**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (PSYC 250:11)**

**FALL 2022 – WINTER 2022**

**MONDAY 3:45 – 5:00 & WEDNESDAY 2:15 – 3:30 (W7/W8)**

**Instructor:** Erika Koch, Ph.D. **Phone:** 867-3950

**E-mail:** ekoch@stfx.ca  **Office:** Nicholson Annex 108

**Office hours:** Mondays 11:15-12:00; 1:00-2:00; Tuesdays 11:15-12:00; 1:00-1:45; Wednesdays 9:45-12:00 (or by appointment)

**\*Masks are required** until further notice.

**Web site:** <http://people.stfx.ca/ekoch/>

**Required Text:** Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R.E. (2019). *Social Psychology* (5th Edition). New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company.

**Textbook web site:** [digital.wwnorton.com/socialpsych5](http://digital.wwnorton.com/socialpsych5) Selected digital resources are also available on [Moodle](https://moodle.stfx.ca/login/index.php).

**Course prerequisite:** PSYC 101/102 (6 credits of Introduction to Psychology)

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the major areas of social psychology. Social psychology involves the study of how other people (real, imagined, or implied) influence thoughts, feelings, and behavior. This course will focus on research in areas such as the self, social cognition, attitudes, persuasion, social influence, relationships, stereotyping & prejudice, groups, aggression, and prosocial behavior.

# COURSE OBJECTIVES

* To gain a basic knowledge of the history of social psychology.
* To learn about research methods and findings in the main areas of social psychology.
* To learn about fundamental concepts and theories in social psychological research.
* To apply social psychological theories and research to personal, political, and social issues.

# COURSE FORMAT

Classes will include lecture, discussion, and activities. Class attendance is your responsibility, and you must attend class if you expect to succeed in this course. However, please do **not** attend class if you are ill or otherwise required to self-isolate. If you choose to provide documentation of an absence, all documentation of absences should go to Lianne Campbell in the office of the Associate Dean, Academic Affairs ([ada@stfx.ca](mailto:ada@stfx.ca))**—**not the instructor. If you must miss class, please do not ask me for class notes. **I do not give out class notes.** I recommend that you obtain notes from a classmate. I will be happy to answer specific questions about class notes once you have obtained them. During class, I encourage you to ask questions about concepts that are unclear, or to share examples that you think are relevant. Outside of class, I encourage you to meet with me during office hours (or set an appointment) to discuss any questions or concerns. **E-mail** is the best way to contact me outside of class. \*Please refer to pages 3-4 of this syllabus for information on appropriate e-mail communication.

The course materials are designed for use in PSYC 250 at St. Francis Xavier University and are the property of the instructor, unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Copying this material for distribution, online posting, or selling of this material to third parties without permission is subject to Canadian Copyright Law and is strictly prohibited.

# CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

I expect that each of you will respect your classmates and me by arriving to class on time, ready to listen and participate. Please turn **off** your cellular phones when you arrive to class, and be sure to put away all phones and other personal devices (e.g., tablets). Devoting class time to non-academic activities such as texting or listening to music is disruptive and creates a negative impression of the students engaging in such activities. In addition, please do not disrupt the class by carrying on private conversations during class time.

# DEPARTMENT LAPTOP POLICY

Students who wish to use a laptop during class time must seek permission from the instructor in advance. If permission is granted, please note that your laptop is to be used only for note-taking, not recreational purposes (e.g., Facebook, web-surfing). Non-academic use of laptops might distract some of your classmates. Inappropriate classroom laptop usage will result in laptop privileges being revoked.

# EXAM AND QUIZ POLICY

Check the course schedule on your syllabus **before** making travel plans (e.g., purchasing airline tickets); exams and quizzes will **not**be rescheduled in the event that they conflict with such travel plans or other personal events. Quizzes and exams will be rescheduled on the basis of valid and documented excuses (e.g., illness, personal emergency) only. I reserve the right to administer a unique quiz or exam for any make-up.

In cases where you miss a quiz, please inform me of the absence and the reason for your absence as soon as possible prior to the quiz. Make-up quizzes will be given only if the quiz was missed for medical or other legitimate reasons. In cases where a quiz has been missed, a make-up quiz must be written within **seven (7)** calendar days following the date of the missed quiz. If the quiz cannot be written within this period for medical or other legitimate reasons, the final cumulative grade will be pro-rated.

In cases where you miss either a Registrar-scheduled December or Final exam, you must report the absence and the reason for the absence to the Deans’ Office. In these cases, the Deans’ Office will inform your professors of the absence. A make-up exam will be required within a time frame specified by the Deans’ Office.

## **PAPERS**

You will receive additional information in class and on Moodle.

You have **two** options for your final paper. Please select only **ONE** of these options.

1. Fall option: Electronic media fast

In this paper, you will refrain from using electronic media (beyond what is necessary) for four days and make note of your experience. You will use these notes to write about this experience, relating it to social psychological concepts, and to a journal article that you find on media usage. This option is due on **November 30 at 4:00pm**.

