

Psychology 220: Introduction to Social Psychology

Syllabus and Schedule Fall 2021

Synchronous Days/Time: Mondays 10-11am

Location: Online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87193767221?pwd=RU1VYTdOUlArOWVsZEk3VGh0ejdjUT09>
Passcode: 804785

Prerequisite: PSY100H1/COG250Y1

Professor: Dr. Jason E. Plaks (jason.plaks@utoronto.ca)

Office: 4003 SSH

Office hours (virtual): Mondays 11:00am-12:00 noon via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84681569788?pwd=U0gyQUtHZ1IwY0JRWHU1MzN5Mml6Zz09>
passcode: 115862

TAs:

Name:

Office:

Office hours:

Name:

Office:

Office hours:

Name:

Office:

Office hours:

You are encouraged to make use of your TA's and/or Professor Plaks' office hours. The TAs are primarily in charge of answering questions concerning material in the textbook. We will be more than happy to talk with you about any ideas, challenges, and concerns you might have about the course material, and about psychology more generally, including research opportunities in the Psychology Department or post-graduate, psychology-related opportunities.

Course Description:

Social psychology is the scientific study of the way people think, feel, and behave in everyday situations. It involves understanding how people influence, and are influenced by, other people in their environment. The primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the central principles, theories, research methods, and empirical findings of social psychology. The purpose, however, is not only to learn what has already been discovered, but also to learn how:

- a) theories about human behavior are translated into empirically testable hypotheses,
- b) these hypotheses are tested by conducting experiments and observing behavior, and
- c) the findings from these experiments are then used to update the theories.

You will also develop skills that will enable you to be a good consumer of research, and to critically evaluate for yourselves scientific findings about the social psychological issues that affect us all.

Course Format and Requirements:

The class will consist of lectures, video clips, discussions, and demonstrations. The reading load will not be overly intensive; **it is vitally important to avoid falling behind.** The overlap between the lectures and the textbook will vary according to topic. The lectures will supplement the readings, often covering ideas not necessarily covered in the readings. **You are expected to master both the readings and the lectures.** You will be responsible for learning the material presented in the text on your own, and you are urged to do so *before* class. The class meetings will make a lot more sense if you do; if you aren't familiar with the various pieces that make up this intellectual puzzle, it will be difficult to see how they fit together. Your success in this class depends on attending class regularly, taking thorough notes, and studying regularly. If you simply cannot avoid missing a class, borrow notes from a classmate.

Advice on taking lecture notes and encoding the material:

Use what we know about human memory to your advantage: Focus on understanding and encoding the material at the time it's presented, rather than frantically trying to get down every word I say and then reconstructing it weeks later!! This means asking questions in lecture – please do not be shy.

Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:
disability.services@utoronto.ca or
<http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

Grading:

You are required to take two term tests and a final exam in this course. Exams will be multiple-choice with one essay. Each exam will cover the material presented in the readings and lectures within the specified dates. **Makeup exams will only be scheduled in dire, unavoidable circumstances (e.g., serious illness or emergency) that are fully documented (e.g., with official correspondence from physicians and/or Deans) and preferably with advance arrangement made directly with Professor Plaks. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the makeup with Professor Plaks. Make-up exams are essay exams.**

Your final grade in this course will be based on your performance on course requirements weighted in the following manner:

Term Test 1 (30 multiple choice, one long answer)	25%
Term Test 2 (30 multiple choice, one long answer)	25%
Final Exam (50 multiple choice, one long answer)	40%
Packback Participation (minimum curiosity score 55)	10%

Exam questions will be drawn **in equal proportion** from the lectures, the textbook, and the readings. **You do not have to memorize names and dates.** Material that is in the textbook but was not covered in lecture is still fair game for an exam questions.

Please note: We will post your exam scores as soon as we can (in a manner that protects your privacy) on the class Quercus site.

All additional readings (i.e., readings not in the textbook) plus that week's lecture slides will be posted on the class Quercus website

READINGS

Textbook (Required)

Social Psychology (8th edition)

Author: Myers, Twenge, Jordan, & Smith

Publisher: McGraw-Hill

Additional Readings (Optional)

A collection of additional required readings will be downloadable from the course Quercus site under "Files". These readings will be original articles and chapters that are seminal papers in social psychology. In addition, prior to every lecture, the week's lecture slides will be uploaded to the course Quercus site under "Files".

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

(Note: This schedule is subject to minor revisions over the course of the term.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topics</u>	<u>Readings (textbook in plain text, additional reading in <i>italics</i>)</u>
Unit 1: People as social animals: The social origins of human thought and behavior		
Sep 13	Introduction/syllabus Social Facilitation/Social loafing	Myers et al., ch. 7
Sep 20	Group performance and decision making Conformity/Obedience Helping, altruism Bystander inaction	Myers et al., ch. 6 <i>Milgram (1963)</i> Myers et al., ch. 8 <i>Latane & Darley (1968)</i>
Sep 27	TERM TEST 1 via Quercus	
Unit 2: People as intuitive scientists: The building blocks of social cognition		
Oct 4	Concepts, accessibility Mental representation Heuristics and lay hypothesis testing	Myers et al., ch. 3
Oct 11	NO LECTURE – UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY	
Oct 18	Expectancies and person memory Attribution theory	Myers et al., ch. 3 con't <i>Gilbert et al. (1988)</i>
Oct 25	Stereotyping, & prejudice Automaticity and control	Myers et al., ch. 11 <i>Devine (1989)</i>

Nov 1	TERM TEST 2 – via Quercus	
Nov 8	NO LECTURE – UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY	
Nov 15	Mechanisms of motivated cognition Intrinsic motivation	Myers et al., ch. 5
Nov 22	Attitudes & Persuasion Cognitive Dissonance Theory	Myers et al., ch. 4 <i>Festinger & Carlsmith (1959)</i> <i>Petty & Cacioppo (1984)</i>
Nov 29	The Self Social comparison	Myers et al., ch. 2
Dec 6	Love and Relationships Aggression Evolutionary Psychology COURSE REVIEW SESSION	Myers et al., ch. 10 Myers et al., ch. 9

FINAL EXAM DATE: TBA

(cumulative final exam covering the whole course, in **equal proportion**, i.e.,

**no special preference given to material covered later in the term or earlier in the term
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Packback

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

NOTE: Packback costs \$25, unless you've used it in previous courses – then the cost decreases by \$5 with each new course. If you require financial assistance, Packback offers scholarships. Please contact me or your Packback representative, Albert Bellera (albert@packback.co), for more information.

Packback Requirements:

Your participation on Packback will count toward 10% of your overall course grade.

There will be a Weekly Sunday at 23:59 EST deadline for submissions. In order to receive your points per week, you should submit the following per each deadline period:

- 1 open-ended Question per week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 55

How to Register on Packback:

An email invitation will be sent to you from help@packback.co prompting you to finish registration. If you don't receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to <https://questions.packback.ca> and clicking "Sign up for an Account"
Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can log in with your credentials.
2. Then enter our class community's lookup key into the "Looking to join a community you don't see here?" section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage.
Community Lookup Key:
3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to www.packback.co/product/pricing for more information.

How to Get Help from the Packback Team:

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions