



Communication

Email

Administrative questions should be directed to the [Centre for Extended Learning office](#).

Technical problems with UW-ACE should be directed to [Technical Support](#).

Communication of a personal nature or not suited to a discussion board can be addressed to your course facilitator, **Elizabeth Berry**, at: eberry@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 ALL. Please note you may also be required to click MORE.

[More](#) | View: [Past](#) [Present](#) [All](#) | Sort: [Descending](#)

Discussion Boards

For questions relating to **course content**, select the [Communicate tab](#) to post a question or read questions and answers from other students.

About the Course

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 is also a Teaching Assistant in this course who you will meet through the Announcements.

Course Author — Dr. Steven J. Spencer

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).

Dr. 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 graduate students studying for the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. Spencer has two children, Emily and Jon. 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 (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

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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.

Grade Breakdown

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

Materials and Resources

The Centre for Extended Learning is no longer automatically mailing a course CD/DVD containing lectures that are also found within UW-ACE. Content available on the CD/DVD can now be downloaded free-of-charge via the Content Modules in UW-ACE. However, if you wish to purchase a CD/DVD, please visit our [online ordering system](#).

Textbook(s)

Required:

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

For textbook ordering information, please contact the [Waterloo 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 Waterloo Bookstore page). If you are having difficulties ordering online and wish to call the Waterloo 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.

Other Materials

The [Social Psychology Network](#) is an excellent additional resource for topics on Social Psychology.

Resources

- [UW Library](#) (Centre for Extended Learning)

Policies

Submission Times

Please be aware that the University of Waterloo is located in the **Eastern Time Zone** (GMT or UTC-5 during standard time and UTC-4 during daylight saving time) and, as such, the time that your activities and/or assignments are due is based on this zone. If you are outside the Eastern Time Zone and require assistance with converting your time, please try the [Ontario, Canada Time Converter](#).

Accommodation Due to Illness

If your instructor has provided specific procedures for you to follow if you miss assignment due dates, term tests, or a final examination, adhere to those instructions. Otherwise:

Missed Assignments/Tests/Quizzes

Contact the instructor as soon as you realize there will be a problem; follow up **as quickly as possible** by having a medical practitioner complete a [Verification of Illness Form](#)*. Send a scanned copy of the [Verification of Illness Form](#) to assignments@uwaterloo.ca, but please be aware that your instructor may require the original and do not lose or destroy it. In your email, provide your name, student ID number, and exactly what you missed. *If your instructor agrees to re-open a time-limited component, our technical support staff will require an email from the instructor granting permission to allow you access.*

Missed Final Examinations

If you miss a final examination due to illness, see a medical practitioner as quickly as possible. Submit a completed [Verification of Illness Form](#)* **preferably within 48 hours, but not more than 72 hours** after missing the exam. Send a scanned copy of the [Verification of Illness Form](#) by email to examinations@uwaterloo.ca. In your email, provide your name, student ID number, and the examination(s) missed. The original [Verification of Illness Form](#) will be required in order for your examination(s) to be rescheduled. Unless otherwise stated by your instructor, your academic faculty, or your department, an exam missed due to short-term illness must be written within the current term's examination period.

* The [Verification of Illness Form](#) is normally the only acceptable medical documentation. Please make sure the medical practitioner completes the information in the "Degree and Dates of Incapacitation" section of the form.

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. **If you have not already completed the online tutorial regarding academic integrity you should do so as soon as possible.** The undergraduate online tutorial can be found at <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/> and the graduate tutorial is at <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/gradait/>. For other information about academic integrity check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/.

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity (check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) to avoid committing an academic offence, 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 instructor, academic advisor, or the

undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

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, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.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, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Final Grades

In accordance with [Policy 19](#), the Centre for Extended Learning does not release final examination grades or final course grades to students. Students must go to [Quest](#) to see all final grades. Any grades posted in UW-ACE are unofficial.

Note for 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 accommodation to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term and for each course.

Use of Computing and Network Resources

Please see the [Guidelines on Use of UW Computing and Network Resources](#).

Copyright (©) Information

UW's Web Pages

All rights, including copyright, images, slides, audio, and video components, of the content of this course are owned by the course author, unless otherwise stated. These Web pages are owned or controlled by the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning. By accessing the Web pages, you agree that you may only download the content for your own personal, non-commercial use. You are not permitted to copy, broadcast, download, store (in any medium), transmit, show or play in public, adapt or change in any way the content of these Web pages for any other purpose whatsoever without the prior written permission of the course author and the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning.

Other Sources

Respect the copyright of others and abide by all copyright notices and regulations when using the computing facilities provided for your course of study by the University of Waterloo. No material on the Internet or World Wide Web (WWW) may be reproduced or distributed in any material form or in any medium, without permission from copyright holders or their assignees. To support your course of study, the University of Waterloo has provided hypertext links to relevant Web sites, resources, and services on the Web. These resources must be used in accordance with any registration requirements or conditions which may be specified. You must be aware that in providing such hypertext links the University of Waterloo has not authorized any acts (including reproduction or distribution) which, if undertaken without permission of copyright owners or their assignees, may be infringement of copyright. Permission for such acts can only be granted by copyright owners or their assignees.

If there are any questions about this notice, please contact the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended

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.

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology, students may earn a **"bonus" grade of up to 3%** in this course through research experience. Course work will make up 100% of the final mark and a "bonus" of up to 3% may be earned and will be added to the final grade if/as needed to bring your final grade up to 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 to earn 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 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.

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 s/he participated.

Participation is worth 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each half-hour of participation. Researchers will record student's participation and will advise the course instructor of the total credits earned by each student at the end of the term.

Study scheduling, participation and grade assignment is managed using the [SONA](#) online system. All students enrolled in this course have been set up with a SONA account. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you get an early start on your studies. For detailed instructions on [when and how to access your SONA account](#) and for a list of [important dates and deadlines](#) please, as soon as possible, click on:

<http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~regadmin/regparticipant/sonainfo/#SonaSignUp>

*** Please do not ask the Course Instructor or REG Coordinator for information unless you have first thoroughly read the information provided on this website. ***

More information about the REG program is available at:

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

Option 2: Article Review as an alternative to participation in research

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Students are not required to participate in research, and not all students wish to do so. As an alternative, students may opt to gain research experience by writing short reviews (1½ to 2 pages) of research articles relevant to the course. The course instructor will specify a suitable source of articles for this course (i.e., scientific journals, newspapers, magazines, other printed media). *You must contact your TA to get approval for the article you have chosen before writing the review.* Each review article counts as one percentage point. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The article review must:

- **Be submitted before the last lecture. 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.

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Course begins Monday, September 12, 2011

ALL TIMES EASTERN – Please see the [Policies section](#) for details.

The Current time in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada is 3:29:47 PM.

Week	Topics	Readings	Course Requirements and Important Dates		
			Activities and Assignments	Due Date	Weight (%)
Please review the Getting Started page and the Course Syllabus including the Policies section before you begin your course.					
Section 1: The Power of the Situation					
Week 1	Module 01: Introduction	Text: Ch. 1	One Minute Summary (1 and 2)	Friday, September 16, 2011 at 11:55 PM	5% (The One Minute Summaries are worth a total of 5% of your final grade)
	Module 02: Research Methods	Reading: Jordan and Zanna			
Week 2	Module 03: Conformity	Text: Ch. 6 Reading: Milgram	Journal Article Summary 1	Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 11:55 PM	8% (The Journal Article Summaries are worth a total of 8% of your final grade)
	Module 04: Helping Others	Text: Ch. 9	One Minute Summary (3 and 4)	Friday, September 23, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
Week 3	Module 05: Aggression	Text: Ch. 10 Reading: Anderson and Dill	Journal Article Summary 2	Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
			One Minute Summary	Friday, September 30, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
Section 2: The Perceiver Shapes Reality					
Week 4	Module 06: The Self	Text: Ch. 2 Reading: Wilson and Ross	Test 1: Covers Section 1	Available Wednesday, October 5, 2011 (5:30 AM) to Thursday, October 6, 2011 (8:30 AM)	8%
			Journal Article Summary 3	Friday, October 7, 2011 at 11:55 PM	

