

University of Waterloo
Department of Psychology
Psychology 253: Social Psychology (Winter 2020)
Mondays 6:30-9:20pm, DC 1350

Instructor: Dr. Amy Yeung
Office: PAS 3248 (Please email me if the 3E Research Area door is locked)
Office hour: Mondays 4:30-6:00pm or by appointment
Email: amy.yeung@uwaterloo.ca

How to get in touch:

- **For questions about the course**, please use the **discussion forum on LEARN**
 - (Select PSYCH 253 on LEARN > top menu options > Connect > Discussions)
 - If you wish, you can post your question anonymously
 - Your TAs and I will respond to student questions on the forum
 - This also ensures fairness – all students have access to the same information
- **For private matters**, please email me and **include the number “253” in the subject line**
- I encourage you to ask me questions in lecture, come to my office hours, and offer constructive feedback about the course.

Teaching Assistants

Erik Jansen	Shaneene Heupel
e2jansen@uwaterloo.ca	sijheupel@uwaterloo.ca
Office hour: Tuesdays 10-11am (PAS 3240G)	Office hour: Thursdays 12:30-1:30pm (PAS 4214)

Course description

This course provides a detailed overview of classic and contemporary topics in social psychology. 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, cognitive, emotional, and motivational influences on social perception and behaviour, goals and self-control, aggression and social conflict, trust and prosocial behaviour, moral worldviews and ideology, and the psychological determinants of well-being and prosocial behaviour.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to help you:

- A. Gain an understanding of the basic concepts and theories in social psychology
- B. Appreciate social psychology as an empirical, data-driven scientific enterprise
- C. Critically evaluate social psychology research methods and theory
- D. See connections between social psychology and yourself, your relationships, and your social world

E. Apply social psychological principles to behaviour in real-world settings

Required text

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2019). *Social psychology (5th edition)*. W.W. Norton. (available at the UW campus bookstore).

Assessments

	Dates	Weighting
Midterm exam	February 24	30
Application assignment (5 assignments @ 7% each)	Jan 24, Feb 21, March 6, March 20, April 3 (due by noon Fridays)	35
Final exam (non-cumulative)	TBD	35
Research participation	Jan 6 to April 3	+4 (bonus)
TOTAL		100

LEARN

All lecture slides will be posted on the course's LEARN site prior to each lecture. The LEARN site will also be used to post course announcements.

Schedule of lecture topics, readings, and midterm

(Note: All reading assignments refer to the Gilovich, et al. textbook)

Date	Topic(s)	Reading
January 6	Introduction Methods of social psychology	Ch. 1 Ch. 2
January 13	The social self	Ch. 3
January 20	Social influence *Assignment #1 due by <u>Fri Jan 24 at noon</u>	Ch. 9
January 27	Social cognition: Thinking about people and situations Social attributions: Explaining behaviour	Ch. 4 Ch. 5
February 3	Attitudes, behaviour, and rationalization	Ch. 7
February 10	Persuasion *Assignment #2 due by <u>Fri Feb 14 at noon</u>	Ch. 8
February 17	Family Day – no classes	
February 24	Midterm (first half of class) Attraction and close relationships	Ch. 10

March 2	Stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination *Assignment #3 due by Fri March 6 at noon	Ch. 11
March 9	Group processes and intergroup conflict Special topic #1: What's the deal with sexism?	Ch. 12
March 16	Altruism Special topic #2: Ideology, social justice, and law *Assignment #4 due by Fri March 20 at noon	Ch. 14 Module 3
March 23	Aggression Special topic # 3: What's the deal with masculinity?	Ch. 13
March 30	Special topic #4: TBD (to be voted on!) Final review *Assignment #5 due by Fri April 3 at noon	

Sona Participation and 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 4%** in this course through research experience. Course work will make up 100% of the final mark and a "bonus" of up to 4% 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 lab and/or 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 been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee.

How to earn extra marks for your Psychology course(s) this term by participating in studies ...

- You will earn "credits" which will be converted to "marks" (1 credit = 1%)
- You can schedule your LAB and/or ONLINE studies using the "Sona" website.
- **UP TO 50%** of your credits can be earned through ONLINE studies. The remaining need to be earned through in-lab participation.

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 in LAB studies has increment values of 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each 30-minutes of participation. Participation in ONLINE studies has increment values of .25 credits for each 15-minutes of participation. Researchers will record student's participation, and at the end of the term, the REG Coordinator will provide the course instructor with a credit report of the total credits earned by each student.

How to participate?

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. You must get started early in the term.

For instructions on how to log in to your SONA account and for a list of important dates and deadlines please, as soon as possible go to:

[Participating/SONA information: How to log in to Sona and sign up for studies](#)

***** 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 in general is available at:

[Sona Information on the REG Participants website](#) or you can check the [Sona FAQ on the REG website homepage](#) for additional information.

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

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 day of lectures](#). 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.

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [Office of Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information. 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 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](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Concerns about a Course Policy or Decision

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 (Richard Eibach) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor. (Email: reibach@uwaterloo.ca; Ph 519-888-4567 ext. 38790.)

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. When in doubt, please be certain to contact Richard Eibach, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs who will provide further assistance; reibach@uwaterloo.ca.

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](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities

The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), 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 AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Accommodation for course requirements for Psychology courses.

Policies of the Psychology department pertaining to course requirements are available on the [department website](#).

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health support if they are needed. Mental Health Services' aim is to provide holistic programming and services to help you lead a healthy and balanced life. We strive to provide a secure, supportive environment for students of all orientations and backgrounds. Students facing problems with anxiety, depression, sleep, attention, obsessions or compulsions, relationship difficulties, severe winter blues, etc., may make an appointment by phone or in person. Appointments are usually available within 2 days of initial contact with one of our medical doctors. All contacts are completely confidential.

On Campus

- Counselling Services: Needles Hall Addition, NH 2401; counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca; 519-888-4567 ext. 32655

- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre.; Health Services Building; 519-888-4096 to schedule an appointment
- Call 1-866-797-0000 for free 24/7 advice from a health professional

Off campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential helpline. Ph: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Ph: 519-749-4300 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for LGBTQ+ children, teens, and their families in Waterloo Region. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213
- Full details can be found online on the Faculty of Arts [website](#)
- Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)
- Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

Academic freedom at the University of Waterloo

[Policy 33, Ethical Behaviour](#) states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), “The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, 'academic freedom' refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6).

The academic environment which fosters free debate may from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively as possible.” This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6.

Territorial Acknowledgement We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.