



**COURSE OUTLINE**

**PSYC 203**

**SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**45 HOURS  
3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. R. James McClelland, Instructor

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BY: ALR  
Dr. Andrew Richardson, Dean

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**YUKON COLLEGE**

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Course Outline prepared by Dr. R. James McClelland, October 2014.

Yukon College  
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Whitehorse, YT  
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APPLIED ARTS DIVISION  
Social Psychology  
3 Credit Course  
Winter Semester, 2015

## SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

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**INSTRUCTOR:** R. James McClelland, Ph.D.      **OFFICE HOURS:** M/W 1:00 -2:30  
**OFFICE LOCATION:** A2911A      **CLASSROOM:** TBA  
**E-MAIL:** [jmcclelland@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:jmcclelland@yukoncollege.yk.ca)      **TIME:** 9:00 - 10:30  
**TELEPHONE:** 668-8867      **DATES:** Monday & Wednesday

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### COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Examines how social psychologists use experimental and correlational research methods to gain insight into social behaviour and how social psychological theories can be used to understand behaviour and judgments in everyday life.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social Psychology is the scientific study of how individuals think, behave, and are influenced by others. Current theories in the field will be applied to real-life situations to make sense of human behaviour. Topics covered include behaviour and attitudes, social beliefs, cultural influences, conformity and obedience, self-knowledge and self-esteem, persuasion, group influence, aggression, altruism, prejudice and discrimination, stress and health, legal testimonies and law, and inter-personal relationships. In-class experiments, group discussions and hands-on activities are important learning tools used in this course.

### PREREQUISITES

PSYC 100 or PSYC 101.

## EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

AU PSYC 379 (3)	CAMO PSYC 203 (3)	KWAN PSYC 2330 (3)
SFU PSYC 260 (3)	TRU PSYC 2220 (3)	
TRU-OL PSYC 2XX1 (3) ; May not take Psyc 3611 for additional credit		
TWU PSYC 200 lev (3) ; May not take TWU PSYC 315 for credit		
UBC PSYC 2nd (3)	UFV PSYC 260 (3)	UVIC PSYC 200 lev (1.5)

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, which includes timely submission of *all* assignments, students will have developed knowledge and understanding of:

- social thinking
- social influence
- social relations
- basic research skills.

## COURSE FORMAT

The course will consist of lectures, class discussions, debates, demonstrations, and supplementary audio-visual materials.

## ATTENDANCE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to attend regularly, complete all assignments, and to participate actively in class discussions. Since a large portion of the examinable material will be based on classroom information, attendance is critical. If you miss a class, please arrange with another student to take notes and to inform you of in-class experiences. Students are responsible for obtaining handouts and completing assignments for any classes missed. Class discussion is an important element in this course. Students will be responsible for the readings assigned and should be prepared to discuss these readings and share their insights in class.

All written assignment must be handed in by 9:00 am on the due date. There is a penalty for late assignments of 10% per day, including weekends. Only in extreme, unforeseen circumstances will a late assignment be accepted without penalty.

## ASSESSMENTS

Attendance/Participation

10%

Regular attendance and in class participation, including the use of i>clickers is expected. Missed classes and non-participation will result in a reduction of the mark.

**Midterm Exam** Due: February 18<sup>th</sup> 25%

The mid-term is scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> and will be a multiple choice exam.

**Critical Response Journal/Portfolio** Due: April 1<sup>st</sup> 35%

The goal of the critical response journal/portfolio is to help you evaluate and apply the material in each chapter and recognize instances in everyday life where social psychology is applicable. You will require a binder or notebook specifically for this chapter by chapter assignment. It is suggested that you write a critical response after the completion of every chapter. Portfolio material can be added to your binders from such things as clippings from newspapers or magazines that illustrate concepts from social psychology. Examples might include material that has been derived from articles, editorials, advice columns, photographs, or cartoons. You will need to write a summary of each clipping and indicate how it relates to social psychology. There is no limit to how much you write but please keep your material to areas that are relevant to the course and use proper grammatical form. Your writing should demonstrate that you have put thought into how the chapter relates to your experiences and how portfolio clippings relate to concepts of social psychology. Your critical response journal/portfolio will be due no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> at the beginning of the class, without incurring a 10% per day penalty, including weekends.

**Final Exam** Due: Exam Week 30%

The final exam will be comprehensive and take place during the regularly scheduled exam period (Dec. 13 - 24). It will be 3 hours in duration and will contain multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Students must achieve a passing grade of 50% on the final examination in order to pass the course. A failed final exam will result in a failed course.

Alternate arrangements will not be made for students unable to write the final examination at the scheduled time/date unless exceptional circumstances prevail and the instructor has given approval in advance.

All evaluative components for this course are compulsory, and must be completed in order to pass the course.

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS**

Sanderson, C., & Safdar, S. (2012). *Social psychology*, (Canadian ed.). Mississauga,

ON: Wiley & Sons.  
Purchase ISBN 978047067809  
**PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or [lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca](mailto:lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca).

### **WRITING CENTRE**

All students are encouraged to make the Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. Located in C2231 (adjacent the College Library), the Writing Centre offers half-hour writing coaching sessions to students of all writing abilities. Coaching sessions are available in person and through distance technologies (e.g., email plus Skype or phone). For further information or to book an appointment, visit the Centre's website: [www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student\\_info/pages/writing\\_centre](http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student_info/pages/writing_centre).

## TOPIC OUTLINE

**PSYC 203 – Winter 2015 – Syllabus**

**Dr. R. James McClelland**

Note:

- All scheduled readings must be done ahead of time, i.e., before they are discussed in class.
- The following schedule of readings is tentative; specified texts may be dropped and others added depending on the pace of the class.
- For extra help with any writing make an appointment (online or in person) with the Writing Centre.
- For help with any learning problems make an appointment (online or in-person) with the Learning Assistance Centre.

