



**Introduction to Social Psychology
PSYB10H3Y**

Summer 2022

Instructor

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Teaching Assistants

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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)

Myers, D., Twenge, J., Jordan, C., & Smith, S. (2021). Social Psychology, 8th Edition. Toronto, ON, Canada: McGraw Hill.

You can purchase the textbook online by using this link:

<https://www.mheducation.ca/social-psychology-9781260327014-can-group#configurable-product-options-title>

Course Email

All course-related emails must be sent to the following address:

Thiruchselvam.PSYB10@gmail.com

Messages sent to other addresses (e.g., to Quercus or the instructor's and TAs' individual email accounts) may not be answered. Please ensure that the correct email address is used in all of your course-related communications.

Course Evaluation/Marking Scheme

Midterm Exam I (Date to be determined): 25%
Midterm Exam II (Date to be determined): 25%
Media Analysis Report (Due July 4th at 8pm): 15%
Final Exam (Date to be determined): 35%

**Note that, as described below, the weight assigned to the lower-scoring Midterm Exam is adjustable based on Interaction Points the student earns throughout the term.*

Midterm and Final Exams

The midterms and final exam will be administered online through Quercus and will consist of multiple choice and written-response 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. Although exams will be open-book, you are required to complete the exams independently and not to communicate or collaborate with anyone else during the exam about course-related content. Midterm exams will be non-cumulative, whereas the final exam will be mostly non-cumulative (80%) with a cumulative written-response component (worth 20%) that will ask you to reflect on and integrate key ideas we have learned throughout the course.

Media Analysis Report

Social psychology is about how humans relate to each other, and not surprisingly, these relationships are richly portrayed in our media, including film, literature, music, and other artistic products. For this assignment, you will be asked to review a particular work in the media (e.g., a film or documentary). You will then summarize and analyze it by relating it to the ideas and findings we explore in this course. The report is expected to be 1000-1200 words. A detailed description of this assignment and grading rubric will be

made available on Quercus. It will be due on **July 4th at 8pm** and will count towards 15% of the course grade.

Interaction Points

Throughout the term, you will have the option to earn up to 6 *Interaction Points* by actively engaging with the course material. This may be done by writing brief reflection pieces about either our weekly live Zoom discussions (described below) or about discussion topics/papers that I post on Quercus. Any *Interaction Points* that you earn can be used towards reducing the weight of your lower-scoring midterm exam. This means that the weight of the lower-scoring midterm exam can be reduced by the total number of *Interaction Points* you have collected, and your *Interaction Points* will in turn be added to the overall course grade. More specifically, for a student who collects *Interaction Points* and wishes to use these points to offset the weight of their lower-scoring midterm exam, the student's final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Higher-scoring Midterm Exam: 25%
Interaction Points: X% (up to 6%)
Lower-scoring Midterm Exam: 25% - X%
Media Analysis Report: 15%
Final Exam: 35%

To make this concrete, we can consider an example. Suppose that a student scored 65% on Midterm 1, 75% on Midterm 2, 74% on the Media Analysis Report, and 72% on the Final Exam. Without any adjustment, this student's final course grade would be 71.3% $[(65 \cdot .25) + (75 \cdot .25) + (74 \cdot .15) + (72 \cdot .35)]$. But if this student earned 5 *Interaction Points* throughout the term, the student will have the option to reduce the weight of their lower-scoring Midterm Exam by 5% such that it will now be worth 20%, and the student's 5% *Interaction Points* will be added to their overall course grade. Thus, the student's *adjusted final course grade* will become 73.05% $[(65 \cdot .20) + (75 \cdot .25) + (74 \cdot .15) + (72 \cdot .35) + 5]$.

Although I invite and encourage you to actively participate in both the weekly Zoom live meetings and reflect on the discussion topics I post on Quercus, *Interaction Points* are an optional part of this course. This means that you are not required to complete them. However, earning these points can help you improve your final course grade by reducing the weight that is assigned to your lower-scoring Midterm Exam. More details on *Interaction Points* will be provided on Quercus.

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.

Lecture Delivery

This is an asynchronous 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. A PDF outline of the lecture slides will also be posted on Quercus to facilitate note-taking during the lecture. For any given week, the lecture material 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 and our live zoom sessions to clarify any questions that may arise from both assigned readings and lectures.

Live Class Meetings on Zoom (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 each week on **Tuesdays 10-11am** on Zoom, and our first meeting will be on Tuesday May 17th at 10am. You can use this link to log in at that time:

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/82939160232>

Passcode: 023359

In addition, prior to each exam, I will hold an optional *Question & Answer* session on Zoom to facilitate studying for the exam. More details about each session will be announced on Quercus.

