

## COURSE OUTLINE

University of Waterloo

Term and Year of Offering: **Fall 2009**

Course Number and Title: **PSYCH 253 DE: Social Psychology**



### Email

**Administrative questions** should be directed to the UW Distance Education office.

**Technical problems** should be directed to Technical Support.

Questions regarding **course content** can be directed to your instructor, **Karen Choi**, at [k3choi@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:k3choi@uwaterloo.ca).

### Announcements

New or changing information is communicated via the course *Announcements*. Please check your announcements regularly.

**To ensure you are viewing the complete list of announcements, you must click on ALL. Please note you may also be required to click on MORE.**

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### Discussion Boards

For questions relating to course content select the *Communicate* tab to post a question or read questions and answers from other students.

### Dr. Steven J. Spencer

Steve Spencer is the course author of Psychology 253. The course offering will be coordinated, during the term, by a Teaching Fellow. The Teaching Fellow will answer any questions you have about the course and course content. The Teaching Fellow will introduce him or herself at the beginning of the term in an Announcement. There are also several Teaching Assistants in this course who you will meet through the Announcements.

Steve Spencer has been a faculty member at the University of Waterloo since 1997. He received his B.A. from Hope College (located about 2 hours north of Chicago on the western shore of Lake Michigan), and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (located about an hour west of Detroit).

Spencer's major research interests are in Social Psychology and particularly the study of the self, stereotyping and prejudice, and unconscious thought processes. In addition to Introductory Psychology, Spencer teaches a second year undergraduate course in Social Psychology, a third year undergraduate course in Social Cognition, and seminars in research methods and stereotyping and prejudice to post-graduate students studying for the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. Spencer has a wife and two children. His wife, Shelley, is an emergency room social worker in Guelph. His daughter, Emily, and his son, Jon, are both in grade school. You will hear a number of anecdotes about his family as you listen to the lectures. In his spare time, he enjoys playing most sports but especially basketball and is an active member in his church.



### Description and Objectives

This course surveys the major theories and research in social psychology. Social psychology is a field that studies how people affect one another. In the first part of this course, we will examine how people are influenced by the situations (and especially the other people in those situations) they encounter. We cover conformity, aggression, and helping behaviour in this part of the course. The second part of this course will focus on how people influence the situation and the people they encounter. Topics in this section will include the self-image and self-esteem, attribution and person perception, stereotyping and prejudice, and persuasion. In the third section of this course, we will examine how these first two processes interact. That is, we will examine how the power of the situation and the perceiver's perception of the situation work together in shaping people's thoughts and actions. Here we will examine cognitive dissonance theory, social comparison theory, self-fulfilling prophecies, and culture. Finally, we will apply social

psychology to some important social issues, health and well-being, law and the courts, the environment, business, and attraction and relationships.

I have six goals for this course:

1. That you will learn how people are influenced by their situations.
2. That you will learn how people's beliefs and thoughts can influence their situations.
3. That you will gain some understanding of how the person interacts with the situation to shape behaviour.
4. That you will gain some ability to apply social psychological principles to important social issues.
5. That you will learn the basics of research methodology and will be able to differentiate a good study from a bad study.
6. That you will learn to read and understand primary source material.

#### Course Print Materials

**There are no print materials for this course.**

#### Textbook(s)

##### Required:

1. *Social Psychology*, 4th Canadian Edition, David G. Myers, Steven J. Spencer, and Christian Jordan, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2009.
2. *Supplementary Readings*, University of Waterloo, 2004.

For textbook ordering information, please contact the UW BookStore.

For your convenience, you can compile booklists of required and optional textbooks based on your current courses through BookLook using your Quest userID and password (look for the **Shop Online with BookLook** link in the centre-top section of the main UW BookStore page). If you are having difficulties ordering online and wish to call the UW BookStore, their phone number is +1 519 888 4673 or toll-free at +1 866 330 7933. Please be aware that textbook orders **CANNOT** be taken over the phone.

