

PSYC13

SOCIAL COGNITION: UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Instructor: Hyuna Cho (*hyuh-nah*)

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Lectures (in person): Th 11-1 SW 309

Office Hours (in person): Th 4-5 SW 132

Course Website: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/349876>

TAs:

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Prerequisites: [PSYB10H3 or PSYB57H3] and [PSYB07H3 or STAB22H3 or STAB23H3] and PSYB70H3

Corequisites: None

Exclusions: PSY326H, PSY473H, PSY417H

Recommended Preparation: None

Credit Value: 0.5

COURSE OVERVIEW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of social behavior has yielded a number of key insights into human nature. One of the most fundamental is that how we make sense of ourselves and the people around us is a complex function of our perceptions, memories, beliefs, and attitudes. These social cognitive mechanisms can be both surprisingly accurate and disturbingly biased. Moreover, they shape our actions and environment in ways that often produce self-fulfilling prophecies. This class explores the operation of these social cognitive mechanisms, what functions they serve, and how they lead to behaviors both beneficial and detrimental. In the process, the class will explore ways in which we can avoid the most common pitfalls of perception and judgment, and harness the incredible power of our social minds.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and apply core theories in social cognition to novel findings

2. Find, interpret, and analyze primary literature in social cognition
3. Write concisely and persuasively using empirical research in social cognition

COURSE COMPONENTS

READINGS

There is no required textbook for this class. In order to build your capacity to read critically and to understand empirical research, readings will consist of primary sources, including book chapters, academic and popular-press articles, and excerpts. All readings will be made available online through Quercus. Weekly readings are testable on midterms and finals.

LECTURES

Lectures will be held in-person, and will not be recorded. Slides will be available online. All material from lectures are testable on midterms and finals.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are a weekly hour-long time slot which aims to assist students with the content or the skills that are taught in the course. There will be proposed skills, or a theme, covered each week, encompassing learning, testing, writing, reading, and professional skills. However, if the majority of students attending would prefer to cover course material, the office hours will change to encompass the needs of the students.

GRADING

Participation	5%
Assignment 1	15%
Midterm	20%
Assignment 2	25%
Final Exam	35%

PARTICIPATION (5%, ASYNCHRONOUS)

There will be a variety of participation options available across the course, in a variety of modalities. All participation options are designed to assist with the experience, but not all options are accessible to all students. I encourage participation in all, as they are designed to supplement your learning, but understand that is not feasible for all students. Each participation item is worth 0.5%, for a maximum of 5% (i.e. 10 participation items).

There will be weekly reflections available after each week's lecture. Each reflection counts as 1 participation item. Reflections completed over 1 week after the submission deadline will not be counted towards the participation grade.

There will also be weekly office hours. Each attendance counts as 1 participation item.

Finally, a substantive comment on each week's discussion board will also count towards 1 participation item. Substantive comments must engage thoughtfully and deeply with the material. Examples that DO NOT count as substantive include "I didn't understand [this week's theory]" or "I liked the experiment design in [this week's reading]". Comments provided 3 weeks after the lecture tied to that week's discussion, or 1 week after the final day of classes, will not be counted towards participation.

ASSIGNMENT 1 (15%, 1PM EST, TUESDAY, JUNE 5)

Assignments will focus on critical analysis of scientific articles and application of course themes to current scientific research. These assignments will assess three main skills: (1) writing, (2) literature review, and (3) critical thinking. Writing will be assessed mainly in their ability to convey an argumentative idea (e.g. rhetorical devices, utilizing evidence) and partially assess the clarity and appropriateness of writing (e.g. clear topic sentences, grammatical clarity, clear driving ideas). For literature review, students must find, read, interpret, and utilize primary empirical sources in assignments to provide support for their points. Finally, students will apply course themes to novel areas of social cognition.

Assignment 1 will be a written assignment in which students must find and utilize primary empirical sources. Students will be assessed on their ability to write persuasively, concisely, and clearly, as well as their ability to interpret and integrate empirical literature in social cognition.

If you feel that your assignment has been unfairly graded, please follow the steps in the regrade policy below.

There are many resources available at the university to improve writing skills. Please utilize them! There will also be writing-focused office hours.

MIDTERM (20%, LOCATION & TIME TBD)

The term test will focus on the first half of course material. Both lectures and mandatory weekly readings will be testable on the term test. The term test will include short answer responses, where students must indicate a flexible understanding of both the theory and the empirical evidence discussed in lecture and readings. The location and date will be announced once it has been set by the Department.

