

Social Psychology (PSYB10) Syllabus

Fall 2020

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Professor

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Virtual Office Hours TBA

TA

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Introduction

Social psychology is the study of social processes—how the presence of others affects the way we think, feel, and behave. This course will provide a high-level introduction to the field. Social psychologists use scientific methods to discover how social animals (humans and non-human) are affected by groups, collectives, and affiliative bonds. You will be presented with many research studies that have changed what we know about humans and other social animals. These studies will use self-report, behavioral, cognitive, psychophysiological, and neuroscientific methods.

After Successful Completion of this Course, You Will

- Understand the most important theories and findings in social psychology.
- Understand how social psychology relates to other areas of behavioral science.
- Be able to apply the research in social psychology to real-world phenomena.
- Have a basic understanding of the different types of behavioral research studies.
- Know how to critically evaluate the methods and findings of research studies.

Textbook

Social Psychology (Fifth Edition). Thomas Gilovich, Dacher Keltner, Serena Chen, Richard E. Nisbett. W. W. Norton & Co. 2018.

The book is written using everyday language and is intended to be accessible to beginning students of psychology. Nonetheless, each chapter contains a lot of information. In order to help you study, each chapter section has a brief summary (marked “Looking Back”) at the end. New and important terms are also noted and defined in the margin where they first occur. I encourage you to pay special attention to these study aids as you read. You will be responsible for knowing all the content of assigned chapters (not just the content I go over in lectures).

Note: You may be able to get away with a copy of the 3rd or 4th Edition, but this is AT YOUR OWN RISK—content that is only in the latest edition may be on the exams!

Marking

Your mark will be based on two exams:

1. A midterm exam (worth 50% of your mark). The midterm will cover lectures 1-5 (that is, up to and including the “Emotion and Morality” lecture) and all associated readings. The exam will be 80% multiple choice and 20% matching.

2. A cumulative final exam (worth 50% of your mark). Though it is cumulative, it will emphasize material from lectures 6-10 (and associated readings). You can expect approximately 25% of the questions to come from lectures 1-5 (including readings) and 75% to come from lectures 6-10 (including readings). The exam will be 80% multiple choice and 20% matching.

Both exams will be given on Quercus using the “Quizzes” tool. Exams are open-book/open-notes, but time-limited.

You will also be able to earn a bonus 2% on your mark (so, if your mark was originally 80%, it would be 82% with the bonus) by completing a short (2-3 page) written assignment and peer assessment using UTSC’s PeerScholar system. To receive credit, you will need to turn in an assignment AND evaluate four of your classmates’ assignments. The assignment topic and evaluation rubric will be announced on Quercus.

Exam Scheduling and Review

The exams will be scheduled by the UTSC Registrar. The midterm exam will most likely be scheduled for October. The final exam will be held sometime between December 10-22.

Example exam questions. We will provide sample exam questions to make sure your exam performance reflects your true knowledge and ability. Prior to the midterm exam, we will post a quiz to Quercus with sample questions and the same format as the midterm and final. This is intended to give you the chance to get used to the exam format in advance. Sample exam questions will also be posted in the “Files” section of the Quercus site prior to each exam. Of course, you can begin studying before the example questions are posted (as you do for all your other classes that don’t provide review sheets), and you are advised to do so.

Quercus

The course Quercus website will be your one-stop resource for all course documents, lectures, announcements, and supplementary information. Lecture notes (PDF copies of the slides) will be available on Quercus in the “Files” section. You are highly advised to regularly check the announcements because you are solely responsible for staying on top of all course announcements made through Quercus. However, please do NOT use Quercus messaging to ask questions about the course, as I do not monitor that mailbox. Instead, send an email to the course email address (see next section).

Course Email Address

The course email address is psyb10@utsc.utoronto.edu. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please use this contact address, not Quercus messaging or my personal email address. The course email is checked by a TA daily, and you should receive a reply from her within 2 working days.

Office Hours

Office hours are a great way to get answers to specific questions you may have. I will hold virtual office hours on Zoom each week except for the Fall Reading Week, beginning the week of September 6. (I may have to cancel certain office hours due to travel, but if this is the case there will be an announcement posted on Quercus.)

Lectures

The course consists of 11 lectures. I will make them available in two chunks: before the midterm, lectures 1-5 will be available; after the midterm, I will make lectures 6-11 available as well. I recommend that you do the reading corresponding to the lecture before viewing. The lectures and readings will not necessarily have a 1-to-1 relationship (that is, the lecture will not simply go over the readings). Rather, the two will complement each other. Below, you will find a table outlining the topics and readings for each lecture.

