



Psychology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Social Cognition PSY326 Winter 2022

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor:

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Office Hours: By appointment (Zoom)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION, GOALS,

Social cognition is the study of how people make sense of other people and themselves. We will cover how humans attend to and remember information about others, how moral and personality judgement are made, the consequences of these processes, and how and when these conclusions change (or don't change) over time. The objectives of this course are 1) to review what is known about social cognition from previous research and 2) to become a more critical consumer of research in this area of study.

Prerequisites:

PSY201H1/ECO220Y1/EEB225H1/GGR270H1/POL222H1/SOC202H1/STA220H1/STA238H1/STA248H1/STA288H1/PSY201H5/STA215H5/STA220H5/PSYB07H3/STAB22H3/STAB23H3/S TAB57H3, and PSY220H1/PSY220H5/PSYB10H3/SOC213H1

Exclusions: PSYC13H3/PSYD12H3/PSYD15H3.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met **all** prerequisites listed in the Psychology section of the A&S Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED. No waivers will be granted.

How the course will work: The University of Toronto and the Faculty of Arts and Science are following the guidelines set out by the Ontario government relating to COVID-19 protocols for in-person learning. At present, the University of Toronto has suspended in-person learning until January 31st 2022. Therefore beginning January 14th 2022 our lectures will be held online asynchronously using Zoom until further notice. As the pandemic situation changes I will update you on changes to the course delivery.

REQUIRED READINGS

Readings will be assigned to supplement lectures. The majority of the readings will come from the following book:

Fiske, S.T., & Taylor, S.E. (2020). *Social Cognition* (4th Edition). SAGE Publications, Ltd. (UK).

Any additional readings will be posted on Quercus. **Assigned readings will be tested on the term tests and final exam.** The assigned articles provide an overview of a topic in social cognition. Therefore, students are not expected to remember the small details of these articles. However, students should be able to extract the key ideas and arguments presented. Furthermore, the text book is available in electronic format via the University of Toronto library. This text provides articles on a wide range of topics in social cognition that will not be directly covered in lecture. Therefore, students are encouraged to consult these texts when thinking about their reflection assignments. Additionally, students who want to continue to explore the field of social cognition should review these texts in greater detail.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Type	% of Final Grade	Due Date
TERM TEST 1	25%	February 11, 2022
TERM TEST 2	25%	March 18, 2022
REFLECTION 1	7.5%	January 30, 2022
REFLECTION 2	7.5%	March 13, 2022
FINAL EXAM	35%	TBD: During Exam Period

TERM TESTS AND FINAL EXAM: Term tests will be held remotely via Quercus and will be 2 hours in length. The final exam is projected to be held in-person and will be two hours in length. The date for the final exam will be during the April assessment period (Monday April 11th – Friday April 25th). It is the student's responsibility to be available therefore do not book any holidays during the April assessment period until the registrar has released the date. Term tests and the final exam will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Term tests and the final exam will include content from both lecture and readings.

Term tests and the final exam are NOT open-book and students should not consult lectures, lectures slides, nor lecture notes during the test. Term test 1 will test your understanding of material covered in weeks 1 through 4. Term test 2 will test your

understanding of material covered in weeks 6 through 10. The final exam will include material covered through weeks 1 through 12 but will be more heavily weighted with material that had not previously been assessed (i.e., material from weeks 11 and 12).

• **Reliable Internet Access**

- Term Tests will be administered using Quercus.

Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have access to reliable internet access in order to complete this course.

- *TECHNICAL ISSUES DURING TESTS & EXAMS:*

- If there is a system-wide issue with any of our course activities, we will post an announcement.
- If you are personally experiencing a technical issue with one of UofT's systems, we recommend trying a different browser or a different computer
- If you have tried all this and are still experiencing issues, you need to document it. Take screenshots or videos and email Dr. Pavetich right away (BEFORE the end of the test).

• **Missed Tests**

- If you miss either Test 1 or Test 2 you must complete an Absence Declaration via ACORN and contact Dr. Pavetich (via email) within **one week** of the missed test. Failure to complete these steps, within the specified time window, will result in a zero on the test.
- Students who complete these steps will be required to write a make-up test. In order to maintain the integrity of the term test, make-up tests will contain different questions from the original term test. While all possible attempts will be made to make the exams equal in difficulty this cannot be guaranteed.

