

PSY220H1 S

Introduction to Social Psychology

Winter 2025 Syllabus

Course Meetings

PSY220H1 S

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC5101	Tuesday, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	In Person: SS 2102

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

Course Contacts

Teaching Assistant: Bailey Agard

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Instructor: Hannah Gans

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Office Hours and Location: By appointment only

Additional Notes: Please allow 24-48 hours for response during regular business hours.

Please include the course code in the subject line of the email.

Course Overview

Contemporary areas of research in social psychology: social perception, attitudes, interpersonal relations, and group processes.

Social psychology is the study of social processes—how the presence of others affects the way we think, feel, and behave. This course will provide a high-level introduction to the field. Social psychologists use scientific methods to discover how social animals (humans and non-human) are affected by groups, collectives, and affiliative bonds. You will be presented with many research studies that have changed what we know about humans and other social animals. These studies will use self-report, behavioral, cognitive, psychophysiological, and neuroscientific methods.

Course Learning Outcomes

After Successful Completion of this Course, You Will:

- Understand the most important theories and findings in social psychology.
- Understand how social psychology relates to other areas of behavioral science.
- Be able to apply the research in social psychology to real-world phenomena.
- Have a basic understanding of the different types of behavioral research studies.
- Know how to critically evaluate the methods and findings of research studies

Prerequisites: PSY100H1/PSY100Y5/PSYA02H3/COG250Y1

Corequisites: None

Exclusions: PSY220H5/PSYB10H3/SOC213H1

Recommended Preparation: None

Credit Value: 0.5

Course Materials

Required textbook: Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. E. (2024). *Social psychology*. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
In-Person Midterm Exam	25%		2025-02-11
Homework	5%	Write a brief review of your idea for your social psychology experiment, in your own words (i.e. doesn't have to be too formal) as you'd describe it to someone else in the class.	2025-02-18
Research Paper	20%	Create a research study proposal for an experiment in the area of Social Psychology. The final product should be ~1000-1250 words (4-5 pages), typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font (times new roman), 1 inch margins (see APA 7 guide).	2025-03-18
In-Person Final Exam	50%		Final Exam Period

The midterm will cover lectures 1-5 (that is, up to and including the "Social Influence & Persuasion" lecture) and all associated readings.

The final exam will be cumulative, however, it will emphasize material from lectures 6-10 (and associated readings). You can expect approximately 25% of the questions to come from lectures 1-5 (including readings) and 75% to come from lectures 6-10 (including readings).

Late Assessment Submissions Policy

Term work must be submitted by the assigned date. Penalties of 5% per calendar day (including weekends) up to and including the last day of the term, will be applied by the Instructor).

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Assigned Reading
Week 1 Jan. 7	General introduction; methods & paradigms	Chapter 1 + 2
Week 2 Jan. 14	Understanding the Self and Others	Chapter 3 + 4
Week 3 Jan. 21	Emotion & Well-Being	Chapter 5
Week 4 Jan. 28	Attitudes & Behavior	Chapter 6
Week 5 Feb. 4	Social Influence & Persuasion	Chapter 7 + 8
Week 6 Feb. 11	Midterm Exam	
Week 7 Feb. 18	Reading Week	
Week 8 Feb. 25	Relationships & Attraction	Chapter 9
Week 9 March 4	Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination	Chapter 10 + 11
Week 10	Group Behavior	Chapter 12

March 11		
Week 11 March 18	Aggression	Chapter 13
Week 12 March 25	No Class	
Week 13 April 1	Morality, Altruism, & Cooperation	Chapter 14

Policies & Statements

Religious Accommodations

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Academic Integrity

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019) (<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you

are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources. For example, to learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see [A&S Student Academic Integrity \(https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity\)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity) and the [University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity \(https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca\)](https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca).

Specific Medical Circumstances

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Accommodation for Personal Reasons

There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me or to an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can help you to decide if you want to request an extension or other forms of academic consideration. They may be able to email your instructors directly to provide a College Registrar's letter of support and connect you with other helpful resources on campus.

