

Social Psychology

Psychology 253R, Winter 2017

Section 2: Monday and Wednesday, 11:30am-12:50pm, REN 2102

Section 3: Monday and Wednesday, 10:00am-11:20am, REN 2102

Instructor: Dr. Megan McCarthy

Email: m5mccarthy@uwaterloo.ca

Office: REN 1609

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30-12:30

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to research in the field of social psychology. Topics include: prejudice, stereotyping, attraction, attitudes, the self, prosocial behavior, persuasion, and others. The textbook is broad and general, while the lectures will cover more specific issues, especially recent experimental and theoretical approaches.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Through lectures, readings, videos, discussions, and class activities students will:

1. Become familiar with the range of topics that comprise the area of Social Psychology.
2. Understand the strengths and limitations of the methods of investigation used in Social Psychology.
3. Develop the ability to relate the findings of Social Psychology research to their own lives and to important issues in society and the world at large.
4. Learn to think critically about issues related to Social Psychology and the reporting of psychological research in the media.

Required Text

Myers, D. G., Spencer, S. J., & Jordan, C. *Social Psychology*, Sixth Canadian Edition.

Recommended: Online study guide—<http://connect.mcgrawhill.com/selfstudy>

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Dates	Weighting
Midterm test 1	January 30	28%
Midterm test 2	March 6	28%
Midterm test 3	April 3	25%
Reflection paper	March 27	17%
Research participation	January 3 to April 3	2%
Bonus research participation	January 3 to April 3	+2%
Total		100%

Schedule of Classes

Week	Date	Lecture	Topic	Readings Due
1	Jan 4	1	Introduction	Ch. 1
2	Jan 9 Jan 11	2 3	Research Methods The Self in a Social World I	Ch. 1 Ch. 2
3	Jan 16 Jan 18	4 5	The Self in a Social World II Social Beliefs and Judgments I	Ch. 2 Ch. 3
4	Jan 23 Jan 25	6 7	Social Beliefs and Judgments II Culture and Emotion	Ch. 3
5	Jan 30 Feb 1	8	Midterm Test 1 (28%) Behaviour and Attitudes I	Ch. 4
6	Feb 6 Feb 8	9 10	Behaviour and Attitudes II Persuasion	Ch. 4 Ch. 5
7	Feb 13 Feb 15	11 12	Conformity and Obedience Group Influence	Ch. 6 Ch. 7
	Feb 20-24		Reading Week	No classes
8	Feb 27 Mar 1	13 14	Altruism Aggression	Ch. 8 Ch. 9
9	Mar 6 Mar 8	15	Midterm Test 2 (28%) Attraction and Intimacy I	Ch. 10
10	March 13 March 15	16 17	Attraction and Intimacy II Stereotyping and Prejudice I	Ch. 10 Ch. 11
11	March 20 March 22	18 19	Stereotyping and Prejudice II Social Psychology in Court	Ch. 12 Module C
12	March 27 March 29	20 21	Lessons for Flourishing <i>Reflection Paper Due</i> TBD	Module B (475-495) & D (521-527)
13	April 3		Midterm Test 3 (25%)	

Midterm tests

Midterm tests will include 40 multiple-choice questions and 2 short answer questions covering material from lecture and assigned readings. Tests are not cumulative.

Reflection paper

The purpose of this assignment is to deepen your knowledge of the concepts from the course and practice applying them. You may choose any topic(s) covered in the course and explain how the social psychological concepts discussed in lectures and the textbook can be applied to yourself, to a friend or family member, to someone you work with, or to a team or group of which you are a part. For example, you could write about how some principle(s) described in class could bias people's hiring decisions in your workplace, expand your understanding of material from other courses, influence decisions about

post-graduation plans, or improve your relationships. You should cover three different topic areas in your paper. Your paper should be 3-5 pages long, double-spaced, 12-point font and one-inch margins.

The marking scheme will take into account:

- The choice of appropriate concepts from the course
- Clear and correct explanation of the concepts
- Application of the concepts to the chosen topics
- The clarity of writing

Due date: March 27, 2017. No late assignments will be accepted.

Research Participation

The remaining 2% of your grade will be based on participation in research. You can also earn an additional 2% in bonus marks. More detailed information appears later in this syllabus

Notes/Policies:

1) **Website:** Please check the LEARN website regularly. I will post announcements, lecture slides, assignment information, grades, etc. Lecture slides will be posted the day before lecture to help you with your note-taking. However, I recommend that you take your own notes as much as possible; research shows that people have greater memory for the material when they take their own notes.

2) **Attendance:** To succeed, attend all lectures. Tests will cover material from lecture, and I will present a great deal of material not covered in your readings and expand on important points in the readings. Students who attend all lectures do much better in this course than those who attend irregularly. Come on time, take notes, and do not fool yourself into thinking you are “attending” just because you are sitting there. Keep your mind focused on the material and free from distractions (see section on technology). You should also exchange contact information with a classmate for notes sharing in case one of you have to miss a lecture.

3) **Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:** The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html. If you must miss a test due to severe illness or other extenuating circumstances, the weight of that test will be spread across the other two tests.

4) **Technology regulations:** Recent studies suggest that students who bring laptops to class perform worse (on average) than their non-laptop using peers, and are much less likely to pay attention in class. Laptops can also be a distraction for other students. Please be courteous to your fellow students and only use your laptop for the purposes of engaging in course content (e.g., taking notes). Keep in mind that studies also show that pen-and-paper note-taking is more effective and leads to higher grades than laptop note taking. Laptop use during lectures for email, face-book, or other non-course related activities is not permitted.

Audio and video recordings of classroom lectures or activities must be approved by the professor prior to the beginning of the scheduled session. Recordings may only be used for individual study of materials presented during class and may not be published or distributed without the consent of the professor.

Videos that contain images of other students may not be published or distributed without the consent of all students depicted in the video.

5) 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. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage \(https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage \(https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour) for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own 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 professor, academic advisor, or Administrative Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties).

Students should also be aware that copyright laws in Canada prohibit reproducing more than 10% of any work without permission from its author, publisher, or other copyright holder. Waterloo’s policy on Fair Dealing is available here: <https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-guidelines/fair-dealing-advisory> Violation of Canada’s Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under Policy 71 – Student Discipline.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4 (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant, who will provide further assistance.

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 are grounds. Students who believe they have grounds for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72\)](#).

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html
Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

6) 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 AAS office at the beginning of each academic term.

7) Cross-listed course: Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

8) Peace and Conflict Studies Students: This course is recognized as a PACS Content Course that fulfills requirements in the interdisciplinary Peace and Conflict Studies plan. For information about doing a PACS concentration (Major, Minor or Option) visit:
<http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/academic/undergrad/pacs/plans.shtml>.

9) Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin® in this course. Students will be given an alternative option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. Arrangements must be made in the first week of the course.

10) Intellectual Property. Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of the instructor, which can include:

- lecture handouts and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slides)
- lecture content, both spoken and written (and any audio or video recording thereof)
- questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams)
- work protected by copyright (i.e., any work authored by the instructor)

Making available the intellectual property of instructors without their express written consent (e.g., uploading lecture notes or assignments to an online repository) is considered theft of intellectual property and subject to disciplinary sanctions as described in Policy 71 – Student Discipline. Students who become aware of the availability of what may be their instructor’s intellectual property in online repositories are encouraged to alert the instructor.

A respectful living and learning environment for all

1. It is expected that everyone living, learning or working on the premises of Renison University College will contribute to an environment of tolerance and respect by treating others with sensitivity and civility.
2. Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of jokes, insults, gestures, gossip, or other behaviours that are meant to intimidate. Some instances of harassment are against the law in addition to Renison University College policy.
3. Discrimination is treating people differently because of their race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, colour, age, creed, marital status, or other personal characteristics. The Ontario Human Rights Code considers actions and behaviours rather than intentions.
4. If you experience or witness either harassment or discrimination, you may contact the Renison University College Interim Harassment and Discrimination Officer at megan.collings-moore@uwaterloo.ca (519-884-4404, ext. 28604).

Sona 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 up to 2% of their final mark in this course through research experience (i.e., course work will make up 98% of the final mark and research experience will make up the other 2% for a maximum grade of 100%). In addition, for those students who wish to sample a wider range of these experiences, a further "bonus" of up to 2% may be earned and will be added to the final grade if/as needed to bring your final grade up to 100%. **In total, students may add up to 4% to their final grade.**

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.

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 Chief Ethics Officer 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:

[REG Participants' Homepage](#)

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.