PSYC*6920, Course Outline: Winter 2022

General Information
Course Title: Applied Social Psychology and Intervention

Course Description:
This course will critically examine theoretical approaches and research in the field of applied social psychology with a particular focus on work aimed at generating intervention strategies intended to ameliorate social and practical problems. The course will also consider implications for social policy.

Credit Weight: 0.50
Academic Department (or campus): Department of Psychology
Semester Offering: Winter 2022
Class Schedule: Fridays 11:30-14:20
Location: MCKN room 314

Instructor Information:
Instructor Name: Benjamin Giguère
Instructor Email: bgiguere@uoguelph.ca
Telephone: 519-824-4120 ext. 56562
Office location: MacKinnon Building Extension (MCKN) 4007
Office hours: TBA

Course Content
Upon completion of the course, through concise, accurate and reliable oral and written communication, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate an in depth understanding of social psychology theories
2. demonstrate the ability to critically think about and integrate research from different social psychology theories
3. demonstrate the ability to apply social psychological theories to think critically and creatively about the nature of social and practical problems
4. demonstrate the ability to apply social psychological theories to develop creative interventions aimed at addressing social and practical problems
5. demonstrate the ability to facilitate conversations about complex social psychological research and theories, as well as their application to address social and practical problems
6. demonstrate key ethical principles and professionalism (including accountability, responsibility, time management)
## Seminar Content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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|        |                                                                        | Suggested supplemental readings:  
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<tr>
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| Feb 4th | AS Theories #2: Social Cognitive Theory  

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<td>Suggested supplemental readings:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 1st</td>
<td>AS &amp; Government Policies</td>
<td>Informing Policy</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Analysing Policy</td>
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<td>Suggested supplemental readings:</td>
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<td>• Galinsky et al. (2015). Maximizing the gains and minimizing the pains of diversity: A policy perspective. <em>Perspectives on Psychological Sciences, 10</em>, 742-748.</td>
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| Apr 8th| From policy to addressing problems | **The International Tobacco Control project**  

**Multiculturalism**  

### Course Assignments and Tests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment or Test</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Contribution to Final Mark (%)</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in seminar discussions</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation and discussion facilitation #1</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation and discussion facilitation #2</td>
<td>Varied</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thought Paper #1</td>
<td>Feb 4th</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1,2,3,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thought Paper #2</td>
<td>Mar 11th</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1,2,4,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research proposal</td>
<td>April 14th (by 5pm)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,6</td>
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**Participation in seminar discussion**

Given that this course is seminar, most of the learning will take place during class discussions. The seminar will be a collaborative effort between the students aimed at producing thoughtful analysis and discussion. The class will meet once a week to discuss the assigned topics. The readings are organized around a particular topic area and are intended to provide a common knowledge base from which relevant theoretical, methodological, and practical issues can be addressed. Class members are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss a) the strengths and weakness of the research, b) the adequacy of the existing research, c) ideas for future research, and d) confusing points.
in the readings. Some reminders of important participation skills will be provided during the first meeting.

**Presentation and discussion facilitation #1 and #2**

Each of you will be responsible for presenting on two of the topics covered. Topic selection will occur during the first class. Your task during your two seminars will be threefold. First, you will prepare discussion questions for the class and distribute these to the class by Thursday at 8am. You can do this through CourseLink. Second, you will provide a brief (10 minute) summary of the readings, which you will present to the group at the start of the meeting. Third, you will facilitate the class discussion. Please ensure you should have a plan for how you will do that. Some reminders of important facilitation skills will be provided during the first meeting. Depending on the number of students you may be asked to complete this activity in teams.

**Thought papers**

The thought papers should draw on the course material, at least in part. The papers are to be a maximum of 500 words, excluding reference lists and cover pages.

The topic of the first thought paper is: “What makes a social psychology theory practical?”

The topic of the second thought paper is to present an idea for a pilot intervention to address a social and practical problem by drawing on social psychological theory. Think about this as an “elevator pitch”. The topic cannot be the same as the one for the final paper. The aim here is to provide you with multiple opportunities to practice the ability to apply social psychology theory to address social and practical problems. It should contain a section briefly and concisely explaining the social problem, a section with a rationale to understand the nature of a cause of the problem using social psychology and finally a research design to pilot test the design.

**Research proposal**

Design an intervention that is intended to have an impact on a particular social problem. The intervention must clearly incorporate social psychological theory and research. Be sure to provide, the context for the intervention (i.e., why is it needed; what has already been tried, how is it building on previous work?); the stakeholders and participants (i.e., who will care about this intervention and for whom is it intended); the components of the intervention (i.e., what is involved and why is it included). You should feel free to connect with a real stakeholder group in the community, but this is not necessary. Ask the instructor if this is an avenue you wish to pursue.

