

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY WINTER 2024

PSYCH 253R

Published Jan 04, 2024

CLASS SCHEDULE

Section	Location	Time	Instructor(s)
PSYCH 253R 001 [LEC]	REN 2106	Mondays & Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.	Cam Smith crgsmith@uwaterloo.ca
PSYCH 253R 002 [LEC]		Mondays & Wednesdays 1 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.	
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INSTRUCTOR & TA (TEACHING ASSISTANT) INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: CAMERON SMITH

Office: PAS 3252

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: crgsmith@uwaterloo.ca

How to contact your professor:

Feel free to email me with any questions you have. If you do not get a response within the time frame you require, please resend the email. I generally answer emails within 24 hours, but sometimes during the term, my inbox gets really full, so I will appreciate the reminder.

I will be available for about 20 minutes after each class to answer student questions. If you would like to meet with me privately, please send me an email and I will be more than happy to schedule something that works for both of us.

Make your email subject line clear about time-sensitivity, urgency, and general topic. This ensures that your very busy professor will read it in an appropriate time frame. For example:

Subject: Time Sensitive and Urgent: I Have Been in a Car Accident on the way to the exam!

Subject: Time Sensitive: Brief question about the exam next week

Subject: I would appreciate advice on how to improve my grade

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Calendar Description for PSYCH 253R

An introduction to the scientific study of social behaviour and social influences on behaviour. Theories and research on such topics as attitude change and persuasion, stereotypes and prejudice, conformity and obedience to authority, altruism, conflict, attraction, and love may be introduced. [Note: PSYCH 253 - offered on campus and Online; PSYCH 253R - offered at Renison University College]

Prereq: PSYCH 101/101R or 121R. Antireq: PSYCH 220R

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, close relationships, and others. The textbook is broad and general, while the lectures will cover more specific issues, especially recent experimental and theoretical approaches.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course students should be able to:

Explain the strengths and limitations of methods of investigation used in Social Psychology

Relate the findings of Social Psychology research to their own lives and to important issues in society and the world at large

Critically think about issues related to Social Psychology and the reporting of psychological research in the media

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Jan. 8	Introduction	Ch. 1
	Jan. 10	Research Methods	Ch. 1
2	Jan. 15	The Self in a Social World 1	Ch. 2
	Jan. 17	The Self in a Social World 2	Ch. 2
3	Jan. 22	Social Beliefs & Judgments 1	Ch. 3
	Jan. 24	Social Beliefs & Judgements 2	Ch. 3
4	Jan. 29	Self-Regulation & Motivation	n/a

	Jan. 31	Behaviour & Attitudes 1	Ch. 4
5	Feb. 5	Behaviour & Attitudes 2	Ch. 4
	Feb. 7	Persuasion	Ch. 5
Midterm – Monday (February 12th)			
6	Feb. 14	Conformity	
Reading Week – No Classes (Feb. 19-23)			
7	Feb. 26	Group Influence	Ch. 6
	Feb. 28	Social Psychology in the Courtroom	Ch. 7
Article Critique due (March 4th) by 11:59 pm			
8	Mar. 4	Altruism	Ch. 7
	Mar. 6	Aggression	Ch. 8
9	Mar. 11	Attraction & Intimacy 1	Ch. 9
	Mar. 13	Attraction & Intimacy 2	
10	Mar. 18	Stereotyping & Prejudice 1	Ch. 10
	Mar. 20	Stereotyping & Prejudice 2	Ch. 10
News Report Presentation due Monday (Mar. 25th)			
11	Mar. 25	Presentations	Ch. 11
	Mar. 27	Presentations	Ch. 11
12	Apr. 1	Final Exam Review Session	
Individual Reflection due Wednesday (April 3rd) by 11:59 pm			

Final Exam – Wednesday (April 3rd)

TEXTS / MATERIALS

Title / Name	Notes / Comments	Required
Social Psychology 8th Canadian Edition (Myers)	Make sure you get the Canadian edition	Yes

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Component	Value
Weekly Reflections	11 worth 25% total (2.5% each, lowest 1 dropped)
Midterm	20%
News Report Assignment	*See below*
A. Article Critique	10%
B. Presentation	20%
C. Individual Reflection	5%
Final Exam	20%
SONA Research Participation	4% Bonus

WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS

You will participate regularly in group discussions focusing on the course concepts covered during the week. You will be asked to reflect on how the content that you learned in class can be applied to your life, or society at large, and engage in discussion with your fellow students.

Each week on LEARN, you will post an initial reflection post and comment on two other students' reflection posts. Your initial posts will be due on Fridays at 11:59 pm. Your replies to other students' posts will be due the following Wednesdays at 11:59 pm.

To receive full marks on each week's reflection, your posts and comments should be substantive and thoughtful.

"I thought this week's materials were interesting" and "I agree" are examples of a superficial post and reply that would not receive full marks.

A full description of this activity can be found on LEARN.

NEWS REPORT ASSIGNMENT

The purpose of this assignment is to help you become a critical consumer of scientific research and understand the intricacies of accurately portraying scientific findings in the media.

As a group you will find a research article from a reputable journal, review the article and fill out a point-form critique template summarizing the most important variables and findings. You will then prepare a media-style news report presentation that explains the findings and conclusions to a lay audience.

Individually, you will also write a short reflection on your experiences during the completion of this project and what you have learned about how the media portrays psychological research.

The rubric for this assignment can be found on LEARN.

Everyone in your group will receive the same grade for the group components. If you have any concerns, please reach out to the Instructor.

IN-CLASS EXAMS

Each exam will include 50 multiple-choice questions. They are not cumulative.

The Midterm covers materials from Weeks 1 to 5 (inclusive)

The Final Exam covers materials from Weeks 6 to 10 (inclusive)

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 through online, remotely operated and In Lab studies, as well as article review; are described below. Students may complete any combination of these options to earn research experience grades Credits will be permitted to be earned with a maximum of half from online, and the other half (2.0) from In-lab or Remote Access studies (In Lab studies can however go over the limit up to the total of 4.0)

Option 1: Participation in Psychology Research

Research participation is coordinated by the Research Experiences Group (REG). Psychology students may volunteer as research participants in remotely operated, 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 Board.

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 remotely operated (replacing in-lab) and ONLINE studies using the "Sona" website.

- You can schedule your In-Person studies through SONA as well but please note the time and location

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 remotely operated (counts as the same as in-lab) studies has increment values of 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each 30-minutes of participation. Participation in ONLINE studies is worth .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](https://uwaterloo.ca/research-experiences-group/welcome-research-experiences-group-and-sona/sona-information) (https://uwaterloo.ca/research-experiences-group/welcome-research-experiences-group-and-sona/sona-information)

**** 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](https://uwaterloo.ca/research-experiences-group/welcome-research-experiences-group-and-sona/sona-information) (https://uwaterloo.ca/research-experiences-group/welcome-research-experiences-group-and-sona/sona-information) or you can check the [Sona FAQ on the REG website homepage](https://uwaterloo.ca/research-experiences-group/sites/ca.research-experiences-group/files/uploads/files/sona_faq_for_fall_2019.pdf) (https://uwaterloo.ca/research-experiences-group/sites/ca.research-experiences-group/files/uploads/files/sona_faq_for_fall_2019.pdf) 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** (<http://www.quest.uwaterloo.ca/undergraduate/dates.html>) . **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.

ASSIGNMENT SCREENING

No assignment screening will be used in this course.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

RENISON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Hodinohsyó:ni, and Attawandaran (Neutral) Peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River from mouth to source. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place in all corners of our campus through research, learning, teaching, community building and outreach. We are guided by the work of our Reconciliation and Re-storying Steering Committee and Anti-Racism and Decolonization Spokesouncil, as well as the [University of Waterloo's Office of Indigenous Relations](http://uwaterloo.ca/hrei/indigenoussinitiatives) (<http://uwaterloo.ca/hrei/indigenoussinitiatives>) .

LATE WORK

Unless an accommodation has been provided for a documented extenuating circumstance, assignments are due on the listed due date, and tests must be written on the scheduled date at the scheduled time (see below for information about accommodation).

Missed tests will receive a grade of 0. Late assignments will not be accepted without an approved extension.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is strongly encouraged. Much of the course content we will be covering does not appear in your readings or appears only in limited detail. Thus, attending class is essential for doing well in this class.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

For **Winter 2024**, the established examination period is **April 11 - April 25**. The schedule will be available early in the winter. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative

final examination time (see: [Final Examination Schedule https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations](https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations) (Final%20Examination%20Schedule%20https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations))

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 (http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo.

Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

CHOSEN/PREFERRED FIRST NAME

Do you want professors and interviewers to call you by a different first name? Take a minute now to verify or tell us your chosen/preferred first name by logging into [WatIAM](https://idm.uwaterloo.ca/watiam/) (<https://idm.uwaterloo.ca/watiam/>) .

Why? Starting in winter 2020, your chosen/preferred first name listed in WatIAM will be used broadly across campus (e.g., LEARN, Quest, WaterlooWorks, WatCard, etc). Note: Your legal first name will always be used on certain official documents. For more details, visit [Updating Personal Information](https://uwaterloo.ca/the-centre/updating-personal-information) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/the-centre/updating-personal-information>) .

Important notes

- If you included a preferred name on your OUAC application, it will be used as your chosen/preferred name unless you make a change now.
- If you don't provide a chosen/preferred name, your legal first name will continue to be used.

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.

On Campus

Due to COVID-19 and campus closures, services are available only online or by phone.

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca (mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / 519-888-4567 ext. 32655
- [MATES](https://wusa.ca/services/uw-mates) (https://wusa.ca/services/uw-mates) : one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services

Off campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](https://good2talk.ca/) (https://good2talk.ca/) : Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](https://here247.ca/) (https://here247.ca/) : Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](https://ok2bme.ca/) (https://ok2bme.ca/) : set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online on the Faculty of Arts [website](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/get-mental-health-support-when-you-need-it) (https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/get-mental-health-support-when-you-need-it)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/sites/ca.arts/files/uploads/files/counselling_services_overview_002.pdf)

(https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/sites/ca.arts/files/uploads/files/counselling_services_overview_002.pdf)

Download the [WatSafe app](https://uwaterloo.ca/watsafe/) (https://uwaterloo.ca/watsafe/) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

[Policy 33, Ethical Behaviour](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-33) (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-33) 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

GENERATIVE AI

This course includes the independent development and practice of specific skills. Therefore, the use of Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) trained using large language models (LLM) or other methods to produce text, images, music, or code, like Chat GPT, DALL-E, or GitHub CoPilot, is not permitted in this class. Unauthorized use in this course, such as running course materials through GenAI or using GenAI to complete a course assessment is considered a violation of [Policy 71](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (plagiarism or unauthorized aids or assistance). Work produced with the assistance of AI tools does not represent the author’s original work and is therefore in violation of the fundamental values of academic integrity including honesty, trust,

respect, fairness, responsibility and courage ([ICAI](https://academicintegrity.org/images/pdfs/20019_ICAI-Fundamental-Values_R12.pdf) (https://academicintegrity.org/images/pdfs/20019_ICAI-Fundamental-Values_R12.pdf) , n.d.).

You should be prepared to show your work. To demonstrate your learning, you should keep your rough notes, including research notes, brainstorming, and drafting notes. You may be asked to submit these notes along with earlier drafts of their work, either through saved drafts or saved versions of a document. If the use of GenAI is suspected where not permitted, you may be asked to meet with your instructor or TA to provide explanations to support the submitted material as being your original work. Through this process, if you have not sufficiently supported your work, academic misconduct allegations may be brought to the Associate Dean.

In addition, you should be aware that the legal/copyright status of generative AI inputs and outputs is unclear. More information is available from the Copyright Advisory Committee: <https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-at-waterloo/teaching/generative-artificial-intelligence> (https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-at-waterloo/teaching/generative-artificial-intelligence)

Students are encouraged to reach out to campus supports if they need help with their coursework including:

- [Student Success Office](https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/resources) (https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/resources) for help with skills like notetaking and time management
- [Writing and Communication Centre](https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre/services-o/services-undergraduate-students) (https://uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre/services-o/services-undergraduate-students) for assignments with writing or presentations
- [AccessAbility Services](https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/students) (https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/students) for documented accommodations
- [Library](https://uwaterloo.ca/library/research-supports/quick-start-guide) (https://uwaterloo.ca/library/research-supports/quick-start-guide) for research-based assignments

UNIVERSITY POLICY

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 [the Office of Academic Integrity](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) (https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their 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/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) . 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 to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) (https://uwaterloo.ca/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 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](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) . For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties) (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties) .

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72) (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72) .

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/) (https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/) , located in Needles Hall, Room 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 AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.