

# Course Schedule

**IMPORTANT: ALL TIMES EASTERN** - Please see the [University Policies](#) section of your Syllabus for details.

| Section/Week                                   | Topics                       | Readings   | Activities and Assignments | Begin Date                              | End / Due Date    | Weight (%) |
|--|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|-------------------|------------|
| <b>Section 1: The Power of the Situation</b>   |                              |  |                            |   |                   |            |
| Week 1   | Module 01 - Introduction     | Text: Ch. 1  | Introduce Yourself         |   |                   | Ungraded   |
|  | Module 02 - Research Methods | Reading: Jordan and Zanna. "How to Read a Journal Article in Social Psychology" (PDF)  |                            |   |                   |            |
| Week 2   | Module 03 - Conformity       | Text: Ch. 6<br>Reading: Milgram. "Behavioral Study of Obedience" (PDF)   |                            |   |                   |            |
|  | Module 04 - Helping Others   | Text: Ch. 8  |                            |   |                   |            |
| Week 3   | Module 05 - Aggression       | Text: Ch. 9<br>Reading: Anderson and Dill. "Video Games and Aggressive Thoughts, Feelings, and Behavior in the Laboratory and in Life" (PDF) |                            |   |                   |            |
| <b>Section 2: The Perceiver Shapes Reality</b> |                              |  |                            |   |                   |            |
| Week 4   | Module 06 - The Self         | Text: Ch. 2<br>Reading: Wilson   | Term Test 1                | Available Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at | Availability Ends | 3%         |

|   |   |   |  |  |   |           |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|-----------|
|   |   | and Ross. "From Chump to Champ: People's Appraisals of Their Earlier and Present Selves" (PDF)              |  | 5:30 AM  | Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 8:30 AM                    |           |
|   |   |   | Term Test 1 - Take-up and Feedback with Steven Spencer (Virtual Class Meeting) |  | Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM                    |           |
|   |   |   | Term Test 1 - Feedback Available   |  | Saturday, October 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM                  |           |
|   | Module 07 - Attribution and Person Perception | Text: Ch. 3   |  |  |   |           |
| <b>Week 5</b>   | Module 08 - Stereotyping and Prejudice        | Text: Ch. 11<br>Reading: Sinclair and Kunda. "Reactions to a Black Professional" (PDF)                      |  |  |   |           |
| <b>Week 6</b>   | Module 09 - Persuasion                        | Text: Ch. 5   |  |  |   |           |
| <b>Section 3: The Interaction of the Person and the Situation</b> |   |   |  |  |   |           |
| <b>Week 7</b>   | Module 10 - Social Comparison Theory          | Reading: Schachter and Singer. "Cognitive, Social, and Physiological Determinants of Emotional State" (PDF) | Term Test 2: Covers Section 2  | Available Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 5:30 AM | Availability Ends Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 8:30 AM | <b>3%</b> |
|   |   |   | Term Test 2 - Take-up and Feedback with Steven Spencer (Virtual Class Meeting) |  | Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 7:00 PM                   |           |

|  |   |   |  |   |  |            |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|------------|
|  |   |   | <a href="#">Term Test 2 - Feedback Available</a>   | Saturday, October 31, 2015 at 12:00 AM            |  |            |
| <b>Week 8</b>                                | <a href="#">Module 11 - Cognitive Dissonance Theory and Attitudes</a>           | Text: Ch. 4   |  |   |  |            |
|  |   | Text. Ch. 12  |  |   |  |            |
| <b>Week 9</b>                                | <a href="#">Module 12 - Self-fulfilling Prophecies and Intergroup Relations</a> | Reading: Davies, Spencer, Quinn and Gerhardstein. <a href="#">"Consuming Images"</a> (PDF)                      |  |   |  |            |
| <b>Section 4: Applying Social Psychology</b> |   |   |  |   |  |            |
| <b>Week 10</b>                               | <a href="#">Module 13 - Social Psychology and Health</a>                        | Text: Module B<br>Reading: MacDonald, Zanna and Fong. <a href="#">"Decision Making in Altered States"</a> (PDF) | <a href="#">Term Test 3: Covers Section 3</a>  | Available Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 5:30 AM | Availability Ends Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 8:30 AM | <b>3%</b>  |
|  |   |   | <a href="#">Term Test 3 - Take-up and Feedback with Steven Spencer (Virtual Class Meeting)</a> | Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 7:00 PM            |  |            |
|  |   |   | <a href="#">Term Test 3 - Feedback Available</a>   | Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM           |  |            |
|  | <a href="#">Module 14 - Social Psychology and the Law</a>                       | Text: Module C  |  |   |  |            |
| <b>Week 11</b>                               | <a href="#">Module 15 - Social Psychology</a>                                   | Text: Modules A and D   | <a href="#">Application Paper</a>  |   | Wednesday, November 25, 2015 at                          | <b>13%</b> |