The proposal document should contain five key parts:

1. A section that concisely introduces the social problem and offers a rationale for its importance
2. A section that presents a rationale using a social psychological perceptive to explain the nature of one or more causes of the social problem.
3. A section that presents a rationale for a creative parsimonious intervention technic aimed at addressing the social problem.
4. A (methods) section, in which a study design to pilot test the proposed intervention is presented.
5. A section that concisely discusses implications of scalability of the intervention, including implementation challenges.

The paper should be no more than 15 pages double spaced (excluding the reference list, abstract page, and cover page). The abstract should be no more than 150 words. Materials of the intervention (e.g., sample poster; sketches; figures; scripts) can be presented in a separate appendix if needed. Most likely you will start with a document substantially longer and will need to edit it down. Use critical thinking to carefully select the information that is necessary to understand the proposed intervention research.

Course Resources

Required Texts:
All of the articles in the schedule of readings can be found at the library. Copies will be made available on courselink for your convenience whenever possible.

Other Resources:
Please visit the CourseLink site regularly to obtain important information and materials for this course (e.g., readings, grades, etc.).

Course Policies

Grading Policies
All evaluations will be graded holistically (i.e., there are no detailed rubrics in which total marks are broken down). A letter grade will be assigned as per the grade schedule specified in the university’s graduate calendar.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Outstanding. The student demonstrated a mastery of the course material at a level of performance exceeding that of most scholarship students and warranting consideration for a graduation award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A- to A</td>
<td>Very Good to Excellent. The student demonstrated a very good understanding of the material at a level of performance warranting scholarship consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Acceptable to Good. The student demonstrated an adequate to good understanding of the course material at a level of performance sufficient to complete the program of study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Minimally Acceptable. The student demonstrated an understanding of the material sufficient to pass the course but at a level of performance lower than expected from continuing graduate students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>An inadequate performance.</td>
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Please also note that work submitted for grades may be screened electronically for academic misconduct, including breaches of academic integrity and plagiarism. In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

If a word limit is set for an assignment, the grader will stop reading when they get to the limit set for the assignment (e.g., if you submit a 600 words document when the limit 500 words, only the first 500 words will be graded). No assignments will be accepted after the last day of the term.

A grade of 0 will be assigned for non-completion of any assignment or examination when scheduled unless there is an arrangement set as per the university policy regarding academic consideration. Please see the university policy section below for further details with regards to academic consideration.

**Past/Future Work**
Work done in this class cannot duplicate work you have already done for another class (including thesis and independent study courses). You can work on a component of your thesis/dissertation/other upcoming project if it is a good fit for the class assignment, but your submission for this class cannot be material that another faculty member has already given you feedback on. If the topic of your final paper is similar to other work you have done or are planning to do, please speak to the course instructor for guidance on how to proceed.

**Policy regarding materials provided by instructor and his designates**
The material shared by the course instructor or by his designate (e.g., TA) as part of this course, including copies of the lecture slides, are solely for the personal use of the authorized registered student for the duration of the course and may NOT be reproduced, or transmitted to others, whether it is in their original format or a modified version, without the express written consent of the course instructor.

**Policy on emails**
Only questions that can be answered simply, for example by yes or no or with a short sentence, will be answered by email. For longer answers you will most likely receive an email asking you to come and see me.

Emails will usually be answered within 24 to 48 hours during weekdays. It is possible that some emails that are not from a university address (e.g., @hotmail.com) may be treated as spam. So do not hesitate to come and see one of us if your email was not answered. The university expects you to check your U of Guelph email account regularly and us to use it to communicate with you.

**Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures**
Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted, they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

**Supplemental evaluations/examination**
Please note that there is no supplemental evaluation or examination for this course.

**University Policies**

**Disclaimer:**
Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/) and circulated by email.

**Academic Consideration**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:
[Grounds for Academic Consideration](#)

**Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the appropriate section of the [Graduate Calendar](#).
Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community’s shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: Student Accessibility Services Website

Student Feedback Questionnaire

These questionnaires (formerly course evaluations) will be available to students during the last 2 weeks of the semester: March 28th – April 08th. Students will receive an email directly from the Student Feedback Administration system which will include a direct link to the questionnaire for this course. During this time, when a student goes to login to Courselink, a reminder will pop-up when a task is available to complete.
Student Feedback Questionnaire

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is April 08th. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar:
Current Graduate Calendar.