### **January 5**

- WELCOME
  - Introductions
  - Course outline and Syllabus
  - Assignments/participation
  - Use of textbook and supplemental materials
- INTRODUCING SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (CHAPTER 1)
  - What is social psychology?
  - How has social psychology evolved over time?
  - Is social psychology really just common sense?
  - How is social psychology connected to other fields?
  - How does social psychology apply across cultures and subcultures?

### **January 7**

- RESEARCH METHODS (CHAPTER 2)
  - How do researchers in social psychology test their ideas?
  - What are the different types of correlational research methods?
  - How do you conduct experimental research?

### **January 12**

- RESEARCH METHODS (CHAPTER 2 CONTINUED)
  - How do you conduct qualitative research?
  - What are the ethical issues involved in conducting research in social psychology?
  - How does culture influence research findings?

### **January 14**

- THE SELF: SELF-PERCEPTION (CHAPTER 3)
  - What are the self-concept and self-awareness?
  - How do personal factors influence the self-concept and self-awareness?
  - How do social factors influence the self-concept?

- How do people maintain a positive self-concept?

### **January 19**

- THE SELF: SELF-PRESENTATION (CHAPTER 3 CONTINUED)
  - How do people present themselves to others?
  - How does culture influence self?

### **January 21**

- SOCIAL PERCEPTION (CHAPTER 4)
  - How do we think about how other people do what they do?
  - What types of errors do we make in thinking about other people?
  - Why do we make errors when we think about other people?

### **January 26**

- SOCIAL PERCEPTION (CHAPTER 4 CONTINUED)
  - How do we form impressions of people based on nonverbal behaviour?
  - How does culture relate to social perception?
  - How does culture influence expressions of emotion?

### **January 28**

- SOCIAL COGNITION (CHAPTER 5)
  - How can shortcuts lead to errors in thinking about the world?
  - How does presentation influence how we think about the world?
  - How do we form impressions of people?

### **February 2**

- SOCIAL COGNITION (CHAPTER 5 CONTINUED)
  - How do beliefs create reality?
  - How does culture influence social cognition?

### **February 4**

- ATTITUDE FORMATION AND CHANGE (CHAPTER 6)
  - How do we form attitudes?
  - When do attitudes predict behaviour?
  - When does engaging in a behaviour lead to attitude change?

### **February 9**

- ATTITUDE FORMATION AND CHANGE (CHAPTER 6 CONTINUED)
  - What alternatives are there to cognitive dissonance theory?
  - How does culture impact attitude formation and change?

### **February 11**

- PERSUASION (CHAPTER 7)
  - How do we process persuasive messages?
  - What factors influence persuasion?
  - How can subtle factors influence persuasion?



- How can you resist persuasion?
- How does culture influence persuasion?

### **February 16**

- SOCIAL INFLUENCE: NORMS, CONFORMITY, COMPLIANCE, & OBEDIENCE (CHAPTER 8)
  - How do social norms influence behaviour?
  - What factors lead to conformity?
  - What factors lead to compliance?

### **February 18**

- MID TERM EXAM

### **February 23**

- SOCIAL INFLUENCE: NORMS, CONFORMITY, COMPLIANCE, & OBEDIENCE (CHAPTER 8 CONTINUED)
  - What factors lead to obedience?
  - How does culture affect social influence?

### **February 25**

- GROUP PROCESSES (CHAPTER 9)
  - How do groups influence behaviour?
  - How do intragroup processes influence decision-making?
  - How do leaders guide and motivate the group?
  - How do groups handle social dilemmas?
  - How does culture relate to intragroup processes?

### **March 2**

- INTERGROUP RELATIONS (CHAPTER 10)
  - How do different theories explain intergroup relations?
  - How does intergroup conflict develop?

### **March 4**

- INTERGROUP RELATIONS (CHAPTER 10 CONTINUED)
  - How can intergroup conflict be resolved?
  - How does culture relate to intergroup relations?

### **March 9**

- STEREOTYPE, PREJUDICE, & DISCRIMINATION (CHAPTER 11)
  - What factors contribute to stereotyping and prejudice?
  - What are the consequences of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination?

### **March 11**

- STEREOTYPE, PREJUDICE, & DISCRIMINATION (CHAPTER 11 CONTINUED)
  - Is stereotyping inevitable?
  - How can social and cognitive interventions help overcome prejudice?
  - How does culture relate to prejudice and stereotypes?

### **March 23**

- AGGRESSION (CHAPTER 12)
  - Definition of aggression
  - How do biological factors influence aggression?
  - How do social psychological factors influence aggression?

### **March 25**

- AGGRESSION (CHAPTER 12 CONTINUED)
  - How do the media influence aggression?
  - How can we reduce aggression?
  - How does culture relate to aggression?

### **March 30**

- ALTRUISM AND PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (CHAPTER 13)
  - How do personal factors influence helping?
  - How do situational factors influence helping?
  - Does pure altruism exist?

### **April 1**

- ALTRUISM AND PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (CHAPTER 13 CONTINUED)
  - Who gets help when they are in need?
  - How does culture influence helping?
- CRITICAL RESPONSE JOURNAL/PORTFOLIO DUE (AT BEGINNING OF CLASS)

### **April 8**

- INTERPERSONAL ATTRACTION AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS (CHAPTER 14)
  - What factors lead to attraction?
  - What is love?
  - What predicts a happy and healthy relationship?
  - What are some common problems in close relationships?
  - How does culture influence attraction and close relationships?

### **April 13–24**

- EXAM PERIOD
  - PSYC 203 Exam Date and Time TBA