

PSYC*2310 - Social Psychology

Winter 2026 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.50

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

Calendar Description

This course introduces students to the field of social psychology. Major topics introduced will include: social influence, social cognition, attitude, stereotype and prejudice, the self, attraction and interpersonal relationships, group processes and intergroup relations. The course also aims for students to use the knowledge acquired to think critically about how their actions and those of others are influenced by social forces. In addition, the course aims to introduce students to the role of culture in shaping thoughts and behaviour and to provide them an opportunity to appreciate diverse perspectives.

Prerequisite(s): PSYC*1000

Restriction(s): This is a Priority Access Course. Enrolment may be restricted to particular programs or semester levels during certain periods.

Department(s): Department of Psychology

Lecture Schedule

MonWedFri 3:30pm-4:20pm in ROZH*101 (1/5 to 4/21)

Instructor Information

Cameron Smith

Additional Support

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 before 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

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Social Psychology, Ninth Canadian Edition. (E-Text 180 days)	Myers, D.G., Twenge, J.M., Jordan, C.H., & Smith, S.M.	9781265824440
Optional	Social Psychology, Ninth Canadian Edition. (E-Text Lifetime access)	Myers, D.G., Twenge, J.M., Jordan, C.H., & Smith, S.M.	9781265824662
Optional	Social Psychology, Ninth Canadian Edition. (Paperback)	Myers, D.G., Twenge, J.M., Jordan, C.H., & Smith, S.M.	9781264841882

Cost of Textbooks and Learning Resources

Textbook / Learning Resource	Required / Recommended	Cost
Social Psychology, Ninth Canadian Edition. (E-Text 180 days)	Required	\$69.00
Social Psychology, Ninth Canadian Edition. (E-Text Lifetime access)	Optional Alternative	\$99.00
Social Psychology, Ninth Canadian Edition. (Paperback)	Optional Alternative	\$119.95

Students are advised that prices are often determined by the publisher or bookstore and may be subject to change.

Course Resources

You may purchase the access code at the University of Guelph Bookstore or from the publisher directly.

CourseLink (powered by D2L's Brightspace) is the course website and will act as your classroom. It is recommended that you log in to your course website every day to check for announcements, access course materials, and review the weekly schedule and assignment requirements.

Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with a Program Counsellor (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors/>) in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/using-library/spaces/learning-commons/>) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Recognize and describe the 10 core social psychological phenomena: self perception, social perception, attitudes, persuasion, social influence, group behaviour, stereotypes and prejudice, aggression, altruism, attraction and intimacy.
2. Identify and discuss the link between key social psychological theories and social behaviours;
3. Evaluate and reflect on classical social psychology experiments; and
4. Critically evaluate and analyze social psychological phenomena as portrayed through a variety of media.
5. Relate the findings of Social Psychology research to own life and to important issues in society and the world at large

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Topic	Activities	Due
1/5	Introduction Research Methods	Chapter 1	
1/12	The Self in a Social World 1 The Self in a Social World 2	Chapter 2	
1/19	Social Beliefs & Judgements 1 Social Beliefs & Judgements 2	Chapter 3	

1/26	Self-Regulation & Motivation Exam Review Midterm #1	N/A	Midterm #1 (Jan 30)
2/2	Behaviour & Attitudes 1 Behaviour & Attitudes 2	Chapter 4	
2/9	Persuasion Conformity	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	
2/16		Winter Break	
2/18		Winter Break	
2/20		Winter Break	
2/23	Group Influence Social Psychology in the Courtroom	Chapter 7	
3/2	Midterm #2 Altruism Group Work	Chapter 8	Midterm #2 (Mar 2)
3/9	Attraction & Intimacy 1 Attraction & Intimacy 2	Chapter 10	
3/16	Stereotyping & Prejudice 1 Stereotyping & Prejudice 2	Chapter 11	Article Critique (Mar 16)
3/23	Aggression Exam Review Midterm #3	Chapter 9	Midterm #3 (Mar 27)
3/30	Group Work		
4/3		Holiday	
4/6	Group Work		News Report (Apr 7)

Assessment Breakdown

The grade determination for this course is indicated in the following table. A brief description of each assessment is provided below. Select **Content** on the navbar to locate **Activities and Assessments** in the table of contents panel to review further details of each assessment. Due dates can be found under the Schedule heading of this outline.

Assessment Item	Weight
Weekly Discussions (10 x 1%)	10%
Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Midterm 3	20%
News Report Assignment - Article Critique	15%
News Report Assignment - Presentation	15%
Total	100%

Assessment Details

Discussion

Weekly Discussions

10%

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 COURSELINK, 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.

You are only required to complete 10 of the 11 discussion activities. If you complete all 11 discussions, your lowest grade will be dropped.

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

Exam

Midterm 1

20%

Each exam will include 30-35 multiple-choice questions. They are not cumulative.

Midterm 1 covers materials from Weeks 1 to 4 (inclusive).

The exams will be online through Courselink, but held **IN-PERSON** during our regular class time.

Midterm 2

20%

Each exam will include 30-35 multiple-choice questions. They are not cumulative.

Midterm 2 covers materials from Weeks 5 to 7 (inclusive).

The exams will be online through Courselink, but held **IN-PERSON** during our regular class time.

Midterm 3

20%

Each exam will include 30-35 multiple-choice questions. They are not cumulative.

Midterm 3 covers materials from Weeks 8 to 11 (inclusive).

The exams will be online through Courselink, but held **IN-PERSON** during our regular class time.

Group Project

News Report Assignment

30%

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

As a group you will begin by finding a research article from a reputable journal. You will then fill out a point-form critique template summarizing the most important variables and findings from the article. With this key information in hand, you will write a review of the article and propose improvements / future directions for the line of research discussed. You will then prepare a media-style news report presentation for a lay audience that explains the findings and conclusions of the article and presents your proposed extension / follow-up study.

The rubric for this assignment can be found on COURSELINK.

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

Course Standard Statements

Course Policies

Late Work

Unless an accommodation has been provided for an 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). Please contact me as early as possible (preferably before the due date) to ensure that adequate accommodations can be provided.

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.

CSAHS Academic Misconduct Policy

The *Academic Misconduct Policy* is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar. The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have

the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Instructors **shall not** determine if academic misconduct has occurred. This is up to the Associate Dean Academic's office. Instructors shall not assign a grade of zero even if they believe that the student has committed some form of academic misconduct (e.g., copied material from a website like CourseHero) on an assignment or exam.

Instructors **can** determine if a student has poorly paraphrased and/or improperly cited material and can provide a grade accordingly as long as this is clearly identified as part of the assessment criteria via a rubric or other assessment tools.

For more information about Academic Integrity resources and how to prevent Academic Misconduct.

Standard Statements for Undergraduate Courses

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The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas/>)

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>).

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available

in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/>).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigators/>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year/>). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>)