

**Social Psychology**  
Psychology 253, Winter 2008  
Mon & Wed 4:30 – 5:50pm  
Arts Lecture Hall 116

Professor: Dr. Aaron Kay  
Office: PAS 3051  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Kristin Laurin, PAS 3040; Steven Shepherd, PAS 3046;  
Denise Marigold, PAS 3250.

Contact Info: For **all** course-related email contact us at: **psych253@watarts.uwaterloo.ca**. Kristin, Steven, Denise, and I will check it regularly and get back to you within 24 hours.

Text: Social Psychology Alive! (1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Edition).

Course Overview: The purpose of this course is to introduce you to research within the field of social psychology. Topics include: prejudice, stereotyping, attraction, attitudes, the self, self-esteem, prosocial behavior, persuasion, and others. The textbook is broad and general, while the lectures will tend to cover more specific issues, especially recent experimental and theoretical approaches.

Requirements: There will be three in-class tests, and NO final exam. Each test will cover all material from the text, videos, and lectures from the period following the previous test (or, in the case of Test 1, the first class). Tests are not cumulative. They will be multiple-choice. The first test is on January 30<sup>th</sup>, and is worth 30%. The second test is on March 18<sup>th</sup> and is worth 45%. The third test is on April 7<sup>th</sup> and is worth 25%.

Bonus marks: See ACE re: bonus experimental credits.

Notes/Policies:

- 1) **ACE:** Please check ACE regularly. We will post announcements, grades, lecture notes etc.
- 2) **Attendance:** To succeed, attend all lectures. Tests will be approximately 50% lecture material, and I will present a great deal of material not covered in your textbook and expand on important points in the text.
- 3) **Missing exams:** Students may take make-up exams if they inform me in advance that they will be unable to take the exam (whenever possible) and have verifiable evidence of a medical problem. The makeup exam may be different from the one taken by the rest of the class.
- 4) **Note on avoidance of academic offences:** All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult Policy #71 (<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>). If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating,

and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to “group work” and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. You may also consult the “Avoiding Academic Offenses” website at [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html) Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

## Proposed Schedule of Classes

Date	Topic	Textbook
Jan 7	L1: Introduction	Ch 1
Jan 9	L2: Research Methods	Ch 2
Jan 14	L3: Social Perception 1	Ch 4
Jan 16	L4: Social Perception 2	Ch 4
Jan 21	L5: Self 1	Ch 5
Jan 23	L6: Self 2	Ch 5
Jan 28	L7: Social Cognition and the Unconscious	Ch 3
Jan 30	<b>Test 1</b>	---
Feb 4	L8: Dissonance & Self-Justification 1	Ch 7, 239-251
Feb 6	<i>No Class (Prof Away)</i>	
Feb 11	L9: Dissonance & Self-Justification 2	Ch 7, 239-251
Feb 13	L10: Attitudes and Attitude Change 1	Ch 6
Feb 18 & 20	<i>No Class (Reading Week)</i>	
Feb 25	L11: Attitudes & Attitude Change 2	Ch 7, 251-281
Feb 27	L12: Conformity, Obedience, & Influence 1	Ch 8
Mar 3	L13: Conformity, Obedience, & Influence 2	Ch 8
Mar 5	L14: Violence & Aggression 1	Ch 11
Mar 10	L15: Violence & Aggression 2	Ch 11
Mar 12	L16: Prosocial Behaviour and Helping	Ch 12
Mar 17	<b>Test 2</b>	--
Mar 19	L17: Stereotyping & Prejudice 1	Ch 9
Mar 24	L18: Stereotyping & Prejudice 2	Ch 9
Mar 26	L19: Stereotyping & Prejudice 3	Ch 9
Mar 31	L20: Attraction & Close Relationships 1	Ch 13
Apr 2	L21: Attraction & Close Relationships 2	Ch 13
Apr 7	<b>Test 3</b>	--