Office Hours

I will also be available for virtual meetings by appointment. If you have questions about course content, performance in the class, or psychology more broadly, feel free to schedule a meeting. To do so, please email me at: Thiruchselvam.PSYB10@gmail.com

COURSE OUTLINE		
LECTURE	TOPIC	READING
Lecture 1	Introduction to Social Psychology; Methods	Chapter 1
Lecture 2	The Self	Chapter 2
Lecture 3	Social Cognition	Chapter 3
Lecture 4	Interpersonal Attraction	Chapter 10
	<i>Midterm Exam I</i> <i>Covers Lectures 1-4 and Chapters 1,2,3 and 10</i> <i>Date to be determined</i>	None
Lecture 5	Attitudes and Persuasion	Chapter 4 and 5
	No class - Reading week June 21 - 25	None
Lecture 6	Conformity	Chapter 6
Lecture 7	Group Influence	Chapter 7
	<i>Midterm Exam II</i> <i>Covers Lectures 5-7 and Chapters 4,5,6 and 7</i> <i>Date to be determined</i>	
Lecture 8	Aggression	Chapter 9

Lecture 9	Prejudice & Polarization	Chapter 11 and 12
Lecture 10	Altruism and Prosocial Behavior	Chapter 8
Lecture 11	Happiness and Wellbeing	No reading
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Final Exam</i></p> <p>The Final Exam will be 80% non-cumulative (covering Lectures 8-11 and chapters 9, 11, 12, 8), and 20% cumulative</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Held during the Final Examination Period (Date to be determined)</i></p>	

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

Missed Term Work

Department of Psychology Missed Term Work Policy, SUMMER 2022

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

Note:

- 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.
- Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, accommodations are only possible via the Registrar's Office [petition process](#).

The email address to submit missed term work accommodation requests in **PSYB10** is: Thiruchselvam.PSYB10@gmail.com

ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY accommodations:

For missed work due to ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY, complete the following process:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
2. Declare your absence on [ACORN](#) (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)
3. Email **both** of the following items to the course email **WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed work:
 - a. the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#)
AND
 - b. a screenshot of your Self-Declared Absence on ACORN

Note:

- *If you are unable to submit your request within 2 business days, you must still email your instructor within the 2 business day window to explain the nature of the delay. Exceptions to the 2 business day deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.*
- *If your absence is declared on ACORN, we do not require any additional supporting documentation (e.g. medical notes) to support your missed term work accommodation request.*

ACADEMIC CONFLICT accommodations:

For missed term work due to an ACADEMIC CONFLICT (e.g. two midterms at the same time):

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
2. Take screenshots of your course Quercus pages that demonstrate the conflict.
3. Email the form and screenshots to the course email **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. Requests sent after the activity deadline may not be accommodated.

Note:

- *Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered conflicts. Students are expected to manage their time effectively to meet assignment deadlines.*
- *Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered conflicts. Only overlapping activities are conflicts.*
- *Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who register in two courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules will not be accommodated.*

RELIGIOUS CONFLICT accommodations:

For missed term work due to a RELIGIOUS CONFLICT:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
2. Email the form to the course email **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. Requests sent after the activity deadline may not be accommodated.

ACCESSABILITY SERVICES accommodations:

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

- **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email the course email detailing accommodations required.

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

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 3 days):
 1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
 2. Email the form ***AND*** your **Accommodation Letter** to the course email specifying how many days extension you are requesting.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. 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 the course email detailing the accommodations required.

Accommodation Procedure:

After submitting your documentation, you will receive a response from your instructor or TA. This form does not guarantee that you will be accommodated. 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.

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 the instructor’s response to resume work on your assignment**. Extensions may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency. Complete your assignment as soon as you’re able, and email it to your instructor.

For an **anticipated absence** (e.g. a scheduled surgery or an illness with a prolonged recovery period), if you would like to request accommodations in advance, submit a [Verification of Illness Form](#) completed by your doctor AND the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) to the course email. Absences can be declared up to 14 days into the future on ACORN.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting its requirements, 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**. E.g. If you are given an extension but are still sick and need more time, or if you miss a make-up term test, you must

submit *another* [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) and declare your extended absence on ACORN. *Note: In the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not necessarily be provided.

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.

Plagiarism Detection

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>). Please ensure that all written assignments in this course are completed independently with proper APA-style citations and attributions.

Late Assignments

To maintain fairness and consistency across the class, late assignments that are not supported with legitimate documentation are subject to a penalty of 10% per day. If there are valid reasons warranting an accommodation (e.g., a medical illness), please follow the Missed Term Work policy outlined above.

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