussing social psychological topics can sometimes be tricky as these issues can be intertwined with our experiences, political ideologies, and beliefs. Sometimes, these topics lead to emotionally-charged discussions. Other times these topics are avoided. In this class, our aim is to engage these topics directly, but respectfully, in order to explore important social psychological mechanisms and theory that underlie issues in our society.

Required Readings: The readings for this course are a series of journal articles and book chapters that can be found on Nexus.

Course Requirements:

Seminar Presentation/Discussion Leader (10%): Each student will be responsible for leading at least part of one seminar (number of presentations will depend on class size). At least *8 days* before the seminar, presenters must assign the class an academic reading related to their presentation that has been approved by the professor. By 8pm the night before the seminar, the presenter must upload a copy of their powerpoint to Nexus. More details will be given in class about presentation requirements. Failure to present a seminar on the assigned date (without an acceptable excuse as described below) will result in a grade of 0.

Term Paper Presentation/Discussion Leader (30%): Each student will be responsible for making a presentation to the class based on their term paper. At least *8 days* before the seminar, presenters must upload to Nexus at least three academic readings related to their presentation. By 8pm the night before the seminar, the presenter must upload a copy of their powerpoint to Nexus. More details will be given in class about presentation requirements. Failure to present a seminar on the assigned date (without an acceptable excuse as described below) will result in a grade of 0.

Missed Presentation: A grade of 0 will be given for any presentation that a student fails to present. However, exceptions will be made for legitimate medical or compassionate reasons (illness, physical disability, domestic affliction, or religious holidays). Students will be permitted to do a make-up presentation provided that they: a) Notify me before the scheduled time of the presentation AND b)* Be prepared to provide appropriate documentation (a medical certificate from your physician; documentation from a counsellor, lawyer, advising clergy, etc.). **Please note:** Documentation must state that the student was unable to present on the assigned presentation date. There are **no exceptions** to this policy. *Please check with me before seeking documentation.

Active and Engaged Class Participation (10%): Because this seminar relies heavily on discussion, attendance is essential. Please be punctual in your arrival (in fact, attendance and punctuality are important enough that they will be factored into your participation grade). The value of our seminar depends on what you bring to it; each member of the class is *personally* responsible for the quality of our time together. Good participators, for the

purpose of this seminar, will speak openly: Good ideas often come from confusion, so don't be afraid to speak up if you don't feel 100% sure of what you're talking about. Of course, good participants will also recognize when to drop an issue, and when they are boring everyone else to death. To participate fully: (1) complete all readings before we meet, (2) come with a few good questions or issues for discussion, (3) contribute to the group without dominating the group discussion, (4) help create a climate in which others can comfortably share their opinions.

Post-Seminar Critical Reflection (10%): For each presentation or seminar discussion you will be asked to submit one critical reflection to Nexus (see Assignment tab). The reflection should be at least 3-5 sentences and about something you found interesting or learned from the seminar. In addition, if you want, you could end your reflection with a question, the seminar raised for you and even attempt to answer or reflect on your question. Each reflection will be worth 1 point and graded for "participation". To get full points for the reflection, you must have been in the seminar and demonstrate you learned something from the seminar. Students who miss seminar may still hand in a reflection based on the seminar powerpoint and readings but they will only get 0.5 points. Reflections are due by noon the day following the seminar. Late reflections will not be accepted.

Thought papers (5%): You will be asked to write 5 "thought papers" throughout the term. If you wish to submit more than 5, the best 5 will be included in your mark. Thought papers should be no more than two pages, typed, doubled-spaced and in APA format with the date, topic and number of the thought paper appearing at the top of the page (a title page is not needed). You have some flexibility in what you discuss in your thought paper but it must be based on an assigned reading for the seminar that day. You are expected to provide more than just a summary of articles, but what you write about is up to you. Here are a few examples. You can discuss a problem with a theory or research approach, or suggest ways to extend the research in a new direction. You could describe how an idea might have implications in the "real world" and offer real or hypothetical examples of how the theory might apply. You could link the material to another course or to a reading from an earlier week. Papers should be focused and analytical (not just personal reactions). Each thought paper is due before the beginning of seminar and you may only hand in one paper a seminar. I will only accept thought papers for seminars you attend fully. They will be graded primarily on the basis of critical thinking, but variety and style will also be considered. That is, papers should not become *repetitive* (e.g. giving the same critique week after week), and they should not be *sloppy*. Papers may be used as a vehicle for further class discussion. I will grade these papers using the following scale: exceptional papers will receive a $\sqrt{+}$, most papers will receive $\sqrt{}$, and those in need of improvement will receive a $\sqrt{-}$. Papers turned in late or not at all will receive a 0.

