

Psychology 253: Social Psychology (Winter 2010)

Meeting times and location: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30-5:50 in Arts Lecture Hall 116

Course staff:

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 pm to 1 pm

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Course description

This course provides a detailed overview of classic and contemporary topics in social psychology. Course 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 behavior, goals and self-control, aggression and social conflict, trust and prosocial behavior, culture and ideology, and the psychological determinants of well-being and human flourishing.

Required reading

Textbook: Myers, D. G., Spencer, S. J., & Jordan, C. (2009). *Social psychology (4th Canadian edition)*. McGraw-Hill. (available at the UW campus bookstore). [Abbreviated as MSJ in the list of readings]

Articles: Five additional articles have been assigned and they are available for downloading from the course webpage on UW-ACE (<https://uwangel.uwaterloo.ca/uwangel/>):

- 1) Bargh, J. A., Chartrand, T. L. (1999). The unbearable automaticity of being. *American Psychologist*, 54, 462-479.
- 2) Gladwell, M. (2002, August 5). The naked face. *The New Yorker*, pp. 38-43, 45-49.
- 3) Jost, J. T., Federico, C. M., & Napier, J. L. (2009). Political ideology: Its structure, functions, and elective affinities. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 60, 307-337.
- 4) Hatfield, E., Cacioppo, J. T., & Rapson, R. L. (1993). Emotional contagion. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 3, 96-99.
- 5) Winkielman, P., & Berridge, K. C. (2004). Unconscious emotion. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 3, 96-99.

Exams

Course grades will be based on two midterm exams (30% each) and one final exam (40%). All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions covering material from both the lectures and the assigned readings. Exam review sessions will be scheduled to take place on an evening before each exam. Dates, times, and locations of exam review sessions will be announced.

UW-ACE

All lecture outlines will be posted on the course UW-ACE site following each lecture. The UW-ACE site will also be used to post course announcements. UW-ACE can be accessed through the following link:

<https://uwangel.uwaterloo.ca/uwangel/>

Schedule of lecture topics, readings, and exams (MSJ refers to the Myers, Spencer, and Jordan text)

Week 1: Introduction to theory and research

Jan. 4: Introduction

Jan. 6: Research methods (MSJ: Ch. 1 pp. 3-32)

Week 2: Situational influence

Jan. 11: Situational influence (MSJ: Ch. 6 pp.181-200)

Jan. 13: Social norms, conformity, and self-censorship (MSJ: Ch. 6 pp. 200-213)

Week 3: Social cognition

Jan. 18: Social judgment (MSJ: Ch. 3 pp. 71-92)

Jan. 20: Person perception (MSJ: Ch. 3 pp. 92-109)

Week 4: Self-knowledge and its limitations

Jan. 25: Introspection and the limits of self-insight (MSJ: Ch. 2 pp. 35-54)

Jan. 27: Self-protection, self-enhancement, and meaning-maintenance motives (MSJ: Ch. 2 pp. 54-69)

Week 5: Emotions

Feb. 1: Emotions (UW-ACE: 3 articles by: Gladwell; Hatfield, Cacioppo, & Rapson; and Winkielman & Berridge)

Feb 3: **Midterm 1**

Week 6: Goals and attitudes

Feb. 8: Automaticity, goals, and self-control (UW-ACE: Bargh & Chartrand article)

Feb. 10: Attitudes (MSJ: Ch. 4 pp.111-140)

Reading week Feb. 15-19

Week 7: Persuasion and attraction

Feb. 22: Persuasion and attitude change (MSJ: Ch. 5 pp.143-179)

Feb. 24: Attraction and close relationships (MSJ: Ch. 11 pp. 371-413)

Week 8: Culture, power, and ideology

Mar. 1: Cultural psychology (MSJ: Ch. 8 pp. 255-292)

Mar. 3: Power and ideology (UW-ACE: Jost, Federico, & Napier article)

Week 9: Group processes

Mar. 8: Group processes (MSJ: Ch. 7 pp. 215-253)

Mar. 10: **Midterm 2**

Week 10: Stereotyping and prejudice

Mar. 15: Stereotyping (MSJ: Ch. 12 pp. 415-462)

Mar. 17: Prejudice and stigma

Week 11: Conflict and aggression

Mar. 22: Extremism and social conflict (MSJ: Module A pp. 464-483; Module C pp. 510-526)

Mar. 24: Aggression (MSJ: Ch. 10 pp. 331-369)

Week 12: Altruism and the good society

Mar. 29: Altruism and prosocial behavior (MSJ: Ch. 9 pp. 295-329)

Mar. 31: Well-being and the good society (MSJ: Module B pp. 484-509; Module D pp. 527-539)

Accommodation Policies

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:

- waive the course component and re-weight remaining term work
circumstances and the goals of the course, or
- provide an extension.

as he/she deems fit

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.

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.

The Official Version of the Course Outline Outlines on ACE may change as instructors develop a course, but they become final as of the first class meeting for the 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 (<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>) and 71 (<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>) for further details.

Course information: Students are responsible for all e-mail that is sent to the official UW email address. Check e-mail regularly for important and time sensitive messages. See "[Official Student E-mail Address](#)" for further details (*e.g., procedures and warnings regarding forwarding e-mail to other accounts*) <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocist/emailuse.html>

Academic Integrity, Academic Offenses, Grievance, and Appeals

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 informaton.]