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	<u>Module 07: Attribution and Person Perception</u>	Text: Ch. 3	<u>One Minute Summary (6 and 7)</u>	Friday, October 7, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
Week 5	<u>Module 08: Stereotyping and Prejudice</u>	Text: Ch. 12	<u>Journal Article Summary 4</u>	Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
		Reading: Sinclair and Kunda	<u>One Minute Summary</u>	Friday, October 14, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
Week 6	<u>Module 09: Persuasion</u>	Text: Ch. 5	<u>One Minute Summary</u>	Friday, October 21, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
Section 3: The Interaction of the Person and the Situation					
Week 7	<u>Module 10: Social Comparison Theory</u>	Text: pp 45-49; 347-348	<u>Test 2: Covers Section 2</u>	Available Wednesday, October 26, 2011 (5:30 AM) to Thursday, October 27, 2011 (8:30 AM)	8%
		Reading: Schachter and Singer	<u>Journal Article Summary 5</u>	Friday, October 28, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
			<u>One Minute Summary</u>	Friday, October 28, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
Week 8	<u>Module 11: Cognitive Dissonance Theory and Attitudes</u>	Reading: Davies, Spencer, Quinn and Gerhardstein Text: pp 128-140	<u>Journal Article Summary 6</u>	Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
	<u>Module 12: Self-fulfilling Prophecies</u>	Text: pp 450-458 and Module A	<u>One Minute Summary (11 and 12)</u>	Friday, November 4, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
Week 9	<u>Module 13: Culture</u>	Text: Ch. 8	<u>One Minute Summary</u>	Friday, November 11, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
Section 4: Applying Social Psychology					
Week 10	<u>Module 14: Social Psychology and</u>	Text: Module B	<u>Test 3: Covers Section 3</u>	Available Wednesday, November 16,	8%

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	<u>Health</u>	Reading: MacDonald, Zanna and Fong		2011 (5:30 AM) to Thursday, November 17, 2011 (8:30 AM)	
			<u>Journal Article Summary 7</u>	Friday, November 18, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
	<u>Module 15: Social Psychology and the Law</u>	Text: Module C	<u>One Minute Summary (14 and 15)</u>	Friday, November 18, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
Week 11	<u>Module 16: Social Psychology and the Environment</u>	Text: Module D	<u>Application Paper</u>	Wednesday, November 23, 2011 at 11:55 PM	15%
	<u>Module 17: Social Psychology and Business</u>	Text: Ch. 7	<u>One Minute Summary (16 and 17)</u>	Friday, November 25, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
Week 12	<u>Module 18: Social Psychology and Dating</u>	Text: Ch.11 Reading: Murray and Holmes	<u>Test 4: Covers Section 4</u>	Available Wednesday, November 30, 2011 (5:30 AM) to Thursday, December 1, 2011 (8:30 AM)	8%
			<u>Journal Article Summary 8</u>	Friday, December 2, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
			<u>One Minute Summary</u>	Friday, December 2, 2011 at 11:55 PM	
Final Exam					40% (The <u>final exam</u> is worth 40% of your final mark)

Final Examination Arrangement and Schedule

All students taking online courses that have a final exam must **provide examination arrangement information** by **Friday, September 30, 2011**.

Examination schedule details will be available on [Quest](#) approximately four weeks prior to the exam date. For instructions on how to find exam information, go to the [Quest Help](#) page.

Official Grades and Academic Standings are available through Quest.

Please note: Your access to this course in UW-ACE will continue for the duration of the current term.

You will not have access to this course once the next term begins.