Course Schedule

Important: **ALL TIMES EASTERN** - Please see the [University Policies](#) section of your Course Outline for details

NOTE: Students can earn an additional bonus 4% by taking part in the **Experiential Learning Bonus Credit**. More information on this can be found under Activities and Assessments in this course. If you plan to do this, you should start this process early in the term.

Week	Module	Activities and Assignments	Due Date	Weight (%)
1 & 2 **(Jan. 5-17, 2022)**	[Module 1: Situational Influence](#) [Module 2: Social Psychology Research Methods Primer (*Optional)](#)	Module 1 [Quiz](#)	Monday, January 17, 2022 11:55 PM	2.3%
		[Welcome Survey](#)	Friday, January 21, 2022 11:55 PM	1%
3 **(Jan. 18-24, 2022)**	[Module 3: Conformity, Social Norms, and the Psychology of Culture](#)	Module 3 [Quiz](#)	Monday, January 24, 2022, 11:55 PM	2.3%
		Groups for the [Group Assignment](#) will be created by tech support. Meet with your group this week to create your [Group Contract (DOCX)](#)	Monday, January 24, 2022	
4 **(Jan. 25-Jan. 31, 2022)**	[Module 4: Social Cognition](#)	[Group Contract (DOCX)](#)	Monday, January 31, 2022, 11:55 PM	3%
		Module 4 [Quiz](#)	Monday, January 31, 2022, 11:55 PM	2.3%
5 & 6 **(Feb. 1-14, 2022)**	[Module 5: The Self](#)	Module 5 [Quiz](#)	Monday, February 14, 2022, 11:55 PM	2.3%
		[Group Assignment](#) Proposal	Monday, February 14, 2022, 11:55 PM	6%
7 + RW **(Feb. 15-28, 2022)**	[Module 6: Attitudes and Persuasion](#)	Module 6 [Quiz](#)	Monday, February 28, 2022, 11:55 PM	2.3%
Reading Week (Saturday, February 19, 2022 to Sunday, February 27, 2022)				
8 **(Mar. 1-7, 2022)**	[Module 7: Attraction and Close Relationships](#)	Module 7 [Quiz](#)	Monday, March 7, 2022, 11:55 PM	2.3%
		[Group Assignment](#): Revise Proposal, Respond to Instructor/TA Feedback on Proposal, and submit Work Progress Report	Monday, March 7, 2022, 11:55 PM	3%
9 **(Mar. 8-14, 2022)**	[Module 8: Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Stigma](#)	Module 8 [Quiz](#)	Monday, March 14, 2022, 11:55 PM	2.3%
10 **(Mar. 15-21, 2022)**	[Module 9: Social Identity, Group Processes, and Ideological Conflict](#)	Module 9 [Quiz](#)	Monday, March 21, 2022, 11:55 PM	2.3%
11 **(Mar. 22-28, 2022)**	[Module 10: Altruism](#)	Module 10 [Quiz](#)	Monday, March 28, 2022, 11:55 PM	2.3%

12 **(Mar. 29-Apr. 4, 2022)**	[Module 11: Aggression](#)	[Group Assignment](#): Final Project Posted in Showcase Discussion Forum and Dropbox Submission	Monday, March 28, 2022, 11:55 PM	27.5%
		Verify that you can access PEAR. Contact tech support for assistance if necessary.	Monday, March 28, 2022, 11:55 PM	
		Module 11 [Quiz](#)	Monday, April 4, 2022, 11:55 PM	2.3%
		[Peer and Self Evaluations](#) on Contributions to Group Assignment	Monday, April 4, 2022, 11:55 PM	7.5%
		[Self-Reflection Paper](#)	Monday, April 4, 2022, 11:55 PM	5%
		[Experiential Learning Bonus Credit](#)	Monday, April 4, 2022, 11:55 PM	4% (Bonus)
[Final Examination](#): April 11, 2022 (7:00 AM) - April 14, 2022 (7:00 AM)				**24%**

Time Management

There are 11 modules in this course, divided over 12 weeks. A few of the modules are a little larger, containing more content than others. For those modules the quiz due dates have been shifted back to provide you with a little more time to do a careful reading of those modules.

Weeks 1 and 2 have you reading **Module 1. Situational Influence** (one of the larger modules)and **Module 2. Social Psychology Research Methods Primer** (an optional, but still suggested reading). The first quiz will only cover Module 1.

Contact Information

Announcements

Your instructor uses the **Announcements** widget on the **Course Home** page during the term to communicate new or changing information regarding due dates, instructor absence, etc., as needed.

You are expected to read the announcements on a regular basis.

To ensure you are viewing the complete list of announcements, you may need to click **Show All Announcements**.

