

**Social Psychology (Psychology 253)
Fall 2007**

Instructor: Dr. Michael Ross **Office:**
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Office Hours: By appointment, scheduled in class or by email.

Class Times and Location

2:30-3:50 MW AL 116

Teaching Assistants

Jillian Banfield **Office:** PAS 3045
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David Cwir **Office:** PAS 3040
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Daniel Nadolny **Office:** 3050
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Office Hours:

Required Text

Text: *Social Psychology* 3rd Canadian Edition (there should be lots of second hand copies available)

Authors: David G. Myers and Steven J. Spencer

Course Web Page

Access course web page via UWACE:

<http://uwace.uwaterloo.ca>

Log into UWACE using your QUEST/UWdir userid and password. The syllabus and all course information, including course notes, course updates, news, and experimental demonstrations will be posted on the Psych 253 web site. Course notes should appear by 9 AM on the morning of the lecture. Bring the notes to the lectures. The course notes are a **condensed** version of my PowerPoint presentations and lectures. The notes are designed to reduce your writing during the lectures, but will not substitute for the lectures. Check the web site frequently for course notes, class demonstrations, and announcements.

Course Description and Objectives

Social Psychologists study how people think about, influence, and relate to one another. An introductory social psychology course surveys the major theories and research in the field. Any introductory course also reflects the interests and expertise of the instructor. My goal is to offer you a “taste” of what social psychologists do and why they do it. The course should also provide you with new insights on your own social world.

The course consists of readings, lectures, and class demonstrations. The text is full of information. In the lectures, I attempt to provide perspective, demonstrate research, and discuss what I think are some of the more important and interesting issues. I hope that there will be plenty of give-and-take during the lectures. The class demonstrations are designed to provide you with direct experience in how social psychology is conducted. Participation is voluntary. The demonstrations will be posted on the course website throughout the term. You can participate at any point prior to the deadline specified for each demonstration. By participating you learn more about how social psychology research is conducted and you provide data that can be discussed in the relevant lecture. Your responses will be anonymous and confidential and only group averages will be presented in the lectures. Participation is voluntary.

You will also be able to earn **up to 3 bonus points** by participating in studies through the SONA Participant Pool. I have asked that you only be invited to participate in social, personality or clinical psychology studies. All participation is entirely voluntary.

Make an appointment if you would like to meet with me outside of class time. You can arrange an appointment by emailing me. I am happy to answer general questions about the course, the psychology program at Waterloo, and graduate school. You can also meet with the teaching assistants. The teaching assistants can help you prepare for exams and understand your exam grades. Arrange an

appointment via email directly with one of the TAs.

Course Requirements and Grading

Requirements

Term Tests

You will take four midterms during the semester. Each test will contain 30 multiple choice questions, which you will have 40 minutes to complete. The tests will cover material that is presented in lectures and text, and are **not** cumulative. In general, there will be no make-up exams, but in cases of severe illness (with a doctor's note) or other extenuating circumstances a make-up exam will be offered with my prior approval. There will be no final exam. If you do not submit an essay (see below), each midterm will be worth 25%. Your final grade will be the sum of your four midterm grades plus any bonus points (maximum of 3) for participating in the REG studies.

OPTIONAL ESSAY

You can write a short paper applying what you have learned in the course. The essay is optional. **If you do submit an essay, the essay grade cannot lower your final grade but can raise it.** If it is to your benefit, we will replace your lowest midterm grade with your essay grade. We will do the replacement only if it raises your grade.

Here is what the paper should be about:

In August of 2007, a Muslim mosque in Mississauga Ontario was attacked by vandals for the third time. Minutes before prayers were set to begin, a foot-wide slab of concrete came crashing through a window of the mosque. Fortunately, no one was injured.

*Assume that this attack is due at least in part to prejudice against Muslims. Using research and theory from this course provide **5 independent** suggestions for reducing prejudice against Muslims in Canada. Briefly describe relevant research and theory and directly connect this information to the reduction of prejudice against Muslims. You will find all of the information you need in the text and lectures. Provide a citation (e.g., a page number in the text or a lecture number) for the relevant theory and research that you describe.*

*The paper should be between 1,500 and 2,000 words (which roughly translates into 5 to 7 double-spaced pages with reasonable fonts and margins, but pay attention to the word count and not the page count). A **hard copy** of the paper will be due at Jillian's office by 12 noon, Monday December 10. No extensions will be granted, because you have plenty of advance warning of the requirements and the due date.*

Your paper will be evaluated in terms of:

1. The quality and number (**offer 5 independent suggestions**) of your suggestions. Are your suggestions practical and do they make psychological sense?
2. The accuracy of your description of the relevant research and theory.
3. The justifications that you provide for each suggestion. Justify your suggestions by clearly linking your advice to theory and/or research learned in the course.

I assume that all the work that you submit will be your own work and will not tolerate plagiarism on the essay or midterms. As you probably know, the Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as “the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one’s own.” This means among other things that you will not submit someone else's work, copy someone else’s work, or cheat in any other way. It means positively that you will cite work properly. You should read Policy #71 in the Undergraduate Calendar for a full discussion of these matters.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Topic	Readings
Monday	9/10	Introduction & Research Methods	Chapter 1
Wed	9/12	Introduction Cont'd	
Monday	9/17	The Self in a Social World	Chapter 2
Wed	9/19	The Self in a Social World	
Mon	9/24	Social Evaluation Theories	p. 43- 45, 193-195, 323-324
Wed	9/26	Social Evaluation Theories	
Mon	10/1	Midterm 1 Social Beliefs and Judgments	Chapter 3
Wed	10/3	Social Beliefs and Judgments	
Mon	10/8	No Class (Thanksgiving)	
Wed	10/10	Behavior and Attitudes	Chapter 4

Mon	10/15	Behavior and Attitudes	
Wed	10/17	Culture, Language, Gender	Chapter 5
Mon	10/22	Culture, Language, Gender	
Wed	10/24	Midterm 2 Conformity	Chapter 6 & pages 260-273
Mon	10/29	Conformity	
Wed	10/31	Persuasion	Chapter 7
Mon	11/5	Prejudice	Chapter 12
Wed	11/7	Prejudice	
Mon	11/12	Midterm 3 Aggression, Ethnocentrism, & Peacemaking	Chapters 13
Wed	11/14	Aggression, Ethnocentrism, & Peacemaking	
Mon	11/19	Vengeance and Forgiving Social Psychological Justice Theories	Experimental Demo

Wed	11/21	Social Psychology and the Justice System	Module B (504-519)
Mon	11/26	Liking Loving and Relating	Chapter 11
Wed	11/28	Liking and Loving and Relating	
Mon	12/3	Midterm 4	