Cell Phones and Laptop Usage

Technology can support student learning, but it can also become a distraction. Research indicates that multi-tasking during class time can have a negative impact on learning. Out of respect for your fellow students in this class, please refrain from using laptops or mobile phones for purposes unrelated to the class. Do not display any material on a laptop which may be distracting or offensive to your fellow students.

Privacy/FIPPA Statement

Personal information is collected pursuant to section 2(14) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971 and at all times it will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please note that this course requires presentations of one's work to the group. For more information, please refer to <http://www.utoronto.ca/privacy>.

Mental Health and Well-Being

Your mental health is important. Throughout university life, there are many experiences that can impact your mental health and well-being. As a University of Toronto student, you can access free mental health and wellbeing services at Health & Wellness (<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/>) such as same day counselling, brief counselling, medical care, skill-building workshops, and drop-in peer support. You can also meet with a Wellness Navigation Advisor who can connect you with other campus and community services and support. Call the mental health clinic at 416-978-8030 ext. 5 to book an appointment or visit <https://uoft.me/mentalhealthcare> to learn about the services available to you.

You can also visit your College Registrar to learn about the resources and supports available: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/college-registrars-offices>

If you're in distress, you can access immediate support: <https://uoft.me/feelingdistressed>

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.

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>).

Quercus Info

This Course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. New information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.

Online Communication

E-mails need to come from an utoronto account (NOT QUERCUS!). E-mails regarding class material should be directed to your TA, who may choose to forward more difficult inquiries on to

the Instructor. Students can expect a response to a legitimate inquiry within 48 hours, not including weekends. If you don't receive a reply in this time period, please re-send your message. The course code (PSY220) should appear in the subject-heading of all e-mails, to prevent messages from being discarded as spam. E-mail should not be seen as an alternative to meeting with the instructor (or the TA). Nor should e-mail be used as a mechanism to receive private tutorials (especially prior to tests) or to explain material that was covered in lectures you missed.

Missed Term Tests or Final Exam

Students have **no more than one week** from the day that they missed a term test to contact me and provide me with documentation for missing it (see course policies below). If your request is approved, the weight of the missed term test 1 or 2 will be redistributed equally between the written solo assignment and the final exam (i.e., one-half of the weight of the missed term test 1 or 2 will be redistributed to the written solo assignment and the remaining half to the final exam). There are no make-up tests available for term tests 1 or 2. If your request is not approved or not submitted within the time frame indicated above, a missed term test will result in a grade of 0.

Students who miss the final exam should file a petition for a deferred exam with their College Registrar's office.

Departmental Guidance for Undergraduate Students in Psychology

The Department of Psychology recognizes that, as a student, you may experience disruptions to your learning that are out of your control, and that there may be circumstances when you need extra support. Accordingly, the department has provided a [helpful guide](#) to clarify your and your instructor's responsibilities when navigating these situations. This guide consolidates Arts & Science Policies for undergraduate students in one place for your convenience. As an instructor in the department, I will frequently consult with these recommendations when providing you with support, and I recommend that you also consult it to learn more about your rights and responsibilities before reaching out to me.

Grade Disputes

If you would like to contest a grade for an assignment or term test, please wait 24 hours after grades are posted and after reviewing feedback before contacting me or the teaching assistant about the grade. After 24 hours has passed, please visit the individual who marked the item to discuss your concerns during office hours.

If after your meeting, you still wish to have the item re-marked, please submit a written request as soon as possible after the 24-hour waiting period and within 2 weeks after the term test grade is posted or written assignment is returned to the class. If a re-marking is granted, the student accepts the resulting mark as the new mark, whether it goes up, down, or remains the same.

Note that this policy applies to work graded during the term. Please contact the College Registrar for appeals regarding the final exam held during the Final Examination period.

Late/Missed Assignments

Term work must be submitted by the assigned date. Penalties of 5% per calendar day (including weekends) up to and including the last day of the term, will be applied by the Instructor.