

Social Psychology
Psychology 253, Fall 2010
Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30pm – 3:50pm
Arts Lecture Hall 116

Instructor: Dr. Emiko Yoshida
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Office Hours: Fridays 2:00-4:00

Teaching Assistants:

Emily Schryer (Students' family names from A to C)

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Crystal Tse (Students' family names from N to Z)

Email: ctse@uwaterloo.ca

Office: PAS3045

Office Hours: Thursday 11:00-12:00

Contacting Instructor or TAs:

For **all** course-related email, contact us through UW ACE. The TAs and I will check it regularly. Please email general questions to your TA.

Text:

Myers, D. G., Spencer, S. J., & Jordan, C. H. *Social Psychology*, Fourth Canadian Edition.

Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to research and theories within the field of social psychology. We will discuss how social environments will shape our thoughts and behaviour, and how people influence the situation and the people they encounter. Topics include prejudice, stereotyping, attraction, attitudes, the self, self-esteem, prosocial behaviour, persuasion, and others. This course is designed so that you can meet the following objectives:

1. Become familiar with a broad range of theories and concepts
2. Become familiar with the methods of investigation used in social psychology, and the strengths and limitations of these methods
3. Critically examine social psychological principles and apply these principles to important social issues
4. Develop the ability to apply psychological concepts to your life

Requirements:

Readings: Students are responsible for reading the textbook chapters and journal articles listed in the schedule below. Journal articles will be available on ACE. If you have trouble reading the journal articles, please talk to your TA for guidance.

1) Tests (4 tests worth 20% each for a total of 80% of your grade) - You will take four tests during the semester. These tests will consist of only multiple-choice questions. The tests will cover material presented in lectures, the text, and the articles. Some questions are on lecture material only, including video clips, class discussions and classroom demonstrations (not covered in the text). Some questions are on the text and the articles only (not covered during the lecture). The rest of the test questions are from material covered in lecture, articles and the text. Tests are not cumulative.

2) Optional Final Exam (20 %): If you choose to take the final exam, your score on that exam will *replace your worst test performance*. You can also take the final exam to replace an exam that you missed during the semester. It cannot hurt you to take the final exam. If you do worse on the final exam than you did on your worst test, then you will simply get the better of the two grades. The final exam will be cumulative, covering all of the material from the text, lectures, and readings from the course. This exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.

3) Media Paper (16% Due November 17th) - You will write a short paper applying what you have learned in the course to a current event. The current event can be something local, provincial, national, or international, but it should have occurred during the semester. The paper should be between 1,200 and 1,800 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). **Submit the paper to the electronic drop box on ACE by November 17th midnight.** More details about the application paper will come later in the semester.

4) Study Participation Credits (4%): 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 4% of your grade (i.e., 4 credits). The alternative assignment should be submitted through UW ACE. See the last two pages of this syllabus for more information.

Term Test 1(October 4th): 20 %

Term Test 2 (October 25th): 20 %

Term Test 3 (November 15th): 20 %

Term Test 4 (December 6th): 20 %

Optional Final exam (cumulative): 20 %

Media Paper: 16 % (Due November 17th)

Study participation credits: 4 %

Notes/Policies:

Students can only take 1 of Psych 253 and Psych 220R

ACE: Please regularly visit the class website on ACE. We will post announcements, grades, etc. Students are responsible for all e-mail that is sent to the official UW email address. Check your e-mail regularly for important and time sensitive messages.

Missing Tests: All students are expected to be present for all tests. In general, there will be no make-up tests, but in cases of severe illness or other extenuating circumstances, a make-up test may be offered. Written documentation will be required for any make-up test. It is also required that you contact me **as soon as you possibly can**, with your written documentation, to schedule the make-up test. That means if you have a doctor's note that says you are ill until Tuesday, you need to contact me on Wednesday. Otherwise, you should not expect an opportunity for a make-up test. 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.

