

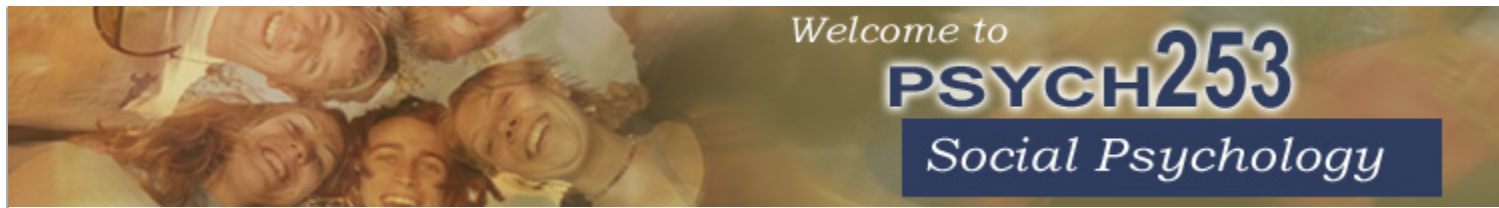
**University of Waterloo**  
Online Course  
**Centre for Extended Learning**

PSYCH 253

FALL 2010

Syllabus And Schedule

*These notes have been reproduced for information purposes only. They represent the syllabus and schedule for this course only in the given term noted above.*



## 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, **Joanna Anderson**, using course mail. Course mail can be found under the [communicate tab](#).

### 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.**

[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

### Course Author — 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 is also a Teaching Assistant 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 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 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.

### **Grade Breakdown**

<b>Term Tests (4 x 7%)</b>	28%
<b>Application Paper</b>	12%
<b>Final Exam</b>	60%
<b>Research Participation (bonus)</b>	3%

**Term Tests** - You will take four multiple-choice tests during the semester. The tests will cover material that is presented in the text, the articles, and in lectures. Each test will have 20 multiple-choice questions and you will have 20 minutes to finish it. You will receive a warning when you have five minutes left to complete the test. Once the 20 minutes have ended, you will receive a message that your time has expired and your test has been submitted. Make sure you click "OK" to verify your test submission.

The reason for the time limit is simple. We do not want the test to be an open book test. **You should plan on taking the test without referring to notes or the book -- just like in an on-campus course.** Of course in an online course we have no way of enforcing this other than setting the time limit. In offering the course in previous terms we have found that virtually everyone can complete the quizzes in the 20-minute time limit, but people who try to use the book and their notes can't complete it. **To reiterate: you will not have time to use reference materials to help you.**

For all the tests and the final the questions are broken up in the following way: Sixty percent of the questions will cover material presented both in the lectures and the textbook. The remainder will be from materials covered just in the lectures or just in the textbook or articles. Thus, all of the material you are given is fair game for questions, but material that is covered in both the book and in lecture will be emphasized.

**Application Paper** - You will write a short paper applying what you have learned in the course to a current event. The current event can be something local, provincial, national, or international, but it should have occurred during the semester. The paper should be between 1,200 and 1,800 words (which roughly translates into 5 to 7 double-spaced pages with reasonable fonts and margins, but pay attention to the word count and not the page count). For more details about this assignment, please see [this page](#).

**Final Exam** – The final exam will consist of 60 multiple choice questions similar to the questions on the term tests. For more information, please see [this page](#).

**Research Participation** – You will have the opportunity to participate in up to 3 hours of research in this course for 3 bonus marks toward your final grade. Participating in a study gives you a great opportunity to learn about experimental design and methodology. If you don't want to participate in the studies you can complete an alternative assignment. For more detail on research participation and the alternative assignments, please see [this page](#).

## 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. Supplementary readings, which can be found via the UW library. Instructions available on the [Content tab](#).

**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.

### 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 of the Eastern Time Zone and require assistance with converting your time, please try the following [online](#)

converter.

### **Accommodation Due to Illness**

Students in UW courses who are ill and unable to meet assignment due dates or write a term test or final examination should seek medical treatment and provide confirmation of the illness to the instructor(s) within 48 hours by submitting a completed UW Verification of Illness Form to support requests for accommodation due to illness. Students in online courses must also provide confirmation of the illness but submit it to the Centre for Extended Learning Office. The UW Verification of Illness Form is normally the only acceptable medical documentation and is available online at: [www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health\\_Services/verification.html](http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html). Note that if you require an accommodation as a result of this illness during the term (for assignments or quizzes), please send an email to your class instructor after you are well. If your course has a final exam and you require an accommodation as a result of this illness, please send an email to [examinations@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:examinations@uwaterloo.ca) once you are well.

