

Introduction to Social Psychology
Psychology 253, Fall 2008
Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30pm – 3:50pm
Arts Lecture Hall 116

Professors

Dr. Danu Stinson
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Office Hours : Mondays
1pm-2pm

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11am-12pm

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Office Hours : Tuesdays
1pm-2pm

Contacting Professors or TAs:

If you have questions, concerns or comments, please contact the professors or TAs through UW ACE only, *not on their personal email accounts*. We will check ACE email once daily on weekdays. Each student has been assigned to a TA, as listed on ACE. Please consult ACE to find the name of your TA, and then send email to your assigned TA only. You are welcome to attend the office hours of any TA or Professor.

Text:

Myers, D. G. & Spencer, S. J., *Social Psychology*, Third 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:

- 1) **Readings:** Students are responsible for reading the textbook chapters listed in the schedule below, and the four journal articles listed here. Journal articles will be available on ACE. If you have trouble reading the journal articles, please talk to your TA for guidance.
 1. Word, C. O., Zanna, M. P., & Cooper, J. (1974). The nonverbal mediation of self-fulfilling prophecies in interracial interaction. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *10*, 109-120.
 2. Markus, H. R. & Kitayama, S. (1991). Culture and the self: Implications for cognition, emotion, and motivation. *Psychological Review*, *98*, 224-253.
 3. Sinclair, L. & Kunda, Z. (1999). Motivated stereotyping of women: She's fine if she praised me but incompetent if she criticized me. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *26*, 1329-1342.
 4. Stinson, D. A., Logel, C., Zanna, M. P., Holmes, J. G., Cameron, J. J., Wood, J. V., & Spencer, S. J. (2008). The cost of lower self-esteem: Testing a self-and-social-bonds model of health. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *94*, 412-428.

- 2) **Tests:** There will be four in-class tests, the first three worth 24% of your grade and the fourth worth 23% of your grade. Each test will cover all material from the text, videos, and lectures from the period leading up to the test. Each test will have multiple choice questions based on the textbook and lecture content, and short answer questions based on the assigned journal articles. Tests are not cumulative.
- 3) **Study Participation Credits:** You have the option of either participating in psychology studies through the Research Experiences Group, or completing short journal article reviews, for a total of 5% of your grade. See the last two pages of this syllabus for more information.
- 4) **Optional Final Exam:** If you would like to increase your grade or have missed an exam without documentation, you have the option to write the final exam. The final exam will *replace your lowest midterm grade*. If your final exam grade is lower than your midterm grades, it will not replace them. The final exam will be cumulative, covering all the text, lecture, and readings from the course. It will include multiple-choice and short answer questions.

Notes/Policies:

- 1) **ACE:** Please regularly visit the class website on ACE. We will post announcements, grades, etc. We will post our lecture slides by 9pm the day before each lecture to help you with your note-taking. We will structure the lecture based on the assumption that you have printed the slides and brought them to class with you. We highly recommend that you write additional notes throughout the lecture as we elaborate on the points on the slides.
- 2) **Attendance:** To succeed, attend 100% of the lectures. We will present a great deal of material not covered in your textbook and expand on important points in the text.
- 3) **Missing Tests:** We expect all students to be present for tests. Students may take a make-up test if (a) they inform us *in advance* that they will be unable to take the scheduled test and (b) they obtain *written, verifiable evidence* of medical problems or other extreme circumstances. The make-up tests may be a different test from the one taken by the rest of the class. Any students who miss a test without making prior arrangements and without providing *documented justification* will receive a mark of zero for that test. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Remember that you have the chance to write the optional final to replace a missing test or your lowest mark.
- 4) **Grade Appeals:** If you feel strongly that your grade on an exam was unfair or mistaken, you must submit a written appeal in class (not over email) within one week of the date the assignment was first handed back. Your appeal must describe a) which item is in question and b) your reason for appealing. We will review the appeal and if necessary, issue a new grade (which can be lower or higher than the original, depending on our opinion).
- 5) **Cell phone policy:** Ringing cell phones are a disruption during lecture, as is leaving the room to accept a cell phone call during class (even if the ringer is off). Cell phones must be turned off during lectures.

