

**UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PSYCHOLOGY 253: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (FALL 2013)**

**Lectures & location**

Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30-3:50 pm in Arts Lecture Hall 116

**Instructor**

Dr. Hilary Bergsieker | Office: PAS 3052 | Email: hburbank@uwaterloo.ca | Phone: 519.888.4567 ex.39952

Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 4:00-4:30pm and by appointment

<b>TAs</b>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Office</i>
Kim Kriter	kekriter@uwaterloo.ca	Fridays 1-2pm	PAS 4022
Alex Huynh	a7huynh@uwaterloo.ca	Thursdays 1-2pm	PAS 3250
Hansky Santos	hcsantos@uwaterloo.ca	Mondays 1-2pm	PAS 3045

**→ Please include the number “253” in the subject line of all course-related emails. ←**

*One challenge in a large course is the limited number of individual interactions with your instructors. 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 — kekriter@uwaterloo.ca, a7huynh@uwaterloo.ca, hcsantos@uwaterloo.ca — as a group to receive 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.*

**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:

- Gain an understanding of the basic concepts and theories in social psychology
- Appreciate social psychology as an empirical, data-driven scientific enterprise
- Critically evaluate social psychology research methodology and theory
- See connections between social psychology and yourself, your relationships, and your social world
- Apply social psychology 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. (It is available at the UW campus bookstore and abbreviated MSJ in list of readings.) Please note that the 5th Canadian edition of MSJ is the official textbook for this course; the 4th edition is not an acceptable substitute. Students are **not** required to purchase eConnect, although it is included with the textbook if purchased new.

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 campus bookstore):

- Steele, C. M. (2010). *Whistling Vivaldi*. New York: Norton.
- Gilbert, D. (2006). *Stumbling on happiness*. New York: Knopf (or Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2007).
- Christakis, N. A., & Fowler, J. H. (2009). *Connected*. New York: Back Bay Books.

A few copies of the Myers et al. textbook and book review books are on reserve at Porter Library.

## Grading

The midterm tests and final exam will be weighted so your lowest score counts least and your high score counts most toward your final mark. Doing well during the term takes pressure off the final exam, and if you don't do as well as you hoped during the term you can "redeem yourself" on the final (which is **not** optional).

**75%** Midterm tests & final exam: highest score (30%), median score (25%), lowest score (20%)

**15%** Book review

**5%** Book quiz

**5%** Class participation (assessed via Top Hat)

*(4% Bonus marks can be earned for research experience)*

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.

## Exams, book review, & book quiz

Assessment includes two midterm tests and a cumulative final exam, a book review, a book quiz, and Top Hat participation. All tests will include (mostly) multiple-choice questions covering material from lectures and assigned readings. Review sessions will be scheduled prior to tests and be announced in class and on LEARN.

Students will read one book listed above, complete a book quiz on LEARN by 11:59 pm on Friday, Nov. 1st, then upload a 5-page book review to LEARN by 11:59 pm on Sunday, Nov. 10th. Book review requirements will be 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 that allows you to participate in class polls, quizzes, discussions, and more 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: 582778) and track your participation points. I will drop each student's lowest 5 lecture participation scores in case some students occasionally need to miss class.

## Accommodation policies

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.

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. For a **missed assignment, quiz, or midterm**, the instructor will either waive the course component and re-weight remaining work as she deems fit according to circumstances and the course goals, or provide an extension.

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.

## Course website and email

Lecture slides, course dates, and announcements will be posted on LEARN (<https://learn.uwaterloo.ca>).

Book quizzes and book review submissions will be administered via LEARN. 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 on a regular basis for course updates.

## 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. If problems arise, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies (Myra Fernandes: [mafernan@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mafernan@uwaterloo.ca) or extension 32142) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor.

**Course schedule\***

*(MSJ = Myers, Spencer, & Jordan, 2012)*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>		
Sep. 9	The mission: Introduction	Course syllabus
Sep. 11	The method: How we do social psychology	MSJ Chapter 1
<b>Social Cognition</b>		
Sep. 16	Social judgment	MSJ Chapter 3
Sep. 18	Attribution and person perception	MSJ Chapter 3
<b>The Social Self</b>		
Sep. 23	Self-perception	MSJ Chapter 2
Sep. 25	Self-deception	MSJ Chapter 2
<b>Attitudes</b>		
Sep. 30	Attitude structure and function	MSJ Chapter 4
Oct. 2	Attitude change	MSJ Chapter 4
<b>Persuasion and Inoculation</b>		
Oct. 7	Persuasion	MSJ Chapter 5
Oct. 9	Cults and commitment	MSJ Chapter 5
<b>Oct. 16</b>	<b>Midterm 1</b>	
<b>Social Influence</b>		
Oct. 21	Conformity and obedience	MSJ Chapter 6
Oct. 23	Social norms	MSJ Chapter 6
<b>Altruism and Aggression</b>		
Oct. 28	Helping others	MSJ Chapter 8
Oct. 30	Hurting others	MSJ Chapter 9
<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>Book quiz due (at 11:59pm)</b>	
<b>Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Stigma</b>		
Nov. 4	Prejudice: Disliking others	MSJ Chapter 11
Nov. 6	Targets of prejudice: Being disliked	MSJ Chapter 12
<b>Nov. 10</b>	<b>Book review due (at 11:59pm)</b>	
<b>Attraction and Close Relationships</b>		
Nov. 11	Friendship and attraction	MSJ Chapter 10
Nov. 13	Love, closeness, and well-being	MSJ Module B
<b>Nov. 18</b>	<b>Midterm 2</b>	
<b>Group dynamics</b>		
Nov. 20	Performance in groups	MSJ Chapter 7
<b>Applications</b>		
Nov. 25	Conflict and conciliation	MSJ Module A
Nov. 27	Social psychology and law	MSJ Module C
<b>Conclusions</b>		
Dec. 2	Lessons for flourishing	
<b>Dec. 5-20</b>	<b>Final exam during final exam period</b>	

\* Lecture and reading schedule subject to change; it is your responsibility to check LEARN for the readings and current schedule.

## Research experience marks: Information and guidelines

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. Because 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 to earn research experience grades.

### Option 1: Participation in Psychology Research, Research Experiences Group (REG)

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. All studies for credit must be completed by Dec. 2, 2013.

#### *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 students' participation and report the total credits earned by each student in this term.

#### *How to participate?*

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

Sona instructions: <https://uwaterloo.ca/research-experiences-group/participants/sona-information>

➔ Please read this website carefully before asking the instructor or REG Coordinator about REG. ⬅

More REG information is available at <https://uwaterloo.ca/research-experiences-group/participants>

### 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 Dec. 2, 2013. Late submissions will **NOT** be accepted under **ANY** circumstances.
- Be typed and submitted to the appropriate dropbox on LEARN.
- Fully identify the title, author(s), source and date of the article. A copy of the article must be attached.
- 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.

## Academic Integrity

An effective learning environment is one in which we can openly engage in dialogue and trust one another in our academic exploration. Such an environment requires a firm foundation of academic integrity. Integrity matters: I take it seriously and expect that you will also. In keeping with the University of Waterloo's policies and principles, you are expected to promote **honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility** in this course. No plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated.

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, 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 professor, 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://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

**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, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>.

**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://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>.

### **Other sources of information for students:**

*Academic Integrity (Arts):* <https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behavior>

*Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):* <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity>

**Turnitin.com:** 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 October 1, 2013, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

## Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

**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.