Please review university policy on term tests, including the use of unauthorized aids. Having unauthorized aids (e.g. phones, smart-watches, or notes) on your person during the test counts as an academic offense, even if they are not being used.

ASSIGNMENT 2 (25%, 11PM EST, TUESDAY, JULY 23)

Assignment 2 will follow the same structure as Assignment 1, but will focus on topics in the second half of the course. The assignment structure is designed to be similar to Assignment 1 such that students can improve from the feedback received in Assignment 1 regarding persuasive writing.

FINAL (35%, LOCATION & TIME TBD)

The final exam will be cumulative, but will focus predominantly on untested material. Like the term test, the final exam will include short answer responses, where students must indicate a flexible understanding of both the theory and the empirical evidence discussed in lecture and readings. The location and date will be announced once it has been set by the University.

Please review university policy on term tests, including the use of unauthorized aids. Having unauthorized aids (e.g. phones, smart-watches, or notes) on your person during the test counts as an academic offense, even if they are not being used.

NOTE: Late or missed exams CANNOT be waived by the instructor, as exams are the purview of the registrar. If you may miss your exam, contact the registrar ASAP.

COURSE POLICIES

These are policies that are unique to this course. University or Department level policies, including plagiarism, EDI, and additional missed term work policies are listed below.

EMAIL POLICY

Emails will be replied to within 2 business days. Emails should include "PSYC13-S24" in the title, or it risks being lost and we cannot guarantee that we will respond to your email in time. Please always CC the instructor regarding course related emails. Course content and logistics should be emailed to the instructor. Please CC the TA, if applicable to your request (e.g. the TA who graded your assignment, regarding questions about grading).

If you have questions about course logistics, please first check the syllabus and announcements. Then, if it seems like a general question that would benefit everyone, please put the request in the course Q&A discussion board, as I'll be monitoring it frequently. If it's a more personalized issue, please email me (hyuna.cho@mail.utoronto.ca) with "PSYC13-S24" in the subject line, outlining your concern or question and, if applicable, the steps you have taken so far to try to solve the problem or find the answer.

LATE POLICY

You have 3 late days to use on either assignment without penalty. You may split up these days, in intervals of 1 day, across both assignments (e.g. 2 days for assignment 1, 1 day for assignment 2). If you want to use your late day waiver, please email the instructor (hyuna.cho@mail.utoronto.ca) when you submit your assignment.

A 1 hour waiver will be in effect for each assignment to allow for flexibilities regarding technical issues in submitting assignments.

If you require a longer extension, multiple extensions, or miss the term test, please follow the steps listed in the Missed Term Work Policy, set by the Department of Psychology. Note that deferrals due to university-related scheduling conflicts are separate from missed tests.

Missed exams are handled by the University, and the steps are as follows:

<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>

REGRADE POLICY

If you feel your assignment was unfairly graded, you must wait 24 hours from receiving your mark until you are able to formally request a regrade. You must fill out the regrade request form in its entirety, which is available on Quercus. The form should be emailed to the TA and the instructor. Combative, hostile, or demeaning language will not be tolerated.

Broader disagreements may result in a partial or complete re-grade by the instructor, while minor errors may be corrected by the TA. Note that the re-grade does not ensure an increase in your mark, but it reflects an entirely new grade by the instructor. This means your mark may go up, stay the same, or go down.

USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF COURSE MATERIALS

The materials related to this course (e.g. slides, assignments, tests) are prohibited from being distributed outside of the course without the explicit consent of the instructor. You may share them with fellow students of the current course or keep them for your academic use. Recordings made during the course, particularly those that include people's faces, or greater than 30 seconds of continuous course material cannot be shared outside of the course, without signed media release consent forms from all persons involved. This is to protect the privacy and intellectual property of students and instructors. If you're still reading this, I'm very proud of you. Send the instructor a picture of your favourite animal for a bonus percent on your first assignment.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Academic resources

- Academic Advising → <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/aacc/>
- Writing Support (UTSC) → <https://utsc.utoronto.ca/ctl/writing-support>
- Writing Support (UofT) → <https://writing.utoronto.ca/support/>
- Academic Integrity → <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/vpdean/welcome-academic-integrity>
- UTSC Library Tutorials → <https://utsc.library.utoronto.ca/library-tutorials>

Safety and Wellbeing

- Health & Wellness → <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/hwc/>
- Mental Health → <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/home/mental-health-resources>
- StudentLife → <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/studentlife/>
- Peer Support → <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/hwc/peer-support-program>
- Campus Safety →
<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/campussafety/welcome-campus-safety-operations>
 - Emergencies → (416) 978-2222
 - Non-emergencies → (416) 287-7398

UTSC POLICIES

UNIVERSITY'S PLAGIARISM DETECTION TOOL

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>).

