

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 253**  
**Social Psychology**  
**Fall 2017**

**Mondays & Wednesdays 4-5:20pm in Arts Lecture Hall 116**

**Instructor and T.A. Information**

Instructor: Dr. Hilary Bergsieker  
Office: PAS 3052  
Phone: 519-888-4567 ext. 39952  
Office Hours: Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm and by appointment  
Email: [hburbank@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:hburbank@uwaterloo.ca)

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

T.A.	Emily Cyr	Taylor Hudd
Email	<a href="mailto:encyr@uwaterloo.ca">encyr@uwaterloo.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:thudd@uwaterloo.ca">thudd@uwaterloo.ca</a>
Office	PAS #3046	PAS 3201
Office Hours	Thursdays 10-11am	Mondays 12-1pm

**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:

- A. Gain an understanding of the basic concepts and theories in social psychology
- B. Appreciate social psychology as an empirical, data-driven scientific enterprise
- C. Critically evaluate social psychology research methods and theory
- D. See connections between social psychology and yourself, your relationships, and your social world
- E. Apply social psychological principles to behaviour in the clinic, courtroom, and global community

**Required Reading**

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2016). *Social psychology* (4th ed.). New York: Norton.  
For the book review assignment, select and read one of these 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.
- Christakis, N. A., & Fowler, J. H. (2009). *Connected*. New York: Back Bay Books.

The Gilovich et al. textbook is available at the UW campus bookstore. The Inquizitive tool is not required. Earlier editions are not recommended as a substitute for the 4th edition. A few copies of the Gilovich et al. textbook and book review books are on reserve at Porter Library.

### Course Website (LEARN) and Email

Lecture slides, course dates, and announcements will be posted on [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 regularly for course updates (see [Official Student Email Address](#) policy).

### Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Dates	Weighting
Midterm tests	Oct. 16 and Nov. 20	40-60%*
Final exam	In final exam period (Dec. 7-21)	15-35%*
Book quiz	Due Nov. 3	5%
Book review	Due Nov. 10	15%
Class participation	Sep. 18 - Dec. 4	5%
Research participation (bonus marks)	Sep. 7 - Dec. 4	4%
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Total		100%

\* The midterm tests and final exam will count for 75% of your final grade, weighted so that your highest score counts 35% toward your final grade, your median score counts 25%, and your lowest score counts only 15%. With this weighting, doing well throughout the term takes pressure off the final exam, and if you don't do as well as you hoped during the term the final exam gives you a good chance to raise your overall mark. 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.

### Midterm tests

Midterm tests will include multiple-choice questions covering material from lectures and assigned readings.

### Final exam

The cumulative final exam will include multiple-choice questions covering material from lectures and assigned readings. The final exam is not optional: You must pass the comprehensive final exam to pass the course.

### Book quiz

Students will complete a multiple-choice quiz on LEARN by 11:50 pm on Friday, Nov. 3, demonstrating comprehension of the book that they read. Late submissions are not acceptable (except as noted below).

### Book review

Students will upload a 5-page book review to LEARN by 11:50 pm on Friday, Nov. 10. Review requirements are 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 similar to clickers, but that allows you to participate in class polls and discussions 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: 895434) and track your participation points. Using Top Hat costs \$26; please come talk to Prof. Bergsieker with any financial hardship concerns. Please note that impersonating another student for class participation marks is a serious academic integrity violation. Each student's lowest 5 lecture participation scores will be dropped automatically.

## Research participation

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 (capped at 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 for 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 been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee.

- You can earn “credits” which will be converted to marks (1 credit = 1%)
- You can schedule your LAB and/or ONLINE studies using the “Sona” website.

### 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 Chief Ethics Officer of the Office of Research Ethics should the student wish to learn more about general ethical issues.

Participation in LAB studies has increment values of 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each 30 minutes of participation. Participation in ONLINE studies has increment values of .25 credits for each 15 minutes of participation. Researchers will record student’s participation, and at the end of the term the REG Coordinator will provide the course instructor with a report of total credits earned by each student.