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, 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 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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm> For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.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](#), Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm> be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

When in doubt,

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> Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

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Extra Credit for 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.

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology, student participants may earn a "bonus" grade of up to 4% in this course through research experience i.e., your course work will make up 100% of your final mark and research experience can add up to 4%. However, your maximum grade, combining coursework and REG credits, cannot exceed 100%. You can bank your REG credits to be used if/as needed to bring your final grade up to 100%. For example, if you get 98% in your course and you earn 4 REG credits, only 2 of your credits will be applied to your grade. The other 2 credits cannot be applied to your grade, however, you will have nevertheless gained useful research experience.

This can be done in two ways. First, you may participate in studies conducted by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. Participation is worth 0.5 participation credits (percentage points) for each half-hour of participation. Researchers will record student's participation and the REG Coordinator will advise the course instructor of the total credits earned by each student at the end of the term. Second, if you do not wish to participate in research, you may choose an alternative approach to earning the same number of credits; this is explained below in "Alternative to participating in research."

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 she/he participated.

How to sign up for studies:

Once you are registered in this course, you will get an account on Sona (our web-based Study Sign-Up system) at <http://uwaterloo.sona-systems.com> and you will receive an email with your UserID and Password. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE this email, please report this to regadmin@uwaterloo.ca immediately. You may nevertheless log on to your Sona account and start signing up for studies as described below.

- 1) Log On to Sona: User ID is your Quest ID (eg, j2smith)
Password is your Student ID (eg 2001234)
- 2) Human Subjects/Privacy Policy: Please Read/Acknowledge
- 3) Prescreen Questionnaire: Please take 10 minutes to provide this demographics information. There is no credit for this and you may decline if you wish however completing it will increase your eligibility for studies.
- 4) Sign-up for Online Surveys and/or Lab studies:
 - a. Go to “Studies” page to view the list of available studies.
 - b. Click on the Titles of studies that are eligible for this course.
 - c. Read the Study Information page.
 - d. For Online studies: Click on “View Timeslots” and/or “Participate”.
 - e. For Lab studies: Click on “View Timeslots” to set up lab appointments.
- 5) Feedback and Credits: Upon completion of the study you will receive feedback about the study hypothesis, design and predictions. Within 48 hours you will be granted the credit. Credits will be converted to grades and added to your final grade at the end of the term.

Mass Testing Survey (for 1.0 participation credit):

You should do this Online study FIRST ... before doing any other Online studies. Researchers often select participants based on their responses to the measures in this survey. Completing it increases your eligibility for other studies. Note that you can only do this survey if you have completed the Prescreen questionnaire. Doing both Prescreen Questionnaire and Mass Testing Survey helps you (by providing more qualifying studies) and it helps researchers (by identifying more qualified participants). The Mass Testing Survey will be available until Wednesday February 17 at which time it will go offline, so please try to complete it before that date.

Study Restrictions and Important Dates:

- i) The first day to start participating in studies is Wednesday January 6.
- ii) The study must be eligible for a credit in this course (as noted in the Eligibility Requirements column on your Studies page).
- iii) **Only 2 of your credits for this course** can be for **Online** studies.
- iv) You should try to spread your participation out over the term i.e., if you wait until late in the term there may not be enough studies available for you.
- v) Mass Testing Survey closes Wednesday February 17.
- vi) Online limit override begins Wednesday February 17 (see note below).
- vii) The last day to participate for **credit** is Monday April 5.
- viii) The last day to participate for **remuneration/pay** is Friday April 23.

Online credit limit and override for students in multiple REG courses:

The Sona system automatically prohibits participants from signing up for more than 2.0 (TWO) online credits *per person*. If you are in more than one REG course this term the REG Coordinator will override this limit in order for you to sign up for up to 2.0 (TWO) online credits *per course* starting Wednesday February 17. At that time, details will be posted on the FAQ page of your Sona account, item 4 and an email notice will be sent to you.

Denial of access to studies: Completing studies that you have signed up for!

It is very important that you complete the studies that you have signed up for. For Lab studies this means showing up for the scheduled appointment. For Online studies this means completing the survey before the deadline that is posted in the timeslot. Please note that a study sign-up is a firm commitment to the researcher running the study so if you cannot keep the lab appointment or complete the survey before the deadline, please cancel the Sign-Up or contact the researcher in advance. Failure to attend 3 (THREE) Lab and/or Online studies that you have signed up for without providing adequate prior notice to the researcher may result in denial of access to further studies. Details are provided on the FAQ page on your Sona account.

For information, instructions, help with login problems etc. please contact:

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

REG Coordinator: regadmin@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 gaining experience in research by participating in studies, students may submit short reviews (1.5 to 2 pages) of research articles. Each review article counts as one percentage point. Your professor will specify a suitable source of articles for this course (i.e., scientific journals, newspaper, magazine, other printed media) and the article must relate to material that is covered in your course. *You must contact your TA to get approval for the article you have chosen before writing the review.* To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The article review must:

- **Be submitted before Monday April 5. 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.

Students may complete any combination of a) participation in research or b) article review up to a total of 4 credits (i.e., 4% grade).