

PSY220H1 S

Introduction to Social Psychology

Winter 2025 Syllabus

Course Meetings

PSY220H1 S

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC0101	Tuesday, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	In Person: MP 203

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

Course Contacts

Instructor: Jason Plaks