

PSYC27: Social Development

University of Toronto

Winter 2025

Course Instructor: David Haley (d.haley@utoronto.ca)

Class Meetings: Fridays, 11 am–12:50 pm (Room IA 2021)

Delivery Mode: In person

Office Hours (online) Tuesdays, 12–2 pm

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/my/davidhaley>

Course Description

This course will examine research and theory on the evolution and development of social behaviour and social cognition, with a focus on social instincts such as empathy, altruism, morality, emotion, friendship, and cooperation. This will include a discussion of some of the key controversies in the science of social development from the second half of the nineteenth century to today.

Learning Goals

- To understand the development of social behaviour
- To engage with the scientific literature and critically evaluate research within a larger historical and sociopolitical context
- To enhance scholarly communication skills by articulating methodological challenges and by proposing novel hypotheses
- To translate knowledge by evaluating the impact of social oppression on social development and by considering new interventions to mitigate these effects

Course Format

Our class meetings will be used primarily to stimulate discussion and foster student presentation skills. Most of our weekly lecture content will be made available as pre-recorded clips and slides that you should watch prior to our class meetings.

You may participate in the class discussion either by attending class meetings in person or online over Zoom (except for quiz days, which will be on Zoom only). Classes will be streamed to maximize accessibility and to foster class discussions using the Chat function on Zoom and other interactive online tools. Even if you are attending in person, you will still need to ALWAYS log into our Zoom meeting (<https://utoronto.zoom.us/my/davidhaley>) to fully participate in the course.

Teaching team and contact information

Who is my instructor?

I am David Haley, and I am your instructor. I am a developmental psychologist with research interests in stress, parenting, and child development, with a focus on social and cognitive neuroscience in children and in parents.

When are office hours?

I will hold office hours by over Zoom on Tuesdays 12 pm to 2 pm (utoronto.zoom.us/my/davidhaley). If you need to talk to a TA, please send your request by email, and they will schedule a Zoom call with you.

Who are my TAs?

TAs are TBA (more information to come).

Where do I send emails to ask questions?

For all communications about the course, including Instructor and TAs, please send a message to our class email address: psyc27winter25@gmail.com. All emails should include “PSYC27” in the subject line.

Email policy

Students are encouraged to email regarding questions about course content or to arrange virtual meetings. Please attend office hours for more complicated questions. Emails should originate from students’ designated UToronto email accounts. We will endeavour to respond to emails within 48 hours, excluding weekends/holidays.

Course Prerequisites and Course Restrictions**Prerequisite**

Enrollment in this course is restricted to students in the Specialists and Major programs in Psychology and Mental Health Studies. Students in the Minor program in Psychology will be admitted if space permits. The course builds on material learned in PSYB20, which is the prerequisite for the course.

Can I take the course without the prerequisite?

The department is very strict about prerequisites. So if you do not have the prerequisite course (PSYB20), you will be removed from the course several weeks after the semester begins—which is when the psychology office conducts/completes the course checks for prerequisites. Getting yanked out of the course could be a real pain, as it would be difficult for you to find a substitute course to enroll in several weeks into the semester. So please don’t stay enrolled in this course if you know you don’t have the prerequisite. Thank you!

Course Materials**Is there a textbook?**

Yes! We will be reading *Social Development* by Parke, Roisman, & Rose (3rd edition, 2019). You may buy or rent an e-book copy of it from the publisher. They offer an e-book rental (120 days) for \$22.00 and e-book rental (150 days) for \$26.00. You can also own an e-book for eternity for \$63.00. Or you can pick up a printed copy at the UTSC bookstore or order a printed copy from the publisher or Amazon for \$100.00. Given safety and cost

considerations, I recommend the e-book rental (120 days) for our course. The publishers provide a free sample of the first chapter.

Quercus

All of your other required course materials are available on the course website on Quercus. You can access the course website on Quercus (<https://q.utoronto.ca>) using your UTORID. The course website will be organized by modules. Your weekly lecture module will include links to all of the required course materials (readings, web pages, lecture recordings, slides, participation activities, etc.).

Grading

Discussion board contributions	15%
Group presentation + facilitated discussion	15%
Quizzes (2)	20% (10% each)
Final exam	50%

Discussion boards (15%)

- You are asked to make short contributions to pre-class online (Quercus) discussion boards (50-word suggested limit per contribution).
- Each contribution must include a link to a newspaper or research article to support the comment (the link is not to be included in the word count).
- To help set the stage for in-class discussions on Fridays, the discussion boards will be due on Wednesday nights by 11:59 pm, on Quercus.
- There will be approximately 25 discussion boards (averaging 2 to 3 boards weekly); you will need to successfully complete a minimum of 15 discussion board contributions to receive full credit. You may choose any 15 discussion boards to contribute to.
- Discussion board contributions will be evaluated on a 3-point scale (0, 1, or 2). Your 15 highest scores will be used to calculate your mark.

Group presentation + facilitated discussion (15%)

- The group presentation will consist of a pre-recorded (on Zoom) small-group slide presentation (7 minutes) that will be broadcast during class.
- The slide presentation should include background information and present two to three sources of evidence supporting at least two differing or opposing perspectives on the assigned topic.
- The group presentation will be followed by a live, group-facilitated, structured class discussion (7 minutes). Groups may conduct discussions in person or on Zoom.
- A facilitated discussion is a structured discussion; structures you may choose to guide the class discussion could include question prompts, Zoom polls, and/or breakout groups with assigned topics/questions.
- You will be asked to sign up for groups and discussion topics on Quercus by the second week of the semester (the weekly discussion topics will be made available on Quercus).

- Each group will be graded based on a detailed rubric that will be made available on Quercus.
- Each discussion group will be asked to submit their presentation slides and/or recorded video on Quercus by 8:00 pm the night before their presentation.

Quizzes (20%)

- There will be two quizzes, each worth 10%. The quizzes will be conducted online during class. We will meet online only (not in person) on quiz days.
- Quizzes will be open-book and based on conceptual application of the ideas presented in class rather than on rote memorization.
- Quiz 1 will be based on weeks 1 to 6. Quiz 2 will be based on weeks 8 to 11.
- See the schedule below for the dates of the quizzes.
- Note: There will be no make-up quizzes, but if a student is exempt under the missed term work policy and provides appropriate documentation or has a formal accommodation, the weight of the missed quiz will be transferred to the second quiz. If both quizzes are missed, the weight from the missed quizzes will be transferred to the final exam.

Final Exam (50%)

- The final exam (to be scheduled by the Registrar) will take place in person at a location to be announced. I will post details to Quercus as they become available.
- The final exam will be based on the lectures and assigned readings and will consist of true/false questions, multiple-choice questions, and short-answer questions. The exam will cover weeks 1 to 13 with an emphasis on weeks 7-13.

Schedule: Lectures, Required Readings, and Assignments

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings	Discussion Topics	Tests & Assignment Due Dates
1	Jan 10	Introduction			
2	Jan 17	Theories	Chapter 1	1-2	Group presentations assigned by Jan 19
3	Jan 24	Methods	Chapter 2	3-4	Group presentations begin
4	Jan 31	Biology	Chapter 3	5-7	Group presentations
5	Feb 7	Attachment	Chapter 4	8-10	Group presentations
6	Feb 14	Emotional Development	Chapter 5		Quiz 1 based on weeks 1 to 6 (meet online, not in person)
7	Feb 21	Reading Week (no class)			
8	Feb 28	Self & Other	Chapter 6	11-13	Group presentations
9	Mar 7	Peers & Family	Chapter 7 & 8	14-16	Group presentations
10	Mar 14	Sex & Gender	Chapter 10	17-19	Group presentations
11	Mar 21	Morality	Chapter 11	20-22	Group presentations
12	Mar 28	Aggression	Chapter 12		Quiz 2 based on weeks 8 to 12 (meet online, not in person)
13	Apr 4	Policy & Review	Chapter 13 & 14	23-25	Group presentations

Policies

Communication Expectations

If you have any questions about your participation (discussion questions), lecture, assignments, and tests, please email us at psyc27winter25@gmail.com. We will endeavor to respond within 48 hours—not including weekends or holidays. Please don't send emails to TAs the same day that a test or assignment is due.

Announcements, Changes or Clarifications

I plan to make all announcements in class. I will endeavor to consult with students about any potential change or clarification needed in the syllabus. As recommended by university policy, if there is any substantial change, we will vote on it. After making or adopting any minor or major changes/clarifications affecting the syllabus, I will provide an updated version in class over Zoom and upload a copy to our Quercus website.

Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted in PSYC27. Any work submitted after the due date and time will receive a score of 0%. For work missed due to extenuating circumstances, please see the Psychology Department Missed Term Work Policy below.

UTSC POLICIES

University's Plagiarism Detection Tool (REQUIRED IF USING TURNITIN)

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.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.

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

Department of Psychology 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 <course email> according to the instructions specified below.

Supporting Documentation Requirements and Deadlines:

Reason for Missed Work	Documentation required for a <i>first absence</i> in the term	Documentation required for <i>subsequent absences</i> 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	For missed TERM TESTS , <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Contact your AccessAbility consultant and have them write to the course email detailing the accommodations needed. For missed ASSIGNMENTS , <ul style="list-style-type: none">- If your desired accommodation is within the scope of your		<u>PREFERABLY IN ADVANCE of the missed work, or as soon as possible</u>

	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	
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