|                   |  |  |  |  |   |     |
|-------------------|--|--|--|--|---|-----|
|                   | and the Environment                        |  |  |  | 11:55 PM  |     |
|                   | Module 16 - Social Psychology and Business | Text: Ch. 7  |  |  |   |     |
| Week 12           | Module 17 - Social Psychology and Dating   | Text: Ch.10<br>Reading: Murray and Holmes.<br>"Seeing Virtues in Faults" (PDF) | Term Test 4:<br>Covers Section 4   | Available Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 5:30 AM | Availability Ends Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 8:30 AM | 3%  |
|                   |  |  | Term Test 4 - Take-up and Feedback with Steven Spencer (Virtual Class Meeting) | Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 7:00 PM            |   |     |
|                   |  |  | Term Test 4 - Feedback Available   | Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 12:00 AM           |   |     |
| Final Examination |  |  |  |  |   | 75% |

## Final Examination Arrangements and Schedule

Please carefully review the information about [final examinations for online courses](#), including dates, locations, how to make examination arrangements, writing with a proctor, and deadlines.

If you are taking **any on-campus courses**, you will automatically be scheduled to write your exam on campus. No action is required.

If you are taking **only online courses**, do one of the following:

- If your **address in QUEST is within 100 km** of an [examination centre](#), you must choose an exam centre in [Quest](#) by **Monday September 28, 2015**. This must be done each term.
- If your address in Quest is **more than 100 km from an exam centre**, you must **arrange for a proctor**. Please review the guidelines and deadlines for [writing with a proctor](#). This must be done each term.

Your online course exam schedule will be available in Quest approximately four weeks before your exam date(s). Instructions on how to find your schedule are posted on the [Quest Help](#) page.

University of Waterloo Senate-approved [examination regulations and related matters](#) can be found on the Registrar's

website.

# Official Grades and Course Access

Official Grades and Academic Standings are available through [Quest](#).

Your access to this course will continue for the duration of the current term. You will not have access to this course once the next term begins.

# Contact Information

## News

Your instructor uses the **News** widget of the **Course Home** page to make announcements during the term to communicate new or changing information regarding due dates, instructor absence, etc., as needed. You are expected to read the **News** on a regular basis.

To ensure you are viewing the complete list of news items, you may need to click **Show All News Items**.

## Discussions

A **General Discussion** topic\* has also been made available to allow students to communicate with peers in the course. Your instructor may drop in at this discussion topic.

## Contact Us

| Who and Why   | Contact Details   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Instructor and TA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course-related questions (e.g., course content, deadlines, assignments, etc.)</li> <li>Questions of a personal nature</li> </ul> | <p><b>Post your course-related questions</b> to the <b>Ask the Instructor</b> discussion topic*. This allows other students to benefit from your question as well.</p> <p><b>Questions of a personal nature</b> can be directed to your instructor or your TA.</p> <p>Instructor: Steven J. Spencer<br/> <a href="mailto:sspencer@uwaterloo.ca">sspencer@uwaterloo.ca</a></p> <p>Your instructor checks email and the <b>Ask the Instructor</b> discussion topic* frequently and will make every effort to reply to your questions within 24–48 hours, Monday to Friday.</p> <p>The TA will be assigned during the first week of class and this information will be provided through the <b>News</b> section of the <b>Course Home</b> page as it becomes available. Please check the News section regularly.</p> |
| <p><b>Technical Support,</b><br/>Centre for Extended Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical problems with Waterloo LEARN</li> </ul>  | <p><a href="mailto:learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca">learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca</a></p> <p>Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number.</p>  |
| <p><b>Adobe Connect Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical problems with Adobe Connect</li> </ul>   | <p><a href="mailto:ist-ac@uwaterloo.ca">ist-ac@uwaterloo.ca</a></p> <p>Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, course name and number, quiz/assignment name, and any other relevant details.</p>  |

For instructions on how to use Adobe Connect, see [Adobe Connect Help](#).

