SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Class code  
**PSYCH-UA 9032 - 001**

Instructor Details  
Professor Kate Loewenthal

Class Details  
Fall 2013

Monday 10am-1pm

Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites  
None

Class Description  
Introduces and examines selected core topics of research in Social Psychology. What is Social Psychology? What are the methods used to study social psychological behaviour? What social factors influence human behaviour? What situational and group factors influence human thinking and behaviour? Can these factors explain individuals’ attitudes, prejudice and leadership styles? The format of the course will be lectures, excerpts from illustrative movies, and class discussions, with selected sessions on research methods and student presentations.

Desired Outcomes  
This course aims to introduce and examine important topics of study in Social Psychology. The classes will aim of develop a better understanding the methodological and theoretical approaches to studying the social factors underlying human thinking and behaviour.

Assessment Components:

1. One written essay, 1,200 words (worth 30%),

2. EITHER A) An oral presentation in class, including submission of the powerpoint printout (use handout 6 per page format) or notes (worth 30%)

   OR B) a presentation or write-up of the material collected in the group research project, done in class (either the questionnaire or the interview study). Although the interviews and questionnaires are to be designed by the group, the write-p/presentation should be done individually. This could include a brief background, the questions, and notes made on any modifications to the questions, analysis (you can add to the analysis done in class if wished) and a brief discussion. If a presentation is done, submit the power printout (6 per page format is usually fine) direct to the class coordinator (KL) and do not use Turnitin. (worth 30%)

3. One final exam paper (worth 40%)

   Note that you may make a case study (or case studies) using interview or questionnaire material collected by you, as the focus of your essay OR as the focus of a class presentation.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.
Assessment Expectations

**Grade A:** Mastery of the issues and literature, and an ability to make some original contribution. Demonstration of original and independent thinking, and evidence of genuine insight, combined with a well-structured, fluent, and clear argument, backed by research evidence whenever appropriate and possible.

**Grade B:** Mastery of issues and literature, grasp of theory and research, but limited original contribution, evaluation and attempt to back up with evidence.

**Grade C:** Unsure grasp of the issues and material

**Grade D:** Failure to grasp issues but some attempt made

**Grade F:** Little or no attempt made.

Grade conversion

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- A=94-100
- A-=90-93
- B+=87-89
- B=84-86
- B-=80-83
- C+=77-79
- C=74-76
- C-=70-73
- D+=67-69
- D=65-66
- F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.

Attendance Policy

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill-health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.
Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL's staff.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester. See also section 11.1 - Make up days.

Absence reporting for an absence due to illness

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expeditiously at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuCl5K. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

Absence requests for non-illness reasons

Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

Further information regarding absences

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in
Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgements, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

HOWEVER Note that if you choose to offer a PowerPoint presentation as a piece of coursework, you should not submit this to Turnitin. Please hand in a printout of the presentation (print the handout 6 per page format) to the lecturer on the handing-in date of the second piece of coursework.

Electronic Submission
The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) **Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor** (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

---

**Required Text(s)**


**Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are available via the NYU-L Library)**

Supplementary readings will be given in class. These will consist mainly of short papers accessible via the NYU library (see below).

Note that there is insufficient time for the DVDs shown in class to be shown in full. So please be prepared for excerpts only.

Students are encouraged to use “Psychinfo” via the NYU electronic library: [http://home.nyu.edu/cgi-bin/ISng.pl?current_tab=221](http://home.nyu.edu/cgi-bin/ISng.pl?current_tab=221). The presentations and essays should be based on journal articles, so psychinfo is very important.

**Internet Research Guidelines**

None

**Additional Required Equipment**

None

**Session 1**


Sept 2

Introduction and history

Textbook chapter 1

DVD: Das Experiment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 2</th>
<th>Self and Social Identity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 9</td>
<td>Textbook chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DVD: The Believer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 3</th>
<th>Attitudes and change in attitudes and behaviour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>Textbook chapters 6 and 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DVDs: 1) Documentary on Soviet propaganda 2) Bowling for Columbine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 4</th>
<th>Research Methods: Assessing attitudes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 5</th>
<th>Social Influence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 30</td>
<td>Textbook chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DVD: Twelve Angry Men</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 6</th>
<th>Aggression and domestic violence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Textbook chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>DVD: Dangerous Intentions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(make-up date)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 7</th>
<th>Prosocial Behaviour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>Textbook chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DVD: Schindler’s List</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 8</th>
<th>Research methods: interviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 9</th>
<th>Affiliation, Attraction and Social Relationships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>Textbook chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DVD: Amour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 10</th>
<th>Psychology of groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>Textbook chapter 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page 6 of 8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>Prejudice and Intergroup Relations</td>
<td>Textbook chapter 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DVD: Mississippi Burning (or Bloody Sunday)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Culture and social psychology</td>
<td>Textbook chapter 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DVD: The weeping camel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>Time permitting: DVD: Hunger, or Bloody Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Further presentations &amp; exam preparation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Classroom Etiquette**

- Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class.
- Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies.
- Laptops, IPads and Tablets are only to be used with the express permission of the teacher.
- Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

**Required Co-curricular Activities**

- None. Some illustrative video material will be shown in class.

**Suggested Co-curricular Activities**

- Students will be advised of any public lectures, exhibitions and seminars of interest, as they come to the attention of the course leader. These will be optional.
Kate Loewenthal is a Professor Emeritus at Royal Holloway, University of London, and a Visiting Professor at Glyndwr University, Wales, and Heythrop College, University of London. She has taught courses in social and personality psychology, clinical (abnormal) psychology, psychology of religion, and research methods. She has published several books and numerous articles in all these areas.