• **Missed Final Exam**

- Instructors and departments cannot excuse a student from writing a Final Exam nor can they offer an alternative date or form of examination
- If you miss the Final exam you must file a formal petition through the College Registrar's Office no later than one week after the end of the Final Examination Period

REFLECTION ASSIGNMENTS: In addition to the term tests and final exam students are required to complete 2 reflection assignments (each worth 7.5% of your total grade) over the course of the semester. For each assignment I will post a question. Your job is to produce a two-page, APA formatted essay that answers my question.

This is your chance to practice writing a professional level APA style document and therefore your assignment should use the professional APA paper template that I have provided on Quercus. Reflection assignment essays should reference material covered in lecture and in the assigned readings and integrate key ideas. While no additional research is required to complete these assignments, students are free to include additional references if they wish. These assignments are a chance to apply what you've learned in class and consolidate your understanding of the topics covered. The reflection assignment question will be posted on Monday and be due the following Sunday. For example, the question for reflection assignment 1 will be posted on Monday, January 24, 2022, and will be due by 11:59PM on Sunday, January 30, 2022. Due dates for each of the reflection assignments can be found in the table below.

Penalties for Lateness

- Late assignments (handed in after 11:59PM) will be immediately assessed a 5% penalty with an additional 5% penalty assessed every 24 hours after the original due date. Assignments will be accepted for up to 5 days after the original due date. Assignments submitted more than 5 days after the original due date will receive a mark of zero.
- **TECHNICAL ISSUES DURING ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION:**
 - You are expected to back up your written assignments as you work on them. We do not accept the excuse that one of your systems failed to save your work.
 - Consider submitting your assignments at least an hour before they are due, to avoid slow connections at the last minute.
 - If there is a system-wide issue with any of our course activities, we will post an announcement.
 - If you are personally experiencing a technical issue with one of UofT's systems, we recommend trying a different browser or a different computer.
 - If you have tried all this and are still experiencing issues, you need to document it. Take screenshots or videos and email Dr. Robinson right away (BEFORE the assignment deadline).
 - Technical issues need be reported BEFORE an assignment is due. Any problems reported after a deadline will not be accommodated.

Extension Requests

- Students may request an extension up to **5PM on the Friday** before the reflection assignment is due. Please note that extension will only be granted to students experiencing exceptional circumstances that are beyond their control.

GRADES AND GRADE DISPUTES: I take student evaluation very seriously and am guided by the goal of providing assignments, that help students further their understanding of course material while also building their analytic research skills, and tests that fairly evaluate a student's grasp of the material covered in lecture and the assigned readings. As per University guidelines, students have two weeks from the date they receive their grade to file a dispute. Please review the Arts and Science grading policy to understand what the grade you receive on an assignment or test means (<http://writing.utoronto.ca/advice/general/grading-policy>).

If you have concerns about the grade you received please follow these steps:

1. Contact your TA to arrange a virtual meeting where your work can be discussed in more detail. Please note that TAs do not have the power to change a student's grade without Dr. Pavetich's approval.
2. If after this meeting you continue to have concerns about your grade email Dr. Pavetich requesting your work be re-evaluated. Dr. Pavetich will then personally evaluate your work and provide you with feedback and a final decision regarding your grade. Relative to the grade assigned to you by the TA, Dr. Pavetich's evaluation could result in your grade going up, down, or remaining the same. Dr. Pavetich's decision is final and any further grade disputes will have to be made via a formal petition.