**Learner Support Services,**  
Centre for Extended Learning

- General inquiries
- WatCards (Student ID Cards)
- Examination information

[Useful Information for Students in Online Courses](#)

[extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca)

+1 519-888-4002

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

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

# Course Description and Objectives

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## Description

This course surveys the major theories and research in social psychology. Social psychology is a field that studies how people affect one another. In the first part of this course, we will examine how people are influenced by the situations (and especially the other people in those situations) they encounter. We cover conformity, aggression, and helping behaviour in this part of the course. The second part of this course will focus on how people influence the situation and the people they encounter. Topics in this section will include the self-image and self-esteem, attribution and person perception, stereotyping and prejudice, and persuasion. In the third section of this course, we will examine how these first two processes interact. That is, we will examine how the power of the situation and the perceiver's perception of the situation work together in shaping people's thoughts and actions. Here we will examine cognitive dissonance theory, social comparison theory, self-fulfilling prophecies, and culture. Finally, we will apply social psychology to some important social issues, health and well-being, law and the courts, the environment, business, and attraction and relationships.

## Objectives

I have six goals for this course:

1. That you will learn how people are influenced by their situations.
2. That you will learn how people's beliefs and thoughts can influence their situations.
3. That you will gain some understanding of how the person interacts with the situation to shape behaviour.
4. That you will gain some ability to apply social psychological principles to important social issues.
5. That you will learn the basics of research methodology and will be able to differentiate a good study from a bad study.
6. That you will learn to read and understand primary source material.

*This online course was developed by Dr. Stephen J. Spencer, with instructional design and multimedia development support provided by the Centre for Extended Learning.*



# About the Course Author

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## Course Author — Dr. Steven J. Spencer

Steve Spencer has been a faculty member at the University of Waterloo since 1997. He received his B.A. from Hope College (located about 2 hours north of Chicago on the western shore of Lake Michigan), and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (located about an hour west of Detroit).

Dr. Spencer's major research interests are in Social Psychology and particularly the study of the self, stereotyping and prejudice, and unconscious thought processes. In addition to Introductory Psychology, Spencer teaches a second year undergraduate course in Social Psychology, a third year undergraduate course in Social Cognition, and seminars in research methods and stereotyping and prejudice to graduate students studying for the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. Spencer has two children, Emily and Jon. You will hear a number of anecdotes about his family as you listen to the lectures. In his spare time, he enjoys playing most sports (especially basketball) and is an active member in his church.



# Materials and Resources

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## Textbooks

### Required

1. David G. Myers, Steven J. Spencer, and Christian Jordan. (2013). *Social Psychology (5th Canadian Edition)*. McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

For textbook ordering information, please contact the [Waterloo Bookstore](#).

For your convenience, you can compile a list of required and optional course materials through [BookLook](#) using your Quest userID and password. If you are having difficulties ordering online and wish to call the Waterloo Bookstore, their phone number is +1 519-888-4673 or toll-free at +1 866-330-7933. Please be aware that textbook orders **CANNOT** be taken over the phone.

## Other Materials

### Supplementary Readings 1-9:

There are nine **required** Supplementary Readings in this course. They can be found under the "Readings" column on the [Course Schedule](#).

### Social Psychology Network

The [Social Psychology Network](#) is an excellent additional resource for topics on Social Psychology.

## Resources

- [University of Waterloo Library](#) (Services for Students Taking Online Courses)

# Grade Breakdown

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The following table represents the grade breakdown of this course.

| Activities and Assignments             | Weight (%) |
|--|------------|
| Introduce Yourself                     | Ungraded   |
| Psychology Experiments/Article Reviews | 3% BONUS   |
| Term Tests (4 x 3%)                    | 12%        |
| Application Paper                      | 13%        |
| Final Examination                      | 75%        |

# University Policies

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## Submission Times

Please be aware that the University of Waterloo is located in the **Eastern Time Zone** (GMT or UTC-5 during standard time and UTC-4 during daylight saving time) and, as such, the time that your activities and/or assignments are due is based on this zone. If you are outside the Eastern Time Zone and require assistance with converting your time, please try the [Ontario, Canada Time Converter](#).

