

Social Psychology

SOC241:B1 Winter 2017

Tory 1-91

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 - 10:50

Dr. Leslie Hayduk

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Tory 4-21, 780-492-2730

Office Hours:

Monday 11:00-11:30

Friday 11:00-11:30

or by appointment

Class 79069, Jan 3/17

Textbook

The **required** course text is

R. **Baumeister** and B. **Bushman**, **Social Psychology and Human Nature: Custom Edition**.
Nelson Publishing, 2013, ISBN 0176583947

Registration Requirements

Prerequisites: SOC 100, or PSYCO 104 or 105, or consent of instructor

Anti-requisites: SOC 241 and PSYCO 241 may not both be taken for credit

Course Perspective and Structure

Daily human activity routinely occurs in the context of other people. The discipline of social psychology is an academic investigation of various aspects of social behaviors, including the thoughts and feelings coordinated with social activities. Over the past century social psychologists adopted a variety of investigative methods and multiple theoretical perspectives, which led to social psychology frequently being taught as a survey of the various methods and theories. In recent decades the discipline has matured sufficiently for emergence of an overall general structure that permits organizing many of the previously disjointed studies and perspectives. The new structure is still in flux, and it conflicts with some features and claims of various perspectives – which makes social psychology a dynamic, controversy-prone, and exciting arena of academic engagement.

The new systematizing structure originates in emerging understandings of the physiological capabilities and limitations the human body. This recommends learning something about the relevant physiological features, and how those features come to be coordinated with social thoughts, feelings, and activities. This course is structured to highlight the key features grounding the systematizing transformation, and to illustrate the frictions and disagreements created by the transformation. This is accomplished by incorporating both traditional and post-traditional course content. The Baumeister and Bushman (BB) text provides the traditional content, while the post-traditional content will be provided in

the lectures and e-materials. Multiple lecture notes and e-materials will be made available in coordination with the lectures, but some lecture points will *not* receive e-supplementation.

This class should have a feel of being “academically picky” about some fundamental presumptions (and alternatives to the presumptions) traditionally presented in social psychology texts. The course begins by considering what it is worth being academically-picky about, and subsequently strives for progressive extension of understandings consistent with the fundamental commitments/requirements. The course seeks, and strives to respect, fundamental analytical structures rather than surveying the full range of historically discussed topics. The class requires tolerance for learning different and even incompatible “explanations” of social psychological phenomena, as well as tolerance for learning criteria differentiating possible explanations. This class strives to assist students to become educated assessors of social psychological materials, rather than mere consumers of traditional social psychological materials.

You may find it beneficial to adopt different learning/studying styles for different portions of this course. Since there are competing explanations/understandings, you will want to learn the substance of each of the sets of claims/understandings. What does the Baumeister and Bushman (BB) text say/claim? And, what do the lectures and e-materials say/claim? These kinds of questions can be reasonably pursued as memory work. The differences between the two approaches, and the points of disagreement, contrast, friction and unclarity/confusion between the BB text and the lectures/e-materials will likely be more easily retained if you view or imagine the material as containing disagreements you might be randomly assigned to defend/agree-with either perspective. That is, it may assist you to *imagine* yourself being challenged to evaluate and defend *either* side of the various approaches, even though you will in fact NOT be required to take sides. The issue is not what you like/dislike but the features/considerations that lead toward supporting/defending or attacking/criticizing the various perspectives on social psychology. Class discussion typically helps grasp this material, so please speak up.

Examinations may include materials requiring application of the principles and topics covered in the lectures and text to novel examples/instances, including new instances of perspectival-disagreements encountered previously. You may find it helpful to use two highlighting colors in marking the Baumeister and Bushman (BB) text: e.g. yellow for your usual mode of highlighting, and red for specific BB statements I address or comment on during lectures.

The Baumeister and Bushman text (with some bundled content) will be available via the bookstore. The various e-class materials will be made progressively available in coordination with the lectures.