When considering whether you would like Dr. Pavetich to re-evaluate your work you should consider that there are only three valid arguments that can be made to justify your grade being changed. 1) A clerical error has been made, 2) an error was made by either Dr. Pavetich or the

Teaching Assistant when grading the assignment, or 3) there was something unfair about the assignment or test itself. Requests for grades to be altered must be accompanied by a clear explanation regarding which of these arguments applies to your particular case. **Requests for grade changes for a reason not listed above will be ignored.**

Each student's final grade will be round to the nearest whole percentage using standard rounding practices. For instance, a final grade of 79.5% will rounded to 80% and a final grade of 79.4% will be rounded to 79%. **Requests for a final grade to be changed in order to reach a higher GPA category will be ignored.**

GETTING HELP

QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSE CONTENT: During the semester it is also likely that you'll need to get clarification on a topic covered in lecture or the readings or something about the course itself (e.g., questions about your reflection assignment). When dealing with these types of issues emailing Dr. Pavetich and/or the Teaching Assistant **SHOULD BE A LAST RESORT.** Below are the steps you should take **BEFORE** emailing Dr. Pavetich or your TA

1. **Read the Syllabus:** Answers to questions like "when is the first test?" are found in the syllabus. *Emails that contain questions of this nature will be ignored.*
2. **Go to the Source Material:** In lecture Dr. Pavetich will cover a variety of different papers and studies. Lecture slides will always provide the reference for the material being discussed. If you didn't quite understand a specific study Dr. Pavetich discussed use the reference, look up the article, and read it for yourself. See if you can answer your own question using the primary text.
3. **Discussion Boards:** On Quercus there will be a discussion board for general FAQ's as well as discussion boards for each lecture. All questions should be posted to the relevant discussion board. Dr. Pavetich and the TA will be monitoring these boards closely and will answer questions that have been posted **Please allow up to two business days for responses to discussion board questions and note that the discussion boards will not be monitored during weekends or holidays. Emails with content questions that have not been posted to the discussion board will be ignored.**
4. **Email:** If you've completed all of these steps and you still require clarification then email Dr. Pavetich to arrange a virtual meeting via Zoom. In your email, please include 3 or 4 specific time slots when you're are able to connect with Dr. Pavetich. **Please note email messages must come from a "utoronto" account and must have PSY326 in the subject line or else they will be ignored.**

PERSONAL MATTERS: Over the course of the semester, you may encounter a personal matter that impacts your participation in the course and requires you to get in touch with Dr. Pavetich. If this is the case, please don't hesitate to send Dr. Pavetich an email. **Please allow up to 48-hours for a response to your message and note the Dr. Pavetich does not read or respond to emails during the weekend.**

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

ACCESSIBILITY: 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 Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060; accessibility.utoronto.ca.

WRITING: As a student here at the University of Toronto, you are expected to write well. The university provides its students with a number of resources to help them achieve this. For more information on campus writing centres and writing courses, please visit <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM: 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 website (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html).

OTHER RESOURCES: Student Life Programs and Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/>)
Academic Success Services (<http://www.asc.utoronto.ca/>)
Counselling and Psychological Services (<http://www.caps.utoronto.ca/main.htm>)

REFERENCE LETTER REQUESTS

Please note that I **DO NOT** provide reference letters for students applying to graduate school programs. This is because simply participating in my course does not provide me with enough information to be able to accurately assess your potential suitability for graduate level studies. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READING/ASSIGNMENTS
January 14 (Week 1)	Lecture 1: Introduction to social cognition	Ackerman, Huang, and Bargh (2012)
January 21 (Week 2)	Lecture 2: Dual modes in social cognition	Graham & Lowery, 2004 Payne & Cameron, 2013
January 28 (Week 3)	Lecture 3: Attention and encoding	Im et al., 2017

		Reflection assignment 1 due by 11:59pm on January 30 th
February 4 (Week 4)	Lecture 4: Memory	
February 11 (Week 5)	TEST 1	
February 18 (Week 6)	Lecture 5: The self in social cognition	Beer, 2012
February 25	READING WEEK: NO LECTURE	
March 4 (Week 7)	Lecture 6: Attribution processes	
March 11 (Week 8)	Lecture 7: Heuristics, accuracy, and efficiency	Reflection assignment 2 due by 11:59pm on March 13 th
March 18 (Week 9)	TEST 2	
March 25 (Week 10)	Lecture 8: Structure and processing of attitudes	Ferguson & Fukukura, 2012
April 1 (Week 11)	Lecture 9: Stereotyping, prejudice, and bias	Bodenhausen et al., 2012
April 8 (Week 12)	Lecture 10: Affect and behaviour	Isbel, Lair, & Rovenpor, 2013
April 11-29	TBD FINAL EXAM	