



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Renison University College
Affiliated with the University of Waterloo
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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.](#)

Winter 2023

Course Code: PSYCH 253R

Course Title: Social Psychology

Class Times/Location: 1:00–2:20 Tues/Thurs (REN 1918)
4:00–5:20 Tues/Thurs (REN 1918)

Instructor: Cameron Smith

Office: PAS 3252

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 11:00–12:00 pm

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

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.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Explain the strengths and limitations of methods of investigation used in Social Psychology
- B. Relate the findings of Social Psychology research to their own lives and to important issues in society and the world at large
- C. Critically think about issues related to Social Psychology and the reporting of psychological research in the media

Required Text

- Myers, D.G., Twenge, J.M., Jordan, C.H., & Smith, S.M. Social Psychology, Eighth Canadian Edition.

Course Requirements and Assessment

There are two exams and two assignment components that will make up your overall mark for this course.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Weekly Reflections	Every Week	25%
Midterm	February 14th	20%
News Report Assignment:		
Article Critique	March 27th	10%
News Report Presentation	March 28th	20%
Individual Reflection	April 10th	5%
Final Exam	April 6th (In Class)	20%
Bonus Research Participation	Deadline April 10th	+3%*
Total		100%

Note: Students may either participate in psychology studies or write short reviews of relevant research articles for bonus credit.

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 the class.

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 6 (inclusive)

The Final Exam covers materials from Weeks 7 to 12 (inclusive)

Bonus Research Participation

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.

Option 2: Article Review

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 (1 to 2 pages) of research articles relevant to the course. You must email your TA to get approval for the article you have chosen before writing the review. Each review paper counts as one bonus percentage point. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines below.

For more details, see the assignment description on LEARN.

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Jan. 10	Introduction	Ch. 1
	Jan. 12	Research Methods	Ch. 1
2	Jan. 17	The Self in a Social World 1	Ch. 2
	Jan. 19	The Self in a Social World 2	Ch. 2
3	Jan. 24	Social Beliefs & Judgments 1	Ch. 3
	Jan. 26	Social Beliefs & Judgements 2	Ch. 3
4	Jan. 31	Self-Regulation & Motivation	n/a
	Feb. 2	Behaviour & Attitudes 1	Ch. 4
5	Feb. 7	Behaviour & Attitudes 2	Ch. 4
	Feb. 9	Persuasion	Ch. 5
Midterm – Tuesday (February 14th)			
6	Feb. 16	Conformity	Ch. 6
Reading Week – No Classes (Feb 20-24)			
7	Feb. 28	Group Influence	Ch. 7
	Mar. 2	Social Psychology in the Courtroom	Ch. 7
8	Mar. 7	Altruism	Ch. 8
	Mar. 9	Aggression	Ch. 9
9	Mar. 14	Attraction & Intimacy 1	Ch. 10
	Mar. 16	Attraction & Intimacy 2	Ch. 10
10	Mar. 21	Stereotyping & Prejudice 1	Ch. 11
	Mar. 23	Stereotyping & Prejudice 2	Ch. 11
News Report due (March 27th) by 11:59 pm			
11	Mar. 28	Group Presentations	
	Mar. 30	Group Presentations	
12	Apr. 4	Final Exam Review Session	
Final Exam – Thursday (April 6th)			

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 receive a penalty of 10% per day after the deadline up to three days, after which time, they will be assigned a grade of 0.

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 2023**, the established examination period is **April 13-28**. 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>)

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

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: Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own 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 professor, academic advisor, or Academic Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under the University of Waterloo Policy 71 – Student Discipline. 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 \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties\)](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 their 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 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 is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):
<http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: [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.

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.

Contingency Planning

Inclement Weather

In the event of a short-term campus closure or the cancellation of an in-person class due to snow or inclement weather, online and remote classes will not be affected.

Interruption or Cancellation of In-Person Classes

In the event of a pandemic-related interruption of in-person classes, including a 'pivot' to remote learning, your Instructor will post details in LEARN. Please check the Announcements section of the course homepage in LEARN for updates.

Interruption or Cancellation of In-Person Examinations

In the event of a pandemic-related interruption of in-person exams, your Instructor will post details in LEARN. Please check the Announcements section of the course homepage in LEARN for updates.

Absence Due to Influenza-like Illness or Required Self-Isolation

If you need to be absent due to influenza-like illness or due to mandatory self-isolation, please complete an [Illness Self Declaration](#). The form is available in the Personal Information section of Quest. Accommodations may be made for students who have completed an Illness Self Declaration without the need for a medical note.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext. 32655
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- [Empower Me](#): Confidential, multilingual, culturally sensitive, faith inclusive mental health and wellness service.
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at 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

A respectful living and learning environment for all

Everyone living, learning, and working at Renison University College is expected to contribute to creating a respectful environment free from harassment and discrimination.

You may contact Melissa Knox, Renison's external anti-harassment and anti-discrimination officer, by email (mnknox@uwaterloo.ca) or by phone or text (226-753-5669). Melissa is an employment and human rights lawyer and part-time Assistant Crown Attorney for the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Melissa is experienced in case management, discipline and complaints processes, and works with organizations across Canada to foster safe, respectful, and inclusive work and learning environments through policy development, educational workshops, conflict mediation and dispute resolution, and organizational culture audits.

Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of disrespectful comments, unwanted text messages or images, degrading jokes, rude gestures, unwanted touching, or other behaviours meant to intimidate.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Code, discrimination means unequal or different treatment causing harm, whether intentional or not, because of race, disability, citizenship, ethnic origin, colour, age, creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or other personal characteristic.