### **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 [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information.

### **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](http://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.

### **Discipline**

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

## **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 accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

## **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 Learning, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1 or by [email](#).

**Course begins Monday, September 13, 2010**

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

**The Current time in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada is 2:40:06 PM.**

Week	Topics	Readings	Course Requirements and Important Dates		
			Activities and Assignments	Due Date	Weight (%)
<b>Please review the <a href="#">Syllabus</a>, <a href="#">Getting Started</a>, and <a href="#">UW Policies</a> before you begin your course.</b>					
<b>Section 1: The Power of the Situation</b>					
Week 1	<b><u>Module 01: Introduction</u></b>	Text: Ch. 1			
	<b><u>Module 02: Research Methods</u></b>	<b><u>Recommended Reading</u></b> to help you in reading journal articles			
Week 2	<b><u>Module 03: Conformity</u></b>	Text: Ch. 6 Reading: Milgram (1963)			
	<b><u>Module 04: Helping Others</u></b>	Text: Ch. 9			
Week 3	<b><u>Module 05: Aggression</u></b>	Text: Ch. 10 Reading: Anderson and Dill (2000)			
<b>Section 2: The Perceiver Shapes Reality</b>					



Week 4	<b><u>Module 06: The Self</u></b>	Text: Ch. 2 Reading: Wilson and Ross (2001)	<b><u>Test 1: Covers Section 1</u></b>	Available Wednesday, October 6, 2010 (5:30 AM) to Thursday, October 7, 2010 (8:30 AM)	<b>7%</b>
	<b><u>Module 07: Attribution and Person Perception</u></b>	Text: Ch. 3			
Week 5	<b><u>Module 08: Stereotyping and Prejudice</u></b>	Text: Ch. 12 Reading: Sinclair and Kunda (1999)			
Week 6	<b><u>Module 09: Persuasion</u></b>	Text: Ch. 5			
<b>Section 3: The Interaction of the Person and the Situation</b>					
Week 7	<b><u>Module 10: Social Comparison Theory</u></b>	Text: pp 45-49; 347-348 Reading: Schachter and Singer (1962)	<b><u>Test 2: Covers Section 2</u></b>	Available Wednesday, October 27, 2010 (5:30 AM) to Thursday, October 28, 2010 (8:30 AM)	<b>7%</b>
Week 8	<b><u>Module 11: Cognitive Dissonance Theory and Attitudes</u></b>	Text: pp 128-140			
	<b><u>Module 12: Self-fulfilling Prophecies</u></b>	Text: pp 450-458 and Module A Reading: Davies,			

		Spencer, Quinn and Gerhardstein (2002)			
Week 9	<b><u>Module 13: Culture</u></b>	Text: Ch. 8			
<b>Section 4: Applying Social Psychology</b>					
Week 10	<b><u>Module 14: Social Psychology and Health</u></b>	Text: Module B Reading: MacDonald, Zanna and Fong (1995)	<b><u>Test 3: Covers Section 3</u></b>	Available Wednesday, November 17, 2010 (5:30 AM) to Thursday, November 18, 2010 (8:30 AM)	<b>7%</b>
	<b><u>Module 15: Social Psychology and the Law</u></b>	Text: Module C			
Week 11	<b><u>Module 16: Social Psychology and the Environment</u></b>	Text: Module D	<b><u>Application Paper</u></b>	Wednesday, November 24, 2010 at 11:55 PM	<b>12%</b>
	<b><u>Module 17: Social Psychology and Business</u></b>	Text: Ch. 7			
Week 12	<b><u>Module 18: Social Psychology and Dating</u></b>	Text: Ch.11 Reading: Murray and Holmes (1993)	<b><u>Test 4: Covers Section 4</u></b>	Available Wednesday, December 1, 2010 (5:30 AM) to Thursday, December 2, 2010 (8:30 AM)	<b>7%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>					<b>60%</b>
<b>Total:</b>					<b>100%</b>

## Final Examination Arrangement and Schedule

All students taking online courses that have a final exam must provide examination arrangement information by **Friday, October 1, 2010**.

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: 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.**