Note that these videos were recorded in the Fall of 2019 so any dates I mention (for course deadlines, etc.) will be wrong.

The slides for each lecture are available on Quercus as Powerpoint files.

All lectures will remain available until the final exam.

Lecture #	Topic	Reading
1	General introduction; methods & paradigms	Chapter 1, 2
2	Understanding the self and others	Chapter 3, 5
3	Heuristics and biases in judgment	Chapter 4
4	Attitudes and behavior; automaticity	Chapter 7
5	Emotion and morality	Chapter 6
6	Persuasion and social influence	Chapter 8, 9
7	Attraction and relationships	Chapter 10
8	Group behavior; stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination	Chapter 11, 12
9	Aggression, altruism, and cooperation	Chapter 13, 14
10	Applied social psychology	
11	Final exam review	

Time Zone conflicts

If you are physically in a different time zone and a quiz or midterm is scheduled outside of 7:00am to midnight in your local time, you may use the following form to request special arrangements. Note that the form is only for term work. [Final exam conflicts](#) are handled by the Registrar's Office.

The form must be submitted **at least ten (10) business days before the activity**.

Form: <https://uoft.me/PSY-TimeZone>

Submit via email to: Keely Hicks, Departmental Assistant, keely.hicks@utoronto.ca

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must submit their request for accommodations **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

Submit via email to: Keely Hicks, Departmental Assistant, keely.hicks@utoronto.ca

Students must submit **BOTH** of the following:

1. A completed **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), and
2. **Appropriate documentation** to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

Appropriate documentation:

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS or TERM TESTS** due to **FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS or SELF-ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS:**

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), and
- **Declare** your absence on **ACORN** (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **OTHER ILLNESS:**

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form).

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **OTHER ILLNESS:**

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with a scan/photo of the **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form (uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form) or an **original** copy of the record of visitation to a hospital ER.
- Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration # and business stamp are required.

- *Note: If an end date of “ongoing” is specified, the medical note will be assumed to cover a period of **two weeks**. If no end date / an “unknown” end date is specified, the note will be assumed to cover a period of **three business days** (starting from illness start date.)*

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- Meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 1-7 more days), email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), and attach a **copy of your letter**. Specify how many days extension you are requesting in your email.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS or TERM TESTS** in **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**:

Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) form to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with:

- For the **death of a family member/friend**, provide a copy of the death certificate.
- For U of T varsity-level or professional **athletic commitments**, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment.
- For **religious accommodations**, please email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work.
- For circumstances **outside of these guidelines**, please email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **on or before the date of the test / assignment deadline** to describe your circumstances and determine appropriate documentation.

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: medical prescriptions, personal travel, weddings, personal/work commitments.

As stated above, your documents must be submitted **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

After submitting your documentation:

Within approximately one to five business days, you will receive a response from your instructor detailing the accommodations to be made (if any).

You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension, or you missed a make-up test), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation. Note that in the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.

Completion of this form does NOT guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting the requirements of your accommodation, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations.

(E.g.) If you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form. If your original medical note / documentation included the date of the make-up midterm, then only the Request form is required. If the date of the make-up midterm fell outside of the dates indicated on your original medical note/other documentation, then a new medical note/other appropriate documentation must also be submitted.

Importance of Three Business Day window:

If you are unable to submit your documents within the three business day window, **you must email Keely** (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **within the three business day window** to explain the nature of the delay, and when you will be able to provide your documents. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.

NOTE: Assignments due at end of term

Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office (<https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).

NOTE: Final Exams

This policy applies only to missed assignments and term tests. Missed final exams are handled by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).

AccessAbility:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm SW302, Science Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations [416-287-7560](tel:416-287-7560) or email ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement;
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor;
- Making up sources or facts;
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids;
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test;
- Misrepresenting your identity; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing it.

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades;
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing so.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.

Note:

You may see advertisements for services offering grammar help, essay editing and proof-reading. Be very careful. If these services take a draft of your work and significantly change the content and/or language, you may be committing an academic offence (unauthorized assistance) under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*.

It is much better and safer to take your draft to the Writing Centre as early as you can. They will give you guidance you can trust. Students for whom English is not their first language should go to the English Language Development Centre.

If you decide to use these services in spite of this caution, you must keep a draft of your work and any notes you made before you got help and be prepared to give it to your instructor on request.

TurnItIn

Normally, students are required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.