



**Introduction to Social Psychology
PSYB10H3Y**

Summer 2021

Instructor

Dr. Ravi Thiruchselvam
ravi.thiruchselvam@utoronto.ca

Teaching Assistants

Aidan Campbell
Nicole Cosentino

Course Description and Goals

Broadly defined, social psychology is the study of how our minds and behavior shape – and are in turn shaped by – other people. As we will see, the influence is deeper and more far-reaching than we realize. Whether we are shuffling through a crowded mall or sitting alone in the privacy of our living room, our minds – and the thoughts, emotions, and judgments that inhabit them – appear to be shaped by other minds, real or imagined.

I have three core goals for the course. First, we will aim to understand the key theories and findings within various subdomains of the field, such as self-perception, social influence (e.g., conformity), social cognition, and prosocial behavior. Second, we will aim to strengthen our ability to critically evaluate the rigour of scientific findings, and to generate novel ideas and hypotheses about social processes of our own. Finally, we will discern the significance of social psychology to broader issues outside of the classroom, including politics, environmental change, and personal/professional development.

Reading Material/Textbook(s)

Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., Fehr, B., & Akert, R. M. (2013). Social Psychology, 6th Canadian Edition. Toronto, ON, Canada: Pearson Canada.

The textbook is available online via Revel. You can use this access code to purchase the book:

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/7itah2>

Course Evaluation/Marking Scheme

Midterm Exam I (Date to be determined): 34%
Midterm Exam II (Date to be determined): 33%
Final Exam (Date (Date to be determined): 33%

The midterms and final exam will be administered online through Quercus and will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exams will be open-book but will have a time constraint. In order to help protect academic integrity, questions will be presented sequentially, and once an answer is selected, backtracking will not be possible. Exam dates will be announced on Quercus as soon as they are set by the Registrar.

Course Webpage/Quercus

The website associated with this course is accessible on Quercus via <http://q.utoronto.ca>. The syllabus, lectures, and all relevant course documents will be posted there. I strongly recommend you check Quercus regularly.

Live Class Meetings (Optional)

Over the semester, we will have an opportunity to meet as a class on Zoom on a weekly basis (during most weeks). These live meetings are optional and are offered for those students who wish to engage directly with me and their classmates about course content. A few days before each meeting, I will post 2-3 discussion questions on Quercus (many of which will be related to lecture content) to give you a chance to reflect on them. We can then discuss these questions together during the live meeting that week. You can think of these meetings as an informal “social psychology café”. Although these are not mandatory for you to attend, I encourage you to make use of at least some of these meetings throughout the course. They will be held on Tuesdays 10-11am on Zoom, and you can use this link to log in at that time:

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/81509324804>
Passcode: 957176

Office Hours

I will be available for virtual office hours by appointment. To schedule a meeting, feel free to email me.

Course Policies

Lecture Slides

This is a web-based course and all lectures will be pre-recorded and made available online. Lectures will be uploaded on a week-by-week basis and will remain online for the full duration of the term. Prior to each lecture, an outline of the lecture slides will be posted on Quercus to facilitate note-taking during the lecture. For any given week, the lecture will be available online before Friday at 4pm.

Please note that lectures will only partly overlap with assigned readings. That is, lectures will have content that is not contained in chapter readings, and vice versa. Both lecture and textbook material are testable on exams. I encourage you to make use of office hours to clarify any questions that may arise from both assigned readings and lectures.

Course Outline

LECTURE	TOPIC	READING
Lecture 1	Introduction to Social Psychology; Methods	Chapters 1 and 2
Lecture 2	The Self	Chapter 5
Lecture 3	Social Cognition	Chapters 3 and 4
Lecture 4	Interpersonal Attraction	Chapter 9
To be announced	Midterm Exam I	None
Lecture 5	Attitudes	Chapter 6
	No class - Reading week	None
Lecture 6	Conformity	Chapter 7
Lecture 7	Group Processes	Chapter 8
Lecture 8	Aggression	Chapter 11
To be announced	Midterm Exam II	None
Lecture 9	Prejudice & Polarization	Chapter 12
Lecture 10	Prosocial Behavior	Chapter 10
Lecture 11	Closing thoughts and Review	No reading

Final Exam: Held during the Final Examination Period; the specific date will be announced later in the course.

Missed Term Work

Psychology Department Missed Term Work Policy, SUMMER 2021

For missed term work (assignments and term tests) due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances, please follow the procedures outlined below.

Notes:

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: travel for leisure, weddings, personal commitments, work commitments, human error.
- Missed Final Exams are handled by the Registrar's Office and should be declared on eService: <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>
- 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.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>

Accommodations for Illness or Emergency:

For missed work due to ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY, please complete the following **two-step** process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) and email it to Keely Hicks at keely.hicks@utoronto.ca ,
and
2. **Declare your absence** on [ACORN](#) (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)

Deadline: You must complete the above steps **within 3 business days** of the missed work.

Note: For this semester, we do not require any additional supporting documentation (ex. medical notes) to support your missed term work accommodation request.

Accommodations for Academic Conflicts:

For missed term work due to an ACADEMIC CONFLICT (i.e. two midterms scheduled at the same time), please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), choosing "Other" as your reason for missed work and explaining the conflict in the space provided.
2. Take screenshots of your course homepages that demonstrate the conflict.

3. Email the form and screenshots to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca).

Deadline: You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

Note: Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered conflicts. Accommodations may only be possible in the case of quizzes and tests that are both scheduled during the same discrete period. Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered conflicts.

Note: Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who choose to register in two synchronous courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules may not necessarily be accommodated.

Accommodations for Religious Conflicts:

For missed term work due to a RELIGIOUS CONFLICT, please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), choosing "Other" as your reason for missed work and noting "Religious conflict" in the space provided.
2. Email the form to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca).

Deadline: You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

Accommodations for 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, please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Time Zone Conflict Form** (<https://uoft.me/PSY-TimeZone>), and
2. Email the form to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)

Deadline: You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible, if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

Accommodations for Students Registered with AccessAbility Services:

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

- **Contact 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 3 days):
 1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>).
 2. Email the form and your **Accommodation Letter** to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca).
- 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):
 1. **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.

Accommodation Procedure:

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.

For missed assignments, **do not wait for an instructor response to resume work on your assignment**. Extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency. You should complete your assignment as soon as you are able and email it your instructor, noting that you have submitted your Missed Term Work Accommodations Request Form to Keely.

Note that ACORN will not allow you to declare **future absences**. For something like a scheduled surgery or an illness with a prolonged recovery period, if you would like to request accommodations in advance of the assignment deadline or midterm you should submit a Verification of Illness Form (<http://uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form>) completed by your doctor, along with this form to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca).

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. **Please make it clear in your subject line that you are requesting a second 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.

(E.g.) If you are given an extension but are still sick and need more time, or if you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed

Term Work Accommodations form and declare your extended absence on ACORN.

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**.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this Missed Term Work policy, please contact Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well before** the date of the test / assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and inquire about procedures.

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>).

Academic Integrity

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/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences in papers and assignments include 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 cheating includes using or possessing unauthorized aids, looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test, misrepresenting your identity, or falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

Note. The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

AccessABILITY Services

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 (currently located in Rm SW302, Science

Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.

You are not required to disclose specific details about your accommodations to me when notifying me that you are registered with AccessAbility. I implore you to let me know as soon as possible, as the sooner I know about your needs, the more effective I can be in helping you achieve your learning goals in this course