Term Paper (35%): Students will write a **review paper** on a topic of their choice in the area of the social psychology of prejudice and discrimination. The paper may be of recent research on the entire topic, or may review research relevant to a particular issue, problem, debate, or application within that topic. The paper should go beyond merely summarizing the research and its results, to include some analysis of theory, methodology, emerging themes, etc. The paper should also include an indication of what directions would be fruitful for future research to take.

All papers should be approximately 12-15 pages excluding title page and references, 15 references minimum, typed, 12 inch font, 1.5" margins, double-spaced and in APA 7 format. Papers are to be uploaded to Nexus by December 15, 2021. Maximum value of late papers will be reduced by one letter grade of each day late (e.g. A to A-). Students may be granted an extension for legitimate medical or compassionate reasons (see missed presentation).

NOTE: Keep all notecards, photocopies, drafts, etc. that you use in writing your paper until I turn in your final grade for the semester. I reserve the right to request these materials without any notice.

Term Paper Proposal: In order to ensure that your proposed review topics are clearly within the domain of social psychology and that you have chosen a manageable topic, you will provide me with a brief outline (i.e. 1-2 pages; point form is fine) of your proposed paper including at least five references. This **short proposal** should be submitted to me through Nexus at least two weeks before your term paper presentation, however, I strongly encourage you to provide it to me ASAP so that you may begin working on your presentation and paper. No term papers will be accepted without an approved proposal.

GRADES:

A+	95-100	B+	75-79	C+	65-69	D	55-59
A	85-94	B	70-74	C	60-64	F	0-54
A-	80-84						

These cutoffs are tentative and may be changed in either direction by (i) the professor, (ii) the Departmental Review Committee, or (iii) the Senate, when circumstances warrant.

Grades will be rounded to the nearest integer.

COURSE DELIVERY: Live Online - Scheduled class times will take place using an online platform. Students must be available during the posted lecture times for live streaming and/or group interactions. High speed internet and access to an electronic device with a webcam (e.g., smart phone, laptop) is mandatory.

COPYRIGHT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides—irrespective of format. Students who upload these materials to file sharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before, for example, photographing, recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students found to be in violation of an instructor's intellectual property rights could face serious consequences pursuant to the *Academic Misconduct* or *Non-Academic Misconduct Policy*; such consequences could possibly involve legal sanction under the *Copyright Policy* https://copyright.uwinnipeg.ca/docs/copyright_policy_2017.pdf

OTHER UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

1. All students, faculty, and staff have the right to participate, learn, and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.
2. Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams or during lectures/laboratories are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204.786.9771 or <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility-services/> to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.
3. Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make-up work and/or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar, in the section, Important Notes (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/dates.html>).
4. The dates the University is closed for holidays and when there are no classes, irrespective of campus closure related to COVID-19:

- Thursday, September 30, 2021 (the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation): make-up lecture day will be Wednesday, December 8 and will be scheduled in accordance with a Thursday schedule.
- Thanksgiving Day (October 11)
- November 11 (Remembrance Day): make-up lecture day is December 7 and will be scheduled in accordance with a Thursday schedule.
- Fall mid-term reading week is October 10 – 16 (no lectures)

5. The final date for Voluntary Withdrawal without academic penalty is November 16, 2021. If you are considering withdrawing from this course, I encourage you to talk to me in case I can help in anyway.

Withdrawing before the VW date does not result in a fee refund.

6. Students should familiarize themselves with the Regulations and Policies section of the Course Calendar, including Senate appeals and academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, cheating):

<http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf> .

7. Students can find answers to frequently ask questions related to remote learning here:

<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/covid-19/remote-learning-faq.html>

8. Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their University of Winnipeg email address (Name@webmail.uwinnipeg.ca) to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the University and/or their course instructors.

9. All work should be submitted through Nexus.

10. Course delivery will occur through Zoom.

11. For more information about programs in Psychology, tutoring, visiting speakers, registration information, research opportunities, and employment visit the Psychology website at <http://psychology.uwinnipeg.ca> and our Facebook Page: Psychology Department @ UWinnipeg.

(<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>)

12. A permitted or necessary change in mode of delivery may require adjustments to important aspects of course outlines, like class schedule and the number, nature, and weighting of assignments and/or exams.

13. When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, every effort will be made to inform students via Nexus.

14. Students should familiarize themselves with their rights in relation to the collecting of personal data by the University (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy-notice.html>), as well as the use of Zoom for remote teaching (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>) and for testing/proctoring (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>)

15. The first day of class is Sept 7. Last class will be held on Dec 8. Make-up classes will be held on Dec 7 for Sept 30 and on Dec 8 for November 11. Evaluation period is Friday, Dec. 10 to Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021.

Enjoy the course!

Lisa Sinclair