

University of Alberta
Psychology 241 B1: Social Psychology
Winter 2012: January 9– April 13

Class times: Tuesday and Thursday 2 pm – 3:20 pm @ ESB 3-27

Course Website: <http://www.ualberta.ca/WEBCT/>

Instructor: Takahiko Masuda, Ph. D. **Office:** BSP-355
Phone: 492-7861 **Office hours:** Friday 2 pm – 3 pm
Email: tmasuda@ualberta.ca. (Please *always* put PSYCO 241 under the subject heading.)

T.A.: Matt Russell
Office: BSP-319F
Office hours: Monday 11-12, Thursday 11-12
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Textbook:

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., & Nisbett, R. E. (2011). Social Psychology, 2nd edition. New York, NY: W. W. Norton. ISBN 978-0-393-93258-4

Course Description: We are not living alone. Our behavior is inherently social. PSYCO 241 presents an introduction to a number of issues in social psychology, as well as research relevant to some of the major problems in the study of social psychology: Why are certain types of people attractive to you? When are we influenced by others? Why do people cooperate with or hate each other? How do we interpret and understand ourselves, others, and the social world that surrounds us? This course will introduce the underlying psychological processes that can provide some answers to the above questions, and will focus on two major distal factors that have likely influenced these processes: namely Evolution and Culture. Are there any evolutionary reasons for our social behaviors? How does a given culture influence our social behaviors? In answering these questions, we will cover a large body of empirical evidence for evolutionary and cultural psychology.

Prerequisites: Prerequisites of the course are PSYCO 104 or SCI 100, and PSYCO 105 or equivalent.

Lectures: In my lectures I will be introducing, clarifying, and elaborating on material related to the course, some of it in the text and some not. Lecture time is limited. *You will be responsible for a great deal of the information in the text on your own.* Just because I haven't lectured on it doesn't mean you aren't responsible for it.

Evaluation: Exams will be based both on the text and on lecture material. Note that exams will not include overly detailed questions. The emphasis will be on conceptual and application questions. You should know the material in three ways: (a) understand the technical language; (b) be able to word it in ordinary language; and (c) be able to recognize it in the real world. The final grade will be based on three exams, two midterms, and a final. These will be weighted as follows to yield the final grade:

Midterm 1 and 2 will consist of 60 multiple choice questions. You will have 70 min to complete the exam. Each midterm will include only the readings and the lecture material covered immediately preceding that midterm. The final exam will consist of 100 multiple choice questions. Before each exam, I will have a summary session and provide sample questions and answers to help you in your studying. **Note: The final will be cumulative for all lecture materials from the beginning of the course.** You will have 2 hours to complete the final.

Midterm 1:	Thursday, Feb 16(Th) in class	30% of the grade
Midterm 2:	Tuesday, Mar 20 (T) in class	30% of the grade
Final:	Monday, Apr 19 (F) in class	40% of the grade
Total		100% of the grade

Absence from exams: Note that there will be no make-up examinations for midterm #1 and midterm #2. If an examination is missed due to a serious medical condition verified by University Health Services or a personal physician, the weight of the term examination will be transferred to the final examination. In order to exercise this option, the instructor must be contacted within 48 hours of the scheduled examination time and date. If the final examination is missed, the deferred examination will be held on **Monday, May 7, 2012** at BSP-123 (Time will be announced later) .

SSDS Support: If you are hampered by visual or auditory limitations, or if you have a learning disability, please contact Services for Students with Disabilities in SUB. It is possible both to get help with note taking and/or to get extra time for writing examinations.

Academic Offences: 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 Behavior and avoid any behavior 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. (online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm)

Final Grades: Final grades are reported using letter grades. Final grades are determined after combining midterm scores and the final examination scores. The grades are curved. Students are ranked in order of total scores and a grade is assigned so that the class average falls approximately within the University-suggested ranges shown below:

Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Distribution	5%	7%	12%	15%	16%	14%	11%	8%	5%	3%	2%	2%

Course Outline

XX

Jan 10 (T): Course Guidance
Jan 12 (Th): Ch. 1, Introduction
Jan 17 (T): Ch. 8. Social Influence
Jan 19 (Th): Ch. 9. Persuasion
Jan 24 (T): Ch. 10, Attraction
Jan 26 (Th): Group Processes: Video “**Twelve Angry Men**”
Jan 31 (T): Group Processes: Video “**Twelve Angry Men**” cont’ Ch. 11, Relationship
Feb 2 (Th): Ch. 11, Relationship (cont’), Ch. 14, Group
Feb 7 (T): Ch. 14, Group (con’t)
Feb 9 (Th): Ch. 6, Attitudes, Behavior, Rationalization
Feb 14 (T): **Guest Lecture: Attitude Formation: Terror Management Theory**

Midterm 1: Feb 16 (Th) in class (70 min)
(Range: Ch 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14 + Video)

Feb 21-24 Reading Week Break

Feb 28 (T): Ch. 3, The Social Self (1)
Mar 1 (Th): Ch. 3, The Social Self (2)
Mar 6 (T): Ch. 4, Understanding Others --Causal Attribution (1)
Mar 8 (Th): Ch. 4, Understanding Others --Causal Attribution (2)
Mar 13 (T): Ch. 5, Social Judgment (1)
Mar 15 (Th): Ch. 5, Social Judgment (2)

Midterm 2: Mar 20 (T) in class (70 min)
(Range: Ch 3, 4, 5, 6 + Terror Management Theory)

Mar 22 (Th): Ch. 7, Emotion
Mar 27 (T): Ch. 12, Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination (1)
Mar 29 (Th): Ch. 12, Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination (2)
Apr 3 (T): Ch. 13, Helping, Hurting, and Cooperating (1)
Apr 5 (Th): Ch. 13, Helping, Hurting, and Cooperating (2)
Apr 10 (T): **Guest Lecture: Social Neuroscience**
Apr 12 (Th): Ch. 15, Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise: Social Psychology Applied

Final Exam: Apr 19(F) in class (2 hours)
(Range: All materials)

XX

NOTE: Policy about course outlines can be found in '23.4(2) of the University Calendar.