### How to participate?

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

[INSTRUCTIONS/DATES/DEADLINES: How to log in to Sona and sign up for studies](#)

***\*\*\* Please read this website carefully before asking the instructor or REG Coordinator about REG.\*\*\****

More information about the REG program is available at: [REG Participants' Homepage](#)

### ***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 1%. Articles must be approved by your TA and 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. 4, 2017. Late submissions will **NOT** be accepted under **ANY** circumstances.
- Be typed and submitted to the appropriate dropbox on LEARN.
- Fully identify the article's title, author(s), source, and date. A copy of the article must be uploaded.
- 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 ignored, failures to distinguish factual findings from opinions, faulty statements of cause-effect relations, reasoning errors), identify the error and its implications for article validity.

### **Schedule of lecture topics, readings, and exams**

(Note: All reading assignments refer to the Gilovich, Keltner, Chen, & Nisbett (2016) textbook)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings Due</b>
1	Sep. 11 Sep. 13	The mission: Introduction The method: How we do social psychology	Course syllabus Chapters 1 & 2
2	Sep. 18 Sep. 20	Self-perception Self-deception	Chapter 3
3	Sep. 25 Sep. 27	Social cognition Attribution and person perception	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
4	Oct. 2 Oct. 4	Emotion Attitudes	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
—	Oct. 9 Oct. 11/13	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving) NO CLASS (Fall break, Prof. B at a conference)	
5	Oct. 16 Oct. 18	<b>Midterm 1</b> Persuasion	Chapter 8
6	Oct. 23 Oct. 25	Social norms Conformity and obedience	Chapter 9
7	Oct. 30 Nov. 1 Nov. 3 (11:50pm)	Prejudice: Disliking others Targets of prejudice: Being disliked Book quiz due	Chapter 11
8	Nov. 6 Nov. 8 Nov. 10 (11:50pm)	Hurting others: Aggression Extremism and social conflict Book review due	Chapter 13
9	Nov. 13 Nov. 15	Law, ideology, and social justice Helping others: Altruism	Module 4 Chapter 14
10	Nov. 20 Nov. 22	<b>Midterm 2</b> Group processes	Chapter 12
11	Nov. 27 Nov. 29	Friendship and attraction Love, closeness, and well-being	Chapter 10
12	Dec. 4	Well-being and flourishing	Modules 1 & 2

## **Accommodation policies**

Students 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
- obtain documentation of the illness with a completed uWaterloo [Verification of Illness Form](#)
- submit that form to the instructor within 48 hours
- (if possible) 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, midterm test, or quiz, the instructor will either waive the course component and re-weight remaining term work as she deems fit or 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.

Elective arrangements such as travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting accommodations to course requirements per the [uWaterloo Examination Regulations and Related Matters](#).

## **Information on Plagiarism Detection**

Text-matching software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course 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 Oct. 1, 2017, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

## **Electronic Device Policy**

Electronic devices should be silenced and used only for class participation via Top Hat or note taking.

## **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is strongly encouraged. Posted slides are just an outline and require lecture to comprehend fully.

## **Institutional-Required Statements for Undergraduate Course Outlines**

### **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. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

### ***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](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

### *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 (Richard Eibach) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor: Email: [reibach@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:reibach@uwaterloo.ca); Phone: 519-888-4567 ext. 38790.

### *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 Richard Eibach, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs who will provide further assistance; [reibach@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:reibach@uwaterloo.ca).

### *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](#).

### **Note for students with disabilities**

I strongly support the University policies for accommodating students with physical or learning disabilities. The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), 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.

### **Official version of the course outline**

The outline on LEARN will be deemed the official version.

### **Mental health support**

All of us need a support system. You can download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#) and install the [WatSafe app](#) on your phone to quickly access mental health support information. Some local resources are listed below and full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#).

### *On Campus*

- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / Phone: 519-888-4567 ext. 32655
- [MATES](#): One-to-one peer support from Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

### *Off campus, 24/7*

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): Support services for LGBTQ+ teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 ext. 213

### **Territorial acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.