		Topic	readings
Monday	September 13	Introduction to Social Psych Present Syllabus	Chapter 1
Wednesday	September 15	Research Methods	Chapter 1
Monday	September 20	The self in a social world I	Chapter 2 Wilson & Ross (2001)
Wednesday	September 22	The self in a social world II	Chapter 2
Monday	September 27	Social beliefs and judgment I	Chapter 3
Wednesday	September 29	Social beliefs and judgment II	Chapter 3
Monday	October 4	Test # 1 (Chapters 1-3)	
Wednesday	October 6	Behaviour and attitudes	Chapter 4
Monday	October 11	Thanksgiving holiday	
Wednesday	October 13	Persuasion	Chapter 5
Monday	October 18	Conformity	Chapter 6 pp. 324-325
Wednesday	October 20	Group influence	Chapter 7
Monday	October 25	Test # 2 (Chapters 4 -7)	
Wednesday	October 27	Aggression	Chapter 10 p. 280
Monday	November 1	Attraction and intimacy I	Chapter 11
Wednesday	November 3	Attraction and intimacy II	Chapter 11
Monday	November 8	Culture and language I	Chapter 8
Wednesday	November 10	Culture and language II	Chapter 8 (Hoshino-Browne et al., 2005)
Monday	November 15	Test # 3 (Chapters 8, 10 & 11)	
Wednesday	November 17	Prejudice I Application paper due	Chapter 12 Sinclair & Kunda (1999)
Monday	November 22	Prejudice II	Chapter 12
Wednesday	November 24	Social psychology in court	Module C
Monday	November 29	Social psychology in the clinic	Module B
Wednesday	December 1	Altruism	Chapter 9
Monday	December 6	Test # 4 (Chapters 9, 12, Modules C & B) Alternative assignment due	
Optional Final Exam during the final exam period (TBA)			

Cross-listed course:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

The Official Version of the Course Outline

If there is a discrepancy between the hard copy outline (*i.e., if students were provided with a hard copy at the first class*) and the outline posted on ACE, the outline on ACE will be deemed the official version. Outlines on ACE may change as instructors develop a course, but they become final as of the first class meeting for the term.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), 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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Concerns About the Course or Instructor (Informal Stage)

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 Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs (Dr. Colin Ellard) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor. Dr. Ellard's contact information is as follows:

Email: cellard@uwaterloo.ca
Ph 519-888- 4567 ext 36852

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. See Policy 70 and 71 below for further details.

Academic Integrity, Academic Offenses, Grievance, and Appeals

To protect course integrity, as well as to provide appropriate guidance to students, course outlines in the Faculty of Arts must include the following note on avoidance of academic offenses:

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. [Check <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/> for more information.]

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>], 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 instructor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 - Student Discipline. 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>

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](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm), Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm), <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Students who are requesting accommodation for course requirements (*assignments, midterm tests, final exams, etc.*) due to illness should do the following:

- seek medical treatment as soon as possible and obtain a completed UW Verification of Illness Form:
http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html
- submit that form to the instructor within 48 hours.
- (preferably) inform the instructor by the due date for the course requirement that you will be unable to meet the deadline and that documentation will be forthcoming.

In the case of a missed final exam, the instructor and student will negotiate an extension for the final exam which will typically be written as soon as possible, but no later than the next offering of the course.

In the case of a missed assignment deadline or midterm test, the instructor will either:

1. waive the course component and re-weight remaining term work as he/she deems fit according to circumstances and the goals of the course, or
2. provide an extension.

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.

Research Experience Guidelines for Psychology 253

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 up to 4% of the final mark in this course through research experience (i.e., the course work will make up 96% of your final mark and research experience will make up the other 4% for a maximum grade of 100%).

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 to earn 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
- 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 s/he participated.

Participation is worth 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each half-hour of participation. Researchers will record student's participation and will advise the course instructor of the total credits earned by each student at the end of the term. Study scheduling, participation and grade assignment is managed online on the SONA website.

Detailed instructions on how to use SONA to participate in studies can be found at <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~regadmin/regparticipant/sonainfo/#SonaSignUp>

More information about the REG program is available at: <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~regadmin/regparticipant/>

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 gain research experience by writing short reviews (1½ to 2 pages) of research articles relevant to the course. The course instructor will specify a suitable source of articles for this course (i.e., scientific journals, newspapers, magazines, other printed media). *You must contact your TA to get approval for the article you have chosen before writing the review.* Each review article counts as one percentage point. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The article review must:

- **Be submitted before the last lecture. Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.**
- Be typed
- 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 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.