Proposed Schedule of Classes

| Day | Date | Topic | Readings | Professor |
|------------|-------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday | Sept 08 | Introduction to Social Psych Present Syllabus | | Both |
| Wednesday | Sept 10 | Research Methods | Chapter 1 | Stinson |
| Monday | Sept 15 | The Self in a Social World | Chapter 2 | Stinson |
| Wednesday | Sept 17 | The Self in a Social World | Chapter 2 | Stinson |
| Monday | Sept 22 | Social beliefs and Judgments | Chapter 3 | Logel |
| Wednesday | Sept 24 | Social beliefs and Judgments | Journal Article #1 | Logel |
| Monday | Sept 29 | MIDTERM 1 | | |
| Wednesday | Oct 01 | Behavior and attitudes | Chapter 4 | Logel |
| Monday | Oct 06 | Culture, language, gender | Chapter 5 | Stinson |
| Wednesday | Oct 08 | Culture, language, gender | Journal Article #2 | Stinson |
| Monday | Oct 13 | Thanksgiving, no classes | | |
| Wednesday | Oct 15 | Group Influence | Chapter 8 | Stinson |
| Monday | Oct 20 | MIDTERM 2 | | |
| Wednesday | Oct 22 | Conformity | Chapter 6 | Guest |
| Monday | Oct 27 | Persuasion | Chapter 7 | Logel |
| Wednesday | Oct 29 | Prejudice | Chapter 12 | Logel |
| Monday | Nov 03 | Intergroup Relations | Chapter 13 & Journal Article #3 | Logel |
| Wednesday | Nov 05 | MIDTERM 3 | | |
| Monday | Nov 10 | Social Psych in the Clinic | Module A & Journal Article #4 | Stinson |
| Wednesday | Nov 12 | Attraction and Intimacy | Chapter 11 | Stinson |
| Monday | Nov 17 | Attraction and Intimacy | Chapter 11 | Stinson |
| Wednesday | Nov 19 | Altruism | Chapter 9 | Logel |
| Monday | Nov 24 | Aggression | Chapter 10 | Logel |
| Wednesday | Nov 26 | Social Psych in Court | Module B | Logel |
| Monday | Dec 01 | MIDTERM 4 | | |

Participation in Psychology Research: Guidelines for Psychology 253, Fall 2008

Experiential learning is considered an integral part of the undergraduate program in Psychology. Participation in research is one example of this. A number of undergraduate courses have been expanded to include opportunities for Psychology students to volunteer as research participants enabling them to learn first-hand about psychology research and related concepts. Many students report that participation in research is both an educational and interesting experience.

Student participants may earn up to 5 percentage points towards their final mark in Psychology 253 by participating in Social Psychology studies conducted by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. Participation is worth .5 participation credits (percentage points) for each half hour session. Researchers will record student's participation and will advise the course instructor of the total points earned by each student at the end of the term. Students who do not wish to participate in research may choose an alternative approach to earning the same number of points; this is explained below in "Alternative to participating in research".

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology and part of this course, students can earn up to 5% of their final grade by participating in these experiments (i.e., 95% for course work, 5% for REG participation/assignments).

Please note 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
- Contact information for the Director of the Office of Research Ethics should the student wish to learn more about the general ethical issues surrounding research with human participants, or specific questions or concerns about the study in which sh/he participated.

How do I sign up?

Once you are registered in the course, you will get an account on SONA (our web-based Study Sign-Up system) at <http://uwaterloo.sona-systems.com>. User ID is your Quest ID (eg. j2smith), temporary password is your Student ID (eg 2001234). Log in to your account, read/acknowledge the ORE "Human Subjects/Privacy Policy" then complete a very brief (10 minute) "Prescreen" questionnaire to provide basic demographic info. You won't receive a credit for this and you may decline if you wish however *completing it will increase your eligibility for other studies*. Once you have completed (or declined) the Prescreen questionnaire you should go to "My Profile" and enter your preferred (Alternate) email address. Then you can go to "Study Sign-Up" and select a Psych 253-eligible study that interests you and a day/time that fits your schedule. You'll receive a confirmation email and a

reminder the day before the study. Upon completion of the study you are granted your Study Credit and given feedback about the study hypothesis, design and predictions.

When should I sign up?

Right away, the sooner the better!!! The On-line study “Mass Testing Survey F08” (one full credit) will only be offered for a few weeks and you *should do this study as soon as possible*. Researchers often select participants based on their responses and doing this survey increases your eligibility for other studies. Note that you can only do this survey if you have completed the Prescreen questionnaire. Doing both Prescreen and Mass Testing Survey helps you (by providing more qualifying studies and it helps researchers (by identifying more qualified participants) so we would greatly appreciate it if you would do both.

Are there any restrictions to the studies I can sign up for?

Yes ... i) the study must be eligible for a credit in this class (as noted in the study description) ii) only 2 of your 5 credits can be for On-line studies and iii) you should try to spread your participation out over the term. The last day to participate for credit is December 1 but you can participate for pay until December 19.

Where can I get more information, instructions, help with login problems etc?

REG website: <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~regadmin/regparticipant>

REG Coordinator: regadmin@watarts.uwaterloo.ca

Alternative to participating in research

Students are not required to participate in research, and not all students wish to do so. As an alternative to participation in research, students may submit short reviews (1½ to 2 pages) of journal articles from approved journals (see list below). Each review article counts as one percentage point. You should contact your TA to get approval before writing the review. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The review must:

- **Be submitted before November 24. Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.**
- Be typed
- Be on articles from: Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, and Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
- Fully identify the title, author(s), source and date of the article. A copy of the article must be attached.
- Identify the psychological concepts in the article and indicate the pages in the Myers & Spencer textbook that are applicable. Critically evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article. If inappropriate or incorrect, identify the error and its implications for the validity of the article. You may find, for example, 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, etc. Provide examples whenever possible.
- Clearly evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article.
- Keep a copy of your review in the unlikely event we misplace the original.

Students may complete any combination of a) participation in research or b) article review up to a total of 5% points.