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.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

The University of Toronto is a richly diverse community and as such is committed to providing an environment free of any form of harassment, misconduct, or discrimination. In this course, I seek to foster a civil, respectful, and open-minded climate in which we can all work together to develop a better understanding of key questions and debates through meaningful dialogue. As such, I expect all involved with this course to refrain from actions or behaviours that intimidate, humiliate, or demean persons or groups or that undermine their security or self-esteem based on traits related to race, religion, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status, disability, receipt of public assistance or record of offences.

UNIVERSITY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

ACCOMMODATIONS

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 Office as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm AA142, Arts and Administration Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email ability.uts@utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS

Students may use artificial intelligence tools, including generative AI, in this course as learning aids or to help produce assignments. However, students are ultimately accountable for the work they submit.

Students may not use artificial intelligence tools for taking tests, writing research papers, creating computer code, or completing major course assignments. However, these tools may be useful when gathering information from across sources and assimilating it for understanding.

The knowing use of generative artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the completion of, or to support the completion of, an examination, term test, assignment, or any other form of academic assessment, may be considered an academic offense in this course.

RECORDING OF CLASSROOM MATERIAL BY STUDENTS

Recording or photographing any aspect of a university course - lecture, tutorial, seminar, lab, studio, practice session, field trip etc. - without prior approval of all involved and with written approval from the instructor is not permitted.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY POLICIES

MASKS IN THE CLASSROOM

While the mask mandate has been paused as of 1 July 2022, the use of medical masks continues to be strongly encouraged at U of T Scarborough in indoor settings where physical distancing is not possible. We ask everyone to respect each other's decisions, comfort levels, and health needs. Masks are available at all building entrances at U of T Scarborough and in all classrooms.

MISSED TERM WORK POLICY

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

Procedure:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) ("MTW Form").
2. Email **BOTH** your MTW Form and Supporting Documentation to hyuna.cho@mail.utoronto.ca according to the instructions specified below.

Supporting Documentation Requirements and Deadlines:

Reason for Missed Work	Documentation required for a first absence in the term	Documentation required for subsequent absences in the term	Deadline for submitting MTW form and supporting documentation
Illness or Injury	ACORN Absence Declaration	UofT Verification of Illness Form	<u>within 2 business days</u> of the missed work
Bereavement	ACORN Absence Declaration	A death certificate or funeral announcement	<u>within 2 business days</u> of the missed work
University-sponsored athletic or artistic obligation at the varsity/provincial/national level	ACORN Absence Declaration	A note from a university staff member (advisor, coach, residence staff, etc.) who can substantiate the obligation, sent directly to the course email	<u>10 business days IN ADVANCE</u> of the missed deadline
Disability-related reasons for students registered with AccessAbility Services	<p>For missed TERM TESTS,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact your AccessAbility consultant and have them write to the course email detailing the accommodations needed. <p>For missed ASSIGNMENTS,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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), send your Accommodation Letter to the course email and specify 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), contact your AccessAbility consultant and have them write to the course email detailing the accommodations needed. 		<u>PREFERABLY IN ADVANCE of the missed work, or as soon as possible</u>

Academic Conflict (e.g. two midterms at the same time)	Screenshot from Quercus demonstrating the conflict.	10 business days IN ADVANCE of the missed work
Religious Conflict	None required	

Notes:

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: social activities, recreational travel, technological issues, avoidance of assessments or deadlines, work commitments
- [Missed Final Exams](#) are handled by the Registrar’s Office and should be declared on eService.
- For ACORN absence declarations, the date you declare the absence is required to fall within the seven-day declaration period (i.e.) the absence cannot be submitted proactively or retroactively.
- 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](#).
- If you are unable to submit your request within the specified number of business days, you must still email your instructor within that window to explain the nature of the delay. Exceptions to the deadlines are made only under exceptional circumstances.
- Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered academic conflicts. Students are expected to manage their time effectively to meet assignment deadlines.
- Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered academic 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.

Next Steps:

After submitting your documentation, you will receive a response from your instructor or TA. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations 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.

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.** Examples: If you were granted an extension for a paper but are still unable to meet the new deadline, or if you miss a make-up term test, you must submit *another* MTW form and supply documentation according to the "subsequent absences" column in the chart above. *Note: In the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not necessarily be provided.