

**University of Waterloo  
Department of Psychology  
Psychology 253  
Social Psychology  
Winter 2015**

**Mondays & Wednesdays 10-11:20am in Arts Lecture Hall 116**

**Instructor and T.A. Information**

Instructor: Dr. Hilary Bergsieker

Office: PAS 3052

Office Phone: 519.888.4567 ex.39952

Office Hours: Mondays 12-1pm and by appointment

Email: [hburbank@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:hburbank@uwaterloo.ca)

**Please include the number “253” in the subject line of all course-related emails.** I encourage you to ask me questions in lecture, come to my office hours, and offer constructive feedback about the course. To ask questions via email, please email all 3 TAs as a group for a rapid response. Your questions help the TAs learn to be educators, and email offers a good way for them to field questions in this course; they will forward questions to me as needed. I hope we will see you at office hours.

T.A.	Alex Huynh	Jane Klinger	Harrison Oakes
Email	<a href="mailto:a7huynh@uwaterloo.ca">a7huynh@uwaterloo.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:jklinger@uwaterloo.ca">jklinger@uwaterloo.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:hoakes@uwaterloo.ca">hoakes@uwaterloo.ca</a>
Office	PAS 3240C	PAS 3041	PAS 3050
Office Hours	Thursdays 1-2pm	Tuesdays 4-5pm	Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm

**Course Description**

This course provides a detailed overview of classic and contemporary topics in social psychology. Social psychology is the scientific study of the way ordinary people think about, feel, and behave in social situations. It involves understanding how people influence, and are influenced by, the others around them. Lectures and readings emphasize findings from experimental research on such topics as conformity to social norms, attitudes and persuasion, stereotyping and prejudice, the experience of social stigma, social judgment and person perception, emotional and motivational influences on social perception and behaviour, goals and self-control, aggression and social conflict, trust and cooperative behaviour, culture and ideology, and the psychological determinants of well-being and human flourishing.

**Course Goals**

This course is designed to help you:

- A. Gain an understanding of the basic concepts and theories in social psychology
- B. Appreciate social psychology as an empirical, data-driven scientific enterprise
- C. Critically evaluate social psychology research methods and theory
- D. See connections between social psychology and yourself, your relationships, and your social world
- E. Apply social psychological principles to behaviour in the clinic, courtroom, and global community

**Required Reading**

- Textbook: Myers, D. G., Spencer, S. J., & Jordan, C. (2012). Social psychology (5th Canadian edition). McGraw-Hill.
- Book review options: For the book review assignment each student will select and read one of the following recently published popular press social psychology books (available at the UW bookstore):

- Steele, C. M. (2010). *Whistling Vivaldi*. New York: Norton.
- Gilbert, D. (2006). *Stumbling on happiness*. New York: Knopf.
- Christakis, N. A., & Fowler, J. H. (2009). *Connected*. New York: Back Bay Books.

The Myers et al. textbook is available at the UW campus bookstore and is abbreviated MSJ in list of readings. Note that the 4th Canadian edition of MSJ is not recommended as a substitute for the 5th edition. Students are not required to purchase Connect, although it is included with the textbook if purchased new. A few copies of the Myers et al. textbook and book review books are on reserve at Porter Library.

### Course Website (LEARN) and Email

Lecture slides, course dates, and announcements will be posted on LEARN (<https://learn.uwaterloo.ca>). Any changes to the schedule of lectures and assigned readings will be posted on LEARN. It is students' responsibility to check LEARN and their official university email address regularly for course updates.

### Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Dates	Weighting
Midterm tests	Jan. 26, Feb. 25, and Mar. 30	50%
Final exam	In final exam period (Apr. 10-25)	25%
Book quiz	Due Mar. 13	5%
Book review	Due Mar. 20	15%
Class participation	Jan. 12-Apr. 1	5%
Research participation (bonus marks)	Jan. 5-Apr. 6	4%
Total		100%

Graded tests for this course will be stored for a maximum of 16 months after final grades have been submitted to the Registrar and then will be destroyed in compliance with UW's confidential shredding procedures.

### Midterm tests

Your lowest midterm score will be dropped and your highest two scores count 25% each for your final mark. Midterm tests will include multiple-choice questions covering material from lectures and assigned readings.

### Final exam

The cumulative final exam will include (mostly) multiple-choice questions covering material from lectures and assigned readings. A review session will be scheduled beforehand. The final exam is not optional.

### Book quiz

Students will complete a multiple-choice quiz on LEARN by 11:50 pm on Friday, Mar. 13, demonstrating comprehension of the book that they read (from the list above).

### Book review

Students will upload a 5-page book review to LEARN by 11:50 pm on Friday, Mar. 20. Review requirements are posted on LEARN. Late reviews will not be accepted (except as noted below) and will get a grade of 0.

### Class participation

This course encourages students to engage in interactive learning using Top Hat, a classroom response system comparable to clickers, but that allows you to participate in class polls and discussions using your own devices. You can submit responses using a laptop, web-enabled smartphone, tablet, or cell-phone with text messaging. On <http://www.tophat.com> you can enrol in this course (code: 081923) and track your participation points. Each student's lowest 5 lecture participation scores will be dropped automatically.

## Research participation

Experiential learning is considered an integral part of the undergraduate program in Psychology. Research participation is one example of this, article review is another. A number of undergraduate courses have been expanded to include opportunities for Psychology students to earn grades while gaining research experience.

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology, students may earn a **"bonus" grade of up to 4%** in this course through research experience. Course work will make up 100% of the final mark and a "bonus" of up to 4% may be earned and will be added to the final grade if/as needed.

The two options for earning research experience grades (participation in research and article review) are described below. Students may complete any combination of these options for research experience grades.

### *Option 1: Participation in Psychology Research*

Research participation is coordinated by the Research Experiences Group (REG). Psychology students may volunteer as research participants in lab and/or online (web-based) studies conducted by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. Participation enables students to learn first-hand about psychology research and related concepts. Many students report that participation in research is both an educational and interesting experience. Please be assured that all Psychology studies have undergone prior ethics review and clearance through the Office of Research Ethics.

### **Educational focus of participation in research**

To maximize the educational benefits of participating in research, students will receive feedback information following their participation in each study detailing the following elements: purpose or objectives of the study, dependent and independent variables, expected results, references for at least two related research articles, provisions to ensure confidentiality of data, contact information of the researcher should the student have further questions about the study, and contact information for the Director of the Office of Research Ethics.

Participation in LAB studies is worth 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each 30-minutes of participation. Participation in ONLINE studies is worth .25 credits for each 15-minutes of participation. Researchers will record student's participation and report the credits earned by each student in this term.

### **How to participate?**

Study scheduling, participation and grade assignment is managed using the SONA online system. All students in this course have been set up with a SONA account. You must get started early in the term.

**[INSTRUCTIONS/DATES/DEADLINES: How to log in to Sona and sign up for studies](#)**

***\*\*\* Please read this website carefully before asking the instructor or REG Coordinator about REG.\*\*\****

More information about the REG program is available at: [REG Participants' Homepage](#)

### *Option 2: Article Review as an alternative to participation in research*

Students are not required to participate in research, and not all students wish to do so. As an alternative, students may opt to write short reviews (1½ to 2 pages) of research articles relevant to the course. Each review article counts as one percentage point. Articles must come from one of these journals:

- *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*
- *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*
- *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*

To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The article review must:

- Be submitted by Apr. 6, 2015. Late submissions will **NOT** be accepted under **ANY** circumstances.
- Be typed and submitted to the appropriate dropbox on LEARN.
- Fully identify the article's title, author(s), source and date. A copy of the article must be uploaded.
- Identify psychological concepts in the article and indicate pages in the textbook that are applicable.
- Clearly evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article. If inappropriate or incorrect (e.g., misleading headings, faulty research procedures, alternative explanations that are ignored, failures to distinguish factual findings from opinions, faulty statements of cause-effect relations, errors in reasoning), identify the error and its implications for the validity of the article.

## Course Outline

MSJ = Myers, Spencer, & Jordan (2012)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Jan. 5 Jan. 7	The mission: Introduction The method: How we do social psychology	Course syllabus MSJ Chapter 1
2	Jan. 12 Jan. 14	Social judgment Attribution and person perception	MSJ Chapter 3
3	Jan. 19 Jan. 21	Self-perception Self-deception	MSJ Chapter 2
4	Jan. 26 Jan. 28	Midterm 1 Attitude structure and function	MSJ Chapter 4
5	Feb. 2 Feb. 4	Attitude change Persuasion	MSJ Chapter 5
6	Feb. 9 Feb. 11	Social norms Conformity and obedience	MSJ Chapter 6
7	Feb. 23 Feb. 25	Performance in groups Midterm 2	MSJ Chapter 7
8	Mar. 2 Mar. 4	Helping others Hurting others	MSJ Chapter 8 MSJ Chapter 9
9	Mar. 9 Mar. 11 Mar. 13 (11:50pm)	Prejudice: Disliking others Targets of prejudice: Being disliked Book quiz due	MSJ Chapter 11 MSJ Chapter 12
10	Mar. 16 Mar. 18 Mar. 20 (11:50pm)	Conflict and conciliation Social psychology and law Book review due	MSJ Module A MSJ Module C
11	Mar. 23 Mar. 25	Friendship and attraction Love, closeness, and well-being	MSJ Chapter 10 MSJ Module B
12	Mar. 30 Apr. 1	Midterm 3 Lessons for flourishing	

## Late Work

If illness, bereavement, or an emergency affects exam attendance or book review/quiz submission, students must inform the instructor by the respective exam date or book review/quiz due date (preferably), and provide documentation in a timely manner. For illness, please seek medical treatment as soon as possible, obtain a completed UW Verification of Illness Form (<http://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness>), and then submit that form to the instructor within 48 hours.

Consistent with UW policy on missed assessments and assignments, if there is undue delay or insufficient documentation, the instructor reserves the right to refuse an extension or makeup. Student travel plans are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time. With appropriate documentation, the following accommodations are possible, at the instructor's discretion:

1. For a missed book review or quiz, the instructor will either provide an extension or re-weight remaining work as she deems fit according to circumstances and the course goals.
2. For a missed final exam, the instructor and student will negotiate an extension for the final exam that will typically be written as soon as possible, but no later than the next offering of the course.
3. For a missed midterm, because the lowest midterm mark is already automatically dropped, no re-writes are permitted unless the student provides documentation for missing multiple midterms.

### **Information on Plagiarism Detection**

Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course. To opt out of Turnitin, you must notify the instructor by Feb. 1, 2015, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

Electronic devices should be used only for class participation via Top Hat or note taking and should be silenced. Students disrupting others' classroom experience may be re-seated at the instructor's discretion.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is not required but strongly encouraged. Posted slides are just an outline for lectures and won't make much sense without lecture to put them in perspective.

### **Institutional-Required Statements for Undergraduate Course Outlines**

#### **Academic integrity**

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity Webpage \(https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the [Arts Academic Integrity Office Webpage \(http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility\)](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility) for more information.

#### **Discipline**

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing academic offenses and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm).

#### **Grievance**

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). When in

doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

### **Appeals**

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm) (<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>).

### **Note for students with disabilities**

I strongly support all of the university policies for accommodating students with physical or learning disabilities. The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term. Please provide me with necessary documentation as soon as possible.