Course Requirements, Grades, Weighting and Procedures

There will be **three** exams, each containing only multiple choice questions. Material from the text, lectures, class discussions, and any DVDs, will be included on the exams. The two term tests will be 50 minutes each, and the final exam will be 2 hours. The weights for the exams are provided below.

Your UNIVERSITY ID will be required at ALL the exams.

The two Term Tests **MAY NOT** be held in the usual lecture room – it depends on class size and room layout. If the exams will be held in a different room, you will be notified of this in class as soon as this information becomes available.

Term Test 1 (50 minutes):
Friday February 3, 2017 in room _____ **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
Covering ALL the materials to date (text, lecture, class discussion).....30%

Term Test 2 (50 minutes):
Friday March 10, 2017 in room _____ **TO BE ANNOUNCED**
Emphasizing all material covered after Term Test 1 (text, lecture, class discussion).....35%

Final Exam (2 hours)
Tentatively: Tuesday April 25, 2017 at 9:00AM; but students should confirm the official final exam date, time, and location on Bear Tracks.
Cumulative and comprehensive, testing knowledge of the whole course (text, lectures, class discussion, and DVDs).....35%
Total 100

Example exam questions are presented in the Baumeister and Bushman (BB) text and additional B&B practice exam questions will be available from a website bundled with the text purchase. Some study assistance will be provided in the e-class materials near the end of Chapter-1, and additional example questions will be provided in coordination with the review class preceding the first mid-term exam.

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. The student should notify the instructor by e-mail within two days of a missed graded component. 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:**

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: Saturday May 6, 2017, at 9:00 AM (as set by the Sociology department). Only the student’s home Faculty can grant a deferred final exam. Instructors cannot grant final exam deferrals.

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.”

Grading

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Percent} = & (\text{proportion of correct answers Term Test 1}) \times 30 \\ & + (\text{proportion of correct answers Term Test 2}) \times 35 \\ & + (\text{proportion of correct answers on Final Exam}) \times 35 \end{aligned}$$

Percents will be rounded up to the next whole percent if the first decimal is $\geq .500$ and will remain unchanged at the whole percent if the first decimal is $\leq .499$. 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 ombudserverice (<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 instructor.”

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; phone 780-492-3381; web www.uab.ca/accessibility email sasrec@ualberta.ca).

Tentative Schedule of Topics and Readings

BB pages: refers to the Baumeister and Bushman text pages.

H pages: refers to Hayduk e-class materials, or “Hayduk Chapter# and pages”, which will be made electronically available in coordination with the lectures. Numerous smaller H materials may be made electronically available even though not listed below.

Topic 1: Introduction and Fundamental Commitments

H C1 1-6

BB xvii-xviii, 2-15

Topic 2: Methodology

variables, correlations, causation, structural models

H C1 7-15

BB 25-30

experimentation

H C1 16-26

BB 15-25

Self-assessment and testosterone examples

H C1 27-34

Topic 3: Brains, neurology, and formality of attractiveness/familiarity

H C2 1-26, 27-33

BB 40 (nature defined), 54-58, 225

Topic 4: Neural learning, brain and culture

H C2 34-41, 42-52

BB 45-53

Topic 5: Neural loops, constructionism, illusions, imagination, the sensible and the Self(?)

H C3 1-15

BB 71-76, 117-128, 143

Topic 6: More constructionism

H Paul S notes.

BB 58-69, 77-114, 151-162

Topic 7: Emotions, evolution, genetics and the social psychological

H C4, 1-15

Tooby & Cosmides

BB 37-44, 128-149, 163-187

BB 216-220 (these pages are also numbered 366-369, 384)

Topic 8: Evolution connected to testosterone

H C4, 16-73

Topic 9: Integrating the prior topics

Milgram: Obedience DVD

BB 189-193 (these pages are also numbered 315-319)

Zimbardo: Stanford Prison Experiment DVD

H notes on Zimbardo.

B&B 222-223 (also numbered 390-391)

Some Hayduk research

BB 194-214 (also numbered 320-339, 358)

BB 216-219 (also numbered 366-369, 384)

I wish you an instructive term.

L. Hayduk