

Sociology 242:A1

Biologically Coordinated Social Psychology

Fall 2015

MWF 10:00-10:50, TB-113

Dr. Leslie Hayduk
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Tory 4-21, 780-492-2730
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:00
Friday 11:00-11:30
or by appointment
Class 52144, Sept 1/15
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Registration Requirements

Prerequisites: SOC 100 or 300, or PSYCO 104 or 105, or EDPY 200.

Course Perspective and Structure

This course is designed to provide a biologically consistent introduction to individual and group behaviors observed in social processes. This class examines topics traditionally covered under the title of social psychology, but it differs from traditional social psychology in that it strives for an understanding that is consistent with what is known about people as physiological beings. No prior physiological or biological training is required, and social psychology (not physiology) will be the focus of the exams.

I will attempt to devote a segment of each class to open class discussion. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these discussions, because participation provides opportunities to concretise and clarify the lecture materials, as well as to pursue points of personal interest. No marks will be attached to participating in the discussions but the substance of the discussions will constitute part of the material covered on the exams.

Course Materials

There is no required text for this course. Instead, a series of e-class materials will accompany the lectures. The class e-materials will be made progressively available via e-class. For access to this: from the University of Alberta home page, click on “e-class”, select “Credit Course” and click on “continue”, enter your university ID and password, and SOC242 should appear as a clickable option that links you to the relevant class materials.

Exams

Mid-Term Exam: Friday October 16, covering lectures, readings, and class discussions to date. **This exam will NOT be held in the regular classroom, but the mid-term exam room has not been scheduled yet. The room will be announced in class and replaced on this syllabus when it becomes available.** _____

Final Exam: This exam will emphasise material covered since the mid-term exam (including DVD's), but some sections of this exam will require integrating or referring to materials introduced throughout the entire term.

This exam is *tentatively* scheduled for Tuesday December 15, 9:00AM but the official time and location of the final exam will be specified on BearTracks.

Your UNIVERSITY ID will be required at both exams.

Both exams are closed-book, and they will contain both multiple choice and written-answer questions. The mid-term will be roughly 2/3 multiple choice, and 1/3 written. The final will be roughly 1/3 multiple choice, and 2/3 written. The written components of the exams usually consist of several questions each requiring a paragraph-length answer, and not one big essay. Some example exam questions will be provided near the end of the Chapter 1 e-class materials, and additional example questions will be provided during the review class that precedes the mid-term exam.

Diary Project

Each student will prepare a **diary** project connected to a social psychology *research article chosen by the student* and addressing a social psychological topic *of interest to the student*.

The basic structure of this project is as follows:

Use Google Scholar (another search engine, or the library) to find a relatively recent research article on a social psychological topic *of interest to you*. Show that article to me (just before or after class) so that I can check:

that it is not too statistically difficult (I will provide a brief statistical discussion after the mid-term exam);

that it is not too long or complicated for a Soc242 project; and

that it really is a research article containing some data, as opposed to being a review or mere discussion of research by others.

Once an acceptable article is located, a **PAPER** version of the article must be shown to me. *I will initial and date the article as being OK'd as a Soc242 project, and this OK'd copy of the article must be submitted along with a paper copy of the student's diary the day of the last scheduled class. (A 10% penalty will be assessed if my OK/initial does not appear on the article submitted with the project diary.)*

The diary might begin with a brief (very short paragraph) summarizing the article's research focus. The remainder of the diary will consist of **DATED** diary entries that examine the article **from the perspective of the class materials**. That is, after each lecture, or perhaps after a week's worth of lectures, the student should try to connect my lectures to what their article claims or says. It is not unusual for a student's chosen article to not have paid attention to human physiology or biology, so several of the connections to the class materials may consist of attempts to find connections that the article's authors failed to recognise. The diary might report on the student's attempt to check out, refine, or evaluate claims the authors made. Lectures will provide multiple suggestions for things the diary might consider. No library research is required, and usually no references are required because the only references would be to the article-provided and class materials. Do not change any diary entries (except for spelling/grammar) after the date they were written. If you change your mind about something, write a later diary entry indicating what you would like to change, and why you would like to make the change. The dating of the diary entries means you will NOT have to duplicate or summarize anything about my corresponding lectures. I will know what I discussed on the various dates, and hence the diary is free to focus on connections to your article. It is permissible to be critical – sometimes very critical – of what the authors wrote.

Diaries are usually between 8 and 15 pages, though there is no specific required length. A typical diary entry is a paragraph in length, but some entries may be considerably longer if there is something you wish to consider in more depth.

Any contributions made by other students during class discussions, or anyone outside class, must be appropriately documented. Similarly, any assistance with the diary obtained from any other source must be appropriately documented.

A typed paper-version of the diary, along with the OK'd copy of the article, are due the last day of class. (A *penalty of 20% per day* will be assessed for late diary projects.) **The diary format using DATED entries is required, unless prior written permission to do otherwise has been received.**

Course Requirements, Grades, Weighting and Procedures

Grading

Grades are based on the percentage categories shown below, using the following calculation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Percent} = & (\text{percent received for performance on Mid-term Test}) \times 30 \\ & + (\text{percent received for performance on Final Exam}) \times 35 \\ & + (\text{percent received for performance on diary project}) \times 35 \end{aligned}$$

Percents will be rounded up to the next whole percent if the first decimal is $\geq .5$ and will remain unchanged at the whole percent if the first decimal is $\leq .4$. Letter grades are converted to points by the University to calculate GPA.

| Percentage | Letter Grade | Point Value |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| 88-100 | A+ | 4.0 |
| 84-87 | A | 4.0 |
| 80-83 | A- | 3.7 |
| 76-79 | B+ | 3.3 |
| 72-75 | B | 3.0 |
| 68-71 | B- | 2.7 |
| 64-67 | C+ | 2.3 |
| 60-63 | C | 2.0 |
| 56-59 | C- | 1.7 |
| 52-55 | D+ | 1.3 |
| 50-51 | D | 1.0 |
| 0-49 | Fail | 0.0 |

Learning and Working Environment

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behavior that undermines that environment. Anyone who feels that this policy is being violated is urged to:

- 1) Discuss the matter with the person whose behavior is causing concern; **OR**
- 2) If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>). Information about the University of Alberta discrimination and harassment policy and procedures is listed in UAPPOL (University Policies and Procedures Online) at www.uappol.ualberta.ca.

Academic Honesty

“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 Behaviour (online

at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca>) and avoid any behaviour that 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.

Students are encouraged to consult the [Office of Student Judicial Affairs](#) website for useful resources about academic integrity, cheating and plagiarism.”

Outline Policy

“Policy about course outlines can be found in §23.4(2) of the University Calendar.”

Recording of Lectures

“Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).”

Specialized Support & Disability Services

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Accessibility Services, contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; email ssdsrec@ualberta.ca ; phone 780-492-3381; web www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grades

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in this course. Absence should be considered only for reasons such as incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction, or religious convictions. For procedures for addressing absences and course components missed as a result, consult sections §23.3(1) and §23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for any components that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

For absences from Term Work:

The student should notify the instructor by e-mail within two working days of a missed graded component (or as soon as possible, having regard for the circumstances underlying the absence).

Documentation may be requested:

For medical illness, the students can present one of the following:

- 1) “University of Alberta Medical Statement” signed by a doctor (this cannot be required, but will be accepted if provided in lieu of other documents)

2) “Medical Declaration Form for Students” (for Faculty of Arts students, obtained from http://www.foa.ualberta.ca/en/Undergraduate_Programs/Student_Services/Forms%20Cabinet.aspx)

3) “Statutory Declaration” (for students in Faculties other than Arts, to be obtained from the student’s home Faculty or the Office of the Registrar)

For other acceptable absences, such as domestic afflictions or religious convictions, the student should submit appropriate documentation of the situation.

- 1) For a death in the family – a copy of the death certificate
- 2) For religious conflict – a letter from the church or pastor
- 3) For a car accident – a copy of the accident report
- 4) For other serious afflictions – consult with the instructor or Sociology Department about appropriate documents.

“Instructors may either waive the term work or term exam, or require the student to make up the term work or term exam. For a waiver, the percentage weight allotted to the term work or term exam missed may be distributed to other term work, term exams, and/or the final exam as decided by the instructor. For make-ups, the student is required to complete equivalent term work or term exam as decided by the instructor. If the student does not complete the make-up as prescribed by the instructor, a raw score of zero will be assigned for the missed term work or term exam.”

Deferred Final Examination

Students approved for a deferred final exam will write on **Saturday January 16, 2016, at 9:00am, BUS 1-06.**

Only the student’s home Faculty can grant a deferred final exam. Instructors cannot grant final exam deferrals. . If you miss the final exam, students should contact their Faculty Student Services office to apply for a deferred exam within 2 working days from the date of the missed exam (or as soon as able, having regard for the circumstances underlying the absence).

As indicated in the University Calendar section 23.3(2)c: “A deferred final examination will not be approved if a student (a) has not been in regular attendance where attendance and/or participation are required, and/or, (b) excluding the final exam, has completed less than half of the assigned work, as stated in §23.3(2)c of the Calendar.

Students encountering difficulty with the course content, or whose performance on the mid-term exam is personally unsatisfactory, are encouraged to consult with the instructor as soon as possible so that remedial steps can be taken.

I wish you an enjoyable and instructive term.

L. Hayduk