## Accommodation Due to Illness

**If your instructor has provided specific procedures for you to follow if you miss assignment due dates, term tests, or a final examination, adhere to those instructions. Otherwise:**

## Missed Assignments/Tests/Quizzes

Contact the instructor as soon as you realize there will be a problem, and preferably within 48 hours, but no more than 72 hours, have a medical practitioner complete a [Verification of Illness Form](#).

**Email** a scanned copy of the Verification of Illness Form to your instructor. In your email to the instructor, provide your name, student ID number, and exactly what course activity you missed.

Further information regarding Management of Requests for Accommodation Due to Illness can be found on the [Accommodation due to illness](#) page.

## Missed Final Examinations

If you are unable to write a final examination due to illness, seek medical treatment and have a medical practitioner complete a [Verification of Illness Form](#). Email a scanned copy to the Centre for Extended Learning (CEL) at [extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca) within 48 hours of your missed exam. Make sure you include your name, student ID number, and the exam(s) missed. You will be **REQUIRED** to hand in the original completed form before you write the make-up examination.

After your completed Verification of Illness Form has been received and processed, you will be emailed your alternate exam date and time. This can take up to 2 business days. If you are within **150 km** of Waterloo you should be prepared to write in Waterloo on the [additional CEL exam dates](#). If you live outside the 150 km radius, CEL will work with you to make suitable arrangements.

Further information about [Examination Accommodation Due to Illness](#) regulations is available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## 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. **If you have not already completed the online tutorial**

**regarding academic integrity you should do so as soon as possible.** Undergraduate students should see the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and graduate students should see the [Graduate Students and Academic Integrity](#) website.

Proper citations are part of academic integrity. Citations in CEL course materials usually follow CEL style, which is based on APA style. Your course may follow a different style. If you are uncertain which style to use for an assignment, please confirm with your instructor or TA.

For further information on academic integrity, please visit the [Office of Academic Integrity](#).

## Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes [academic integrity](#) to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

## 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](#).

## 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. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

## Final Grades

In accordance with [Policy 19 - Access To and Release of Student Information](#), the Centre for Extended Learning does not release final examination grades or final course grades to students. Students must go to [Quest](#) to see all final grades. Any grades posted in Waterloo LEARN are unofficial.

## AccessAbility Services

[AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall, 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 accommodation to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term and for each course.

## Accessibility Statement

The Centre for Extended Learning strives to meet the needs of all our online learners. Our ongoing efforts to become aligned with the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act \(AODA\)](#) are guided by [University of Waterloo AccessAbility Services Policy](#) and the [World Wide Web Consortium's \(W3C\) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines](#)

(WCAG) 2.0. The majority of our online courses are currently delivered via the Desire2Learn Learning Environment. Learn more about [Desire2Learn's Accessibility Standards Compliance](#).

# Use of Computing and Network Resources

Please see the [Guidelines on Use of Waterloo Computing and Network Resources](#).

## Copyright Information

### UWaterloo's Web Pages

All rights, including copyright, images, slides, audio, and video components, of the content of this course are owned by the course author, unless otherwise stated. These web pages are owned or controlled by the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning. By accessing the web pages, you agree that you may only download the content for your own personal, non-commercial use. You are not permitted to copy, broadcast, download, store (in any medium), transmit, show or play in public, adapt, or change in any way the content of these web pages for any other purpose whatsoever without the prior written permission of the course author and the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning.

### Other Sources

Respect the copyright of others and abide by all copyright notices and regulations when using the computing facilities provided for your course of study by the University of Waterloo. No material on the Internet or World Wide Web may be reproduced or distributed in any material form or in any medium, without permission from copyright holders or their assignees. To support your course of study, the University of Waterloo has provided hypertext links to relevant websites, resources, and services on the web. These resources must be used in accordance with any registration requirements or conditions which may be specified. You must be aware that in providing such hypertext links, the University of Waterloo has not authorized any acts (including reproduction or distribution) which, if undertaken without permission of copyright owners or their assignees, may be infringement of copyright. Permission for such acts can only be granted by copyright owners or their assignees.

If there are any questions about this notice, please contact the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1 or [extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca).