

# **PSYC 4020 (Section E) Syllabus**

2015/2016 Fall Term/ Section E

DATES: September 10-December 3, 2015

TIME: 11:30 -2:30 Thursday

ROOM: VC 107 A

## **Instructor**

Ward Struthers

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Office Hour: 11:30 Tuesday or by appointment

## **Reading**

A reading list of theoretical and empirical articles will be provided in class

## **Course Prerequisite**

To enroll in this course, students must have earned a minimum final letter grade of C in PSYCH 1010.

Students who have completed PSYCH 2120 social psychology and a research methods course will be well served.

## **Course Overview and Objectives**

This is an advanced seminar course in social psychology or the study of how individuals think and feel about, relate to, and influence one another based on the actual, implied, or imagined presence of other individuals. During this course students will study and critique theoretical and empirical issues related to the social motivation process. Social motivation is defined as how individuals evaluate others and then interact with them based on those evaluations. Key topics include transgressions, attributions, apology, revenge, grudge, and forgiveness. Students will read assigned theoretical and empirical articles, present summaries and critiques of these articles, discuss key issues in class, present a research proposal, and submit a written research proposal.

## **Grading and Course Requirements**

### **Course requirements**

Your final grade in the course will be out of 100% and will be based on: class participation (20% total); presentation of an assigned article (10% total); research proposal presentation (35% total); and a written research proposal based on the research proposal presentation (35% total):

**Class Participation:** Each student must read all assigned articles before each seminar and come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Students will earn 2% for their participation in seminars for a total of 20%. You cannot earn participation marks if you do not attend class. Also, you must be prepared to discuss the readings and course material each seminar in order to earn participation grades. **(20% of final course grade);**

**Presentation of an Assigned Article:** Each week two students will be assigned to summarize and present each of the readings from the reading list. **One student** will summarize the **purpose, key issues, research method and findings** (when relevant), and **insights**, the **second student** will summarize the *strengths* and *weaknesses* of the reading (i.e., theories, ideas, research method and findings, conclusions, etc.). Each student will have 10 minutes to make their case. After each student has made his or her presentation, the presenters will have an opportunity to ask the class questions and the class will have an opportunity to ask the presenters questions, raise their own issues, and discuss the readings. There will be 10 minutes allotted for discussion after each presenter. At the end of the class, I will raise my issues and provide a summary of the material from each week. **(10% of final course grade);**

**Research Proposal Presentation:** Each student will make a 15 minute presentation of a research proposal. Your presentation will involve the use of **powerpoint** and will include the following topics: description of the problem or issue, a specific statement of the research question, theory, hypotheses (try to use figures), key variables to be manipulated or measures (e.g., independent variables, predictor variables, dependent variables), the design of the research (e.g., nonexperimental, experimental, quasi-experimental), participants, procedures, and proposed statistical analysis. After each presentation, 15 minutes will be allotted for the class to ask questions about the research and clarify issues. The topic for the research proposal will focus on issues associated with the topic of the course. Your **topic must be confirmed by me** before your presentation and your **powerpoint slides must be sent to my email address** (struther@yorku.ca) at least 2 days before your presentation. **(35% of final course grade);**

**Written Research Proposal:** One week after the research proposal presentation, each student will submit a **10 page** (excluding title page, abstract, references), **typed, APA Style**, proposal to my email (struther@yorku.ca) as a word document. The **written proposal will involve the following sections:** Title page, Introduction (e.g., literature review, statement of the issue, statement of the purpose of the research question, hypotheses), methods (e.g., participants, design, materials, procedures, potential statistical analyses), and references. **There is no results or discussion section** for this paper. The paper must be type written in APA Style (6th Edition) and it must also contain a title page, abstract, reference section, and appendix if needed. These sections are in addition to the 10 pages for the primary proposal. **(35% of final course grade).**

## **Attendance**

For several reasons, it is important that you attend all of the lectures. First, you will receive a great deal of important information in each lecture. Second, you will be graded on your class participation and if you miss class, you will also miss the opportunity to earn your participation grade. Finally, you will learn about important topics that will form the foundation of your research proposal presentation and written research proposal.

Important information for students regarding access/disability, academic honesty/integrity, student conduct, etc. is available on the CCAS webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents):- [http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate\\_cte\\_main\\_pages/ccas.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm).

## Course Schedule

Date	Seminar Topic	Articles
10/09/15	Introduction to the course and reading assignments	None Assigned
17/09/15	Transgressions and social pain	#s 1-3
24/09/15	Social motivation	#s 4-6
01/10/15	Forgiveness and repentance	#s 7-9
<b>08/10/15</b>	<b>Last day to enroll</b>	NA
08/10/15	Theories of forgiveness and repentance	#s 10-12
15/10/15	The dark side of social motivation	#s 13-15
<b>Oct. 29-Nov. 1</b>	<b>Co-curricular days</b>	NA
22/10/15	The light side of social motivation	#s16-18
05/11/15	Research Proposal Presentations	NA
<b>09/11/15</b>	<b>Last Day to Drop</b>	NA
12/11/15	Research Proposal Presentations	NA
19/11/15	Research Proposal Presentations	NA

26/11/15	Research Proposal Presentations	NA
03/12/15	Research Proposal Presentations	NA