1. Winter option: PSA critique and redesign

In this paper, you will select a Public Service Announcement (PSA), critique it, and re-design it. Both your critique and your re-design must be grounded in social psychological research and theory. This option is due on **April 6 at 4:00pm.**

**DEPARTMENTAL POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Please submit your final paper through the designated assignment portal in **Moodle** as a **WORD** document; other formats are not acceptable. Students will be penalized **5%** for each calendar day that a final paper is late. Once 10 days after the due date have passed, a mark of **zero** will be assigned. Only valid excuses, such as illness or personal emergency (for which you must provide documentation though the Dean’s office), can effect a renegotiation of the due date with the professor. Note that technical failures, computer crashes, etc. are not valid excuses for failing to turn assignments in on time, nor are they valid excuses for turning in substandard work. **Back up your work!**

# UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

St. Francis Xavier values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of such academic offences as plagiarism, cheating, tampering, and falsification under the St. Francis Xavier University Academic Integrity Policy. You are responsible for knowing and following this policy; please refer to the *Academic Calendar* (section 3.8) for details. You may find this site helpful: <https://www.mystfx.ca/registrars-office/academic-integrity>

**I WILL NOT TOLERATE PLAGIARISM OR CHEATING OF ANY SORT.** The University’s *Academic Calendar* (section 3.8) notes that “Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another’s work—whether ideas or words… as one’s own,” and that cheating includes “sharing papers” and “collaboration… on an assignment which an instructor did not specify was to be completed collaboratively.” Any student found to have plagiarized or cheated will be reported to the Chair of the Psychology Department, the Registrar’s office, and—when appropriate—the Academic Discipline Committee.

# GRADING

Grades will be based on the scale presented below. You may wish to record your grades here. Your final grade will be based **ONLY** on these elements. Please do **NOT** contact me once the course is complete to ask for an “extra assignment” to boost your grade.

**Assignment Value Grade**

October quiz 15%

December exam 25%

February quiz 15%

Final exam 25%

Fall **OR** winter paper 20%

**APPROPRIATE E-MAIL COMMUNICATION**

You are expected to maintain a working St. FX e-mail account; please check on that account regularly to ensure that it is not “full.” Important notices may be sent to these e-mail addresses. Writing to a course instructor is not the same as writing to a friend. Although the communication is not on paper, e-mail still means that you are communicating with others who deserve consideration and respect. In addition, you may be expected to use e-mail in future employment situations, and it might be helpful to develop good habits now. The guidelines below are NOT listed in order of priority but in the order in which you would need the information while writing an e-mail or other electronic message.

1. Please do not e-mail questions about the course that could easily be answered by referring to the syllabus or other course materials.
2. Please do not e-mail requests for your grades, as e-mail is not secure.
3. When writing an e-mail, please write something in the “subject” line. If your e-mail is about a specific topic, write the name of it (e.g., “normal distribution question”). I am likely to assume that an e-mail without a subject line is spam and consequently may delete it.
4. Begin the communication with a salutation such as “Dear Dr. Koch.”
5. Use proper English. Write complete sentences, which include the correct use of capital letters to begin a sentence and a period to end a sentence. Every e-mail message should be properly spelled and punctuated, and it should be grammatically correct. A poorly written and misspelled message reflects poorly on the author.
6. Do **not** write in all capital letters or all lower-case letters.
7. Delineate separate ideas by using paragraphs.
8. RE-READ the message before sending and check for spelling errors, poor grammar, unclear sentences, or other organizational errors that happened during the first draft.
9. Sign the communication with **your first and last name** and the course in which you are enrolled. It is helpful (though optional) to have your e-mail address and ID number underneath your name.
10. Politeness is important even in e-mail. Demands such as “write back” are unnecessary and even rude. If your message requires a response, I will respond at my earliest convenience.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

*Note*: The following is a tentative schedule. Readings are due on the date assigned. Class topics and order are subject to change. However, **quiz** dates will not change, except under unusual circumstances such as class cancellations due to inclement weather.

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| **DATES** | **TOPICS** | | **READINGS** |
| Sept. 7 – 12 | Introduction to Social Psychology | | Chapter 1 |
| Sept. 14 – 28 | The Methods of Social Psychology | | Chapter 2 |
| Oct. 3 – 5 | Social Cognition: Thinking about People and Situations | | Chapter 4 |
| Oct. 12 | Social Attribution: Explaining Behavior | | Chapter 5 |
| **October 17** | **OCTOBER QUIZ** | | **will cover chapters 1, 2, & 4** |
| Oct. 19 | Social Attribution: Explaining Behavior (continued) | | Chapter 5 |
| Oct. 24 – 31 | The Social Self | | Chapter 3 |
| Nov. 2 | Attitudes, Behavior, and Rationalization | | Chapter 7 |
| **Nov. 7 – 9** | **FALL STUDY BREAK – NO CLASSES** | | |
| Nov. 14 | Attitudes, Behavior, and Rationalization (continued) | | Chapter 7 |
| Nov. 16 – 21 | Persuasion | | Chapter 8 |
| Nov. 23 – Dec. 5  ***November 30\**** | | Social Influence  **\*Fall option final paper due** | Chapter 9 |
| **TBA** | | **DECEMBER EXAM** | **will cover chapters 1-5; 7-9** |
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| Jan. 4 – 16 | | Relationships and Attraction | Chapter 10 |
| Jan. 18 – Feb. 1 | | Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination | Chapter 11 |
| Feb. 6 – 8 | | Groups | Chapter 12 |
| Feb. 13 | | Aggression | Chapter 13 |
| **Feb. 15** | | **FEBRUARY QUIZ** | **will cover chapters 10, 11, & 12** |
| **Feb. 20 – 22** | | **WINTER STUDY BREAK** |  |
| Feb. 27 – March 1 | | Aggression (continued) | Chapter 13 |
| March 6 – 13 | | Altruism and Cooperation | Chapter 14 |
| March 15 – 20 | | Emotion | Chapter 6 |
| March 22 – April 5  ***March 28\**** | | Applied Social Psychology  **\*Winter option final paper due** | Modules 1, 2, & 3 |
| **TBA** | | **FINAL EXAM** | **will cover chapters 10-14, 6, & Modules** |