

Instructor: Richard Ennis
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Office Hours: Monday 12:30 - 2:00, PAS 3017, 888-4567 ext 35333
Class Meetings: Monday & Wednesday, 2:30 - 3:50, AL 116
Required Text: Myers, D. G. and Spencer, S. J. (2006). Social Psychology (3rd Canadian Ed.). Toronto, ON: McGraw-Hill.

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Course Objectives

We are social animals and our thoughts, feelings, and actions are strongly influenced by social environments. This course will introduce you to the many and varied ways of social influence. A primary objective of any "introductory" course is simply that: to introduce you to the subject matter of the discipline and to familiarize you with the vocabulary and concepts. We will explore topics that reflect the diversity of social psychological research such as prejudice, conformity, and relationships. You already have several years of experience in social psychology based on your own observations and knowledge about yourself and your environment. In this course you will see how research has been applied to test intuitive assumptions about social life. You will find that many of your beliefs are scientifically supported; but you will also find many beliefs are refuted by the evidence. Certainly, as a student in this course, you will receive a more comprehensive understanding of yourself and your social world. I also hope that you will develop greater skills of critical thinking that will make you a better consumer of psychological information.

I also hope that you will derive some personal benefits from the course by reaching a deeper understanding and acceptance of yourself and others. Hopefully, this class will enrich your personal relationships and contribute to your success in your future endeavors.

Course Requirements and Value

Discussion Papers:	20%
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	50%
<i>Research Participation Bonus</i>	<i>3%</i>

Examinations

Both exams will consist of multiple-choice and written questions. The multiple-choice items will focus on textbook material while the written items will require a synthesis of lecture and textbook material. The midterm exam will be held during class time on Wednesday, February 11. The final exam will be 2 hours and will cover lecture material from the entire course and textbook material after the midterm. See the attached "Overview of Exams" for more detail.

Deferred Exams:

Deferred exams may be offered for students with exceptional circumstances with supportive documentation. You must contact me within 48 hours of the missed exam. The deferred exam date is Friday, February 13. The deferred tests will NOT contain the same items as the scheduled test, therefore I cannot guarantee they will be equal in difficulty with the scheduled tests.

DISCUSSION PAPER

What is the assignment? At the conclusion of Wednesday lectures on January 14, January 28, February 25, and March 11, I will provide a discussion topic based on the current material. It will require you to apply the material or engage in theoretical speculation. The assignment is designed to encourage you to think analytically about the material and to make it more personally relevant.

How many papers must be submitted? You may choose any one of the four topics offered during the term. If you submit a paper for the January 14 or January 28 topics, you will have the opportunity to submit a second paper if you are not satisfied with your mark on the first paper. Your mark on the second paper will be the grade you receive (i.e., we will NOT take the "best" mark; only the last mark). Obviously you must submit one of the first two papers to take advantage of this opportunity. These early submissions will be returned promptly.

How much is the paper worth? The discussion paper is worth 20% of your final grade. That is a substantial portion of your grade and your performance and effort should reflect that value.

How long does it have to be? These discussion papers are intended to get you to work with the material. They are not intended to be time-consuming essays. Therefore, there is a strict limit of five (5) pages of text.

Are there any format instructions I should know about? You MUST conform to the following format rules:

- 1) Your paper MUST be machine printed (i.e., typewriter or computer printer).
- 2) The body of your paper MUST be double-spaced with 1" margins all around.
- 3) Your text MUST be in 11 or 12 point font. Please avoid italicized or script fonts as these are very difficult and aggravating to read. This text, for example, is 11-point Arial.
- 4) You MUST NOT use any fancy covers or binders. These do not enhance the quality of your paper and they are an irritating obstruction when reading and a horrific nuisance when marking. A SIMPLE STAPLE WILL DO!

What about spelling, grammar, and writing style — does it matter? YES IT DOES! As university students what are tops of the intelligence world you must can be expected to know how to write how to spell and use commas etc and other punctuation etc that is essential parts of communicating good and not driving your reader batty. Good ideas require good writing. Bad writing makes all ideas bad; including good ones. If you do not care about your work, why should your reader? Proofread your work and use the speller and grammar features in the word processing programs. For example, my spell-checker found twelve misspelled words and my grammar-check identified nine grammatical errors in this paragraph.

When are the papers due and what are the rules on late submission? Each paper is due at the start of the following Wednesday class after the topic is offered. In other words, you have one week to write your paper. Given the many opportunities, late submissions will NOT be accepted.

How will the papers be evaluated? The paper will be evaluated by addressing the following questions:

- 1) Is the paper presented in the student's own words (i.e., has the student refrained from the lazy tactic of quoting from the text)?
- 2) Has the student properly addressed the topic? Is there clear evidence the student has closely examined the resource materials and extracted the relevant social psychological evidence?
- 3) Has the student provided valid and adequate support for their arguments? Has the social psychology and resource material been synthesized? Is there a valid social psychological interpretation of the evidence? Does the evidence support the social psychological arguments?
- 4) Is the paper well written? Does it conform to the guidelines described above? Is there evidence that the student took the assignment seriously and exerted the effort worthy of 20%?

Course Web Site

The ACE course website will provide you with lecture outlines and many of the overheads used in class. This material is designed and provided to help you prepare for lectures. It is NOT a substitute for attendance. Important course announcements will also be posted on the site so you should visit it on a regular basis. Grades will also be posted on the site.

There is also a publisher's website for the text (www.mcgrawhill.ca/college/myers) that offers a wide range of helpful items, such as practice quizzes, study aids, and interesting web links. Regular visits to this site will prove beneficial.

Participation in Psychology Research:

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 3 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, students can earn a "bonus" of 3% by participating in these experiments (i.e., the maximum possible final grade is 103%).

Please note that all Psychology studies have undergone prior ethics review and clearance through the Office of Research Ethics.

To maximize the educational benefits of your participation, you will receive feedback information in each experiment detailing: the purpose or objectives of the study, dependent and independent variables, expected results, references, provisions to ensure the confidentiality of the data, and contact information of the researcher.

How do I sign up?

REG has created an account for you 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 (5-10 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 S08" (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 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 3 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 April 3.

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 relevant to Social Psychology. Each review article counts as one percentage point. Students may complete any combination of a) participation in research or b) article review up to a total of 3% points. You should contact your TA to get approval before writing the review. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The review must:

1. **Be submitted before April 1. Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.**

2. Be typed
3. Fully identify the title, author(s), source and date of the article. A copy of the article must be attached.
4. Identify the psychological concepts in the article and indicate the pages in the Myers 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.
5. Clearly evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article.
6. Keep a copy of your review in the unlikely event we misplace the original.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week of	Topic	Readings
Jan 5 & 7	Introduction to social psychology	Chpt 1
Jan 12 & 14	Social Cognition & Identity	Chpts 2 & 3
Jan 19 & 21	Social Cognition & Identity	<i>Jan 21: Paper 1 due</i> Chpts 2 & 3
Jan 26 & 28	Prejudice	Chpt 12
Feb 2 & 4	Relationships	<i>Feb 4: Paper 2 due</i> Chpt 11
Feb 9 & 11	Relationships	Chpt 11
Wed Feb 11	Midterm Exam (see Overview of Exams)	
Feb 16 & 18	<i>Reading Week</i>	
Feb 23 & 25	Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviour	Chpts 9 & 10
Mar 2 & 4	Attitudes and Persuasion	<i>Mar 4: Topic 3 due</i> Chpts 4 & 7
Mar 9 & 11	Social Influence	Chpt 6
Mar 16 & 18	Social Influence	<i>Mar 18: Topic 4 due</i> Chpt 6
Mar 23 & 25	Group Dynamics	Chpt 8
Mar 30 & Apr 1	Social Psychology of Extremist Groups	none
<i>Final Exam Period April 8 to 24</i>		
<i>DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD!</i>		

OVERVIEW OF EXAMS

TOPIC & READINGS	Midterm		Final	
	Multiple Choice	Written Questions	Multiple Choice	Written Questions
Introduction Chpt 1	5	?	3	?
Social Cognition & Identity Chpts 2 & 3	15	?	6	?
Prejudice Chpt 12	10	?	3	?
Relationships Chpt 11	10	?	3	?
Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviour Chpts 9 & 10			9	?
Attitudes and Persuasion Chpts 4 & 7			9	?
Social Influence Chpt 6			9	?
Group Dynamics Ch 8			9	?
Social Psychology of Extremist Groups Lecture Only			9	?
TOTAL ITEMS	40	2	60	4
VALUE OF EACH ITEM	1/2	5	1/2	5
TOTAL VALUE	20	10	30	20
DATE	February 11		April 8-24	
TIME	2:30 - 3:50		TBA	
DURATION	80 minutes		2 hours	