Discussions

This course has two discussion topics that students are encouraged to use throughout the term to engage with other students, the instructor, and TAs.

A [General Discussion](#) topic* has been made available to allow students to communicate with peers in the course. This is a place for students to enage in discussion about course-related topics. The instructor will post announcements throughout the term connecting social psychological concepts to current events and inviting students to join the discussion about these topics in the **General Discussion** topic*.

The [Ask the Facilitator](#) topic* is for all course-related questions. Please do not email the instructor with content or assignment related questions, but rather post your question in this discussion topic so other students can benefit from your question and the instructor's or TA's answers.

Contact Us

Who and Why	Contact Details
	Post your course-related questions to the **Ask the Facilitator** discussion topic*. This allows other students to benefit from your question as well.
Instructor and TA • Course-related questions (e.g., course content, deadlines, assignments, etc.) • Questions of a personal nature	**Questions of a personal nature** can be directed to your instructor. Instructor: Christopher Lok cblok@uwaterloo.ca Your instructor checks email and the **Ask the Facilitator** discussion topic* frequently and will make every effort to reply to your questions within 24–48 hours, Monday to Friday. TA Info: to be posted
Microsoft TEAMS • Questions about TEAMS	helpdesk@uwaterloo.ca For instructions on how to use Microsoft TEAMS, see [Microsoft Office 365](#).
Technical Support, Centre for Extended Learning	learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca

- Technical problems with Waterloo LEARN
- Technical problems with PEAR

Learner Support Services, Centre for Extended Learning

- General inquiries
- Examination information

Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number.

Technical support is available during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Eastern Time).

IST Knowledge Base: For Students

Student Resources

extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca

Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number.

*Discussions can be accessed by clicking **Connect** and then **Discussions** on the course navigation bar above.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

Course Description

I like to think of social psychology as the science of empathy. Empathy involves taking another person's perspective on a situation to try to understand how that person's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours might represent sensible responses to their situation as they perceive it. Social psychologists' theories and research findings provide us with conceptual tools that enrich our capacity to get inside other people's heads and appreciate the social forces that they are responding to.

Behaviours that seem puzzling or paradoxical begin to make sense when we use the tools of social psychological analysis to understand situations from the other person's perspective. Indeed, in this course we will apply social psychological concepts to resolve a number of intriguing puzzles and along the way we will answer questions such as:

- How can our desire to avoid making an awkward scene lead us to carry out an authority figure's immoral commands or go along with a reckless crowd?
- Why can a traditional norm persist in a community despite the fact that the majority of people who publicly follow that norm no longer privately endorse it?
- How can a person's need to rationalize their past commitments lead them to persist on a course of action even when it no longer serves their interests?
- Why are victims less likely to receive help when many bystanders are present than when a single bystander is present?
- In what ways can befriending a person from another group help to undo prejudice towards that group?
- Why do individuals and societies that claim to value human rights continue to perpetrate violent oppression against minority groups?
- Why are people extraordinarily compassionate when they observe a single victim's tragedy even while they ignore mass tragedies that have hundreds of thousands of victims?

In this course the readings and activities will emphasize experimental social psychological research on a variety of topics including:

- understanding stuational pressures that lead us to obey unjust authorites and censor ourselves when we disagree with the majority in a group,
- examining how we form impressions of other people,
- investigating the structure of attitudes and the strategies for persuading people to change their attitudes,
- understanding how stereotypes and prejudices form and why they persist,
- exploring how people cope with stigma and discrimination,
- examining the dynamics of intergoup hostility and aggression,
- investigating the roots of social and political polarization,

- explaining the sources of interpersonal attraction and the value of close relationships,

- and exploring what motivates people to engage in selfless acts of altruism.

Important features of the course:

- There are many opportunities for you to get feedback on your learning through **Check and Reflect** and **Try and Apply** concept checks. These interactive questions are embedded in the learning modules and are a core aspect of this course. It is critical that you click for feedback and check your responses as the feedback sometimes contains content that may not appear elsewhere in the course. Skipping these questions will result in missing some core content and knowledge that will be tested in the quizzes and final examination.

- A major feature of the course is a **group assignment** that gives you the opportunity to collaborate with other students to apply your knowledge of social psychology in creative ways to solve practical problems that are of interest to you. The work that you will do to apply these concepts will help you to think about those concepts more deeply and explore the relevance of social psychology to the real world.

- The process of working collaboratively on the group project will also provide many opportunities to observe some of the group processes and social dynamics that you learn about in this course in your interactions with your collaborators. In a **reflection paper** assignment you will record and analyze examples where you observed various social psychological processes influencing the dynamics of your work group.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to

- recognize subtle social influences on behaviour in everyday situations,

- use social psychological concepts to analyze events in your own life,

- apply social psychological concepts to address real world problems,

- detect biases, such as prejudices, that influence everyday judgment and decision-making,

- analyze world events and societal trends from a social psychological perspective,

- critically evaluate commonsense explanations of social phenomena

This online course was developed by Richard Eibach, with instructional design and multimedia development support provided by the Centre for Extended Learning. Further media production was provided by Instructional Technologies and Multimedia Services.

About the Course Author

Course Author/Instructor — Richard Eibach

Educational Background

Richard was educated at Cornell University where he received his BA in 1998 and his PhD in Psychology in 2003.

Current Research

Richard is a social psychologist who studies the connections between self-perceptions and social judgment. His research focuses on such topics as how visual imagery relates to self-perception, the influence of ideology and group interests on perceptions of social justice, and how people experience and express intersectional identities.

richard-eibach

Richard Eibach
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Philosophy of Teaching

Richard's philosophy of teaching aligns with the constructivist theory of learning, believing that learning is an active process in which students construct new ideas or concepts based upon their current and past knowledge.

Hobbies/Interests

Richard is an avid reader. He especially enjoys reading social histories that focus on periods of cultural transition and studies of social movements. Richard is currently a member of the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council which fosters public awareness of root causes of crime and promotes community-based action to create sustainable change.

Family

Richard is married to Steven Mock, a developmental psychologist and faculty member in UW's Recreation and Leisure Studies program. Richard and Steven are the proud uncles of a niece and two nephews.

Materials and Resources

Textbook(s)

Required

There are no required textbooks for this course. All journal articles (listed on module landing pages) are in **Course Reserves**.

Course Reserves

Course Reserves can be accessed using the **Library Resources** widget on the **Course Home** page.

Resources

Library services for [Co-op students on work term and students taking online courses](#)

Grade Breakdown

The following table represents the grade breakdown of this course.

	Activities and Assessments	Weight (%)
Self-Assessment	Within-module Check and Reflect Questions and Try and Apply Questions	Ungraded
	Welcome Survey	**1%**
	Experiential Learning Bonus Credit	**4% (Bonus Credit)**
Assignments	**Social Psychology Intervention Group Assignment** • Group Contract (3%) • Project proposal (6%) • Response to TA/Instructor feedback on proposal (3%) • Final project submission (27.5%) • Peer and Self evaluation (7.5%)	**47%**
Quizzes and Exams	**Self-Reflection Paper**	**5%**
	End of Module Quizzes (each quiz is 2.3%)	**23%**
	Final Exam (online, open-book, 40 multiple choice)	**24%**

Official Grades

Official Grades and Academic Standings are available through Quest.

Course and Department Policies

Course Policies

Independent work on quizzes

All quizzes involve independent work. The answers that you submit to quizzes should be your own independent work without any collaboration or discussion with others. If you have questions about any of the content of the quizzes these should be directed to the TAs or the course instructor, not to other students or anyone outside the course. Also, after you complete the quiz it is not permissible to share the answers with other students or anyone else. The quiz contents and answers belong to this course and you may not share or distribute them to others without the instructor's permission.

Deadlines for assignments and quizzes

All assessments must be submitted by the scheduled deadlines to receive credit. Any assessments that are submitted after their scheduled deadlines will not be graded unless an extension was approved by the course instructor to accommodate a documented extenuating circumstance.

Accommodation for course requirements

 Students requesting accommodation for course requirements (assignments, quizzes, final exams, etc.) due to illness should follow the procedures described in the 'University Policies' section of the syllabus

In the case of a missed final exam, see the accommodations described in 'University Policies' section of the syllabus.

In the case of bereavement, the instructor will provide similar accommodations to those for illness. Appropriate documentation to support the request will be required.

Students who are experiencing extenuating circumstances should also inform their academic advisors regarding their personal difficulties.

Elective arrangements such as travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting accommodations to course requirements per the uWaterloo Examination Regulations and Related Matters.

Department Policies

Informal resolution of conflict

We in the Psychology Department take great pride in the high quality of our program and our instructors. Though infrequent, we know that students occasionally find themselves in situations of conflict with their

instructors over course policies or grade assessments. If such a conflict arises, the Department Chair (Heather Henderson) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor: Email: hhenderson@uwaterloo.ca; Ph 519-888-4567 ext. 31597

If informal resolution is not possible then the issue may proceed to the grievance and appeals stage as described in the University Policies section of the syllabus.

Using official UW email

Students are responsible for all e-mail that is sent to the official uWaterloo email address. Check e-mail regularly for important and time sensitive messages. **See Statement on official student e-mail address for further details e.g., procedures and warnings regarding forwarding e-mail to other accounts.**