Experimental Studies (bonus)	3%
One Minute Summaries	5%
Journal Article Summaries	8%
Application Paper	15%
Term Tests	32%
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>40%</b>

Course begins Monday, September 14, 2009

**ALL TIMES EASTERN**

Week	Topics	Readings	Course Requirements and Due Dates
Section 1: The Power of the Situation			
Week 1	Module 1: Introduction	Text: Ch. 1	One Minute Summary (1 & 2) Due: Friday, September 18, 2009 at 11:55 PM
	Module 2: Research Methods	Reading: Jordan & Zanna	
Week 2	Module 3: Conformity	Text: Ch. 6 Reading: Milgram	Journal Article Summary 1 Due: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 11:55 PM
	Module 4: Helping Others	Text: Ch. 9	One Minute Summary (3 & 4) Due: Friday, September 25, 2009 at 11:55 PM
Week 3	Module 5: Aggression	Text: Ch. 10	Journal Article Summary 2 Due: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 11:55 PM
		Reading: Anderson & Dill	One Minute Summary Due: Friday, October 2, 2009 at 11:55 PM
Section 2: The Perceiver Shapes Reality			

Week 4	Module 6: The Self	Text: Ch. 2	Test 1: Covers Section 1 Available: Wednesday, October 7, 2009 (5:30 AM) - Thursday, October 8, 2009 (8:30 AM)
		Reading: Wilson & Ross	Journal Article Summary 3 Due: Friday, October 9, 2009 at 11:55 PM
	Module 7: Attribution and Person Perception	Text: Ch. 3	One Minute Summary (6 & 7) Due: Friday, October 9, 2009 at 11:55 PM
Week 5	Module 8: Stereotyping and Prejudice	Text: Ch. 12	Journal Article Summary 4 Due: Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 11:55 PM
		Reading: Sinclair & Kunda	One Minute Summary Due: Friday, October 16, 2009 at 11:55 PM
Week 6	Module 9: Persuasion	Text: Ch. 5	One Minute Summary Due: Friday, October 23, 2009 at 11:55 PM
Section 3: The Interaction of the Person and the Situation			
Week 7	Module 10: Social Comparison Theory	Text: pp. 45-49; 347-348  Reading: Schachter & Singer	Test 2: Covers Section 2 Available: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 (5:30 AM) - Thursday, October 29, 2009 (8:30 AM)
			Journal Article Summary 5 Due: Friday, October 30, 2009 at 11:55 PM
			One Minute Summary Due: Friday, October 30, 2009 at 11:55 PM
Week 8	Module 11: Cognitive Dissonance Theory and Attitudes	Text: pp. 128-140	Journal Article Summary 6 Due: Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 11:55 PM
	Module 12: Self-fulfilling Prophecies	Text: pp. 450-458 & Module A  Reading: Davies, Spencer, Quinn, & Gerhardstein	One Minute Summary (11 & 12) Due: Friday, November 6, 2009 at 11:55 PM
Week 9	Module 13: Culture	Text: Ch. 8	One Minute Summary Due: Friday, November 13, 2009 at 11:55 PM
Section 4: Applying Social Psychology			
Week 10	Module 14: Social Psychology and Health	Text: Module B  Reading: MacDonald, Zanna, & Fong	Test 3: Covers Section 3 Available: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 (5:30 AM) - Thursday, November 19, 2009 (8:30 AM)
	Module 15: Social Psychology and The Law	Text: Module C	Journal Article Summary 7 Due: Friday, November 20, 2009 at 11:55 PM
Week 11	Module 16: Social Psychology and The Environment	Text: Module D	One Minute Summary (14 & 15) Due: Friday, November 20, 2009 at 11:55 PM
	Module 17: Social Psychology and Business	Text: Ch. 7	Application Paper Due: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 at 11:55 PM
Week 12	Module 18: Social Psychology	Text: Ch. 11	One Minute Summary (16 & 17) Due: Friday, November 27, 2009 at 11:55 PM
			Test 4: Covers Section 4

	and Dating	Reading: Murray & Holmes	<b>Available:</b> Wednesday, December 2, 2009(5:30 AM) - Thursday, December 3, 2009 8:30 AM)
			Journal Article Summary 8 <b>Due:</b> Friday, December 4, 2009 at 11:55 PM
			One Minute Summary <b>Due:</b> Friday, December 4, 2009 at 11:55 PM

Final Exam (40%)

**Exam Dates**

Students writing *outside Waterloo*—**Saturday, December 12, 2009.**

Students writing *on campus at UW* will write at one of three sessions running on **Friday, December 11, 2009** and **Saturday, December 12, 2009**; students do not choose at which session they will write.

All students taking Distance Education courses, including on-campus students, must provide examination arrangement information by **Friday, October 2, 2009.**

Examination schedule details will be available on Quest approximately four weeks before the exam date.

**Official Grades and Academic Standings are available through Quest.**

Please note: You will not have access to your course in UW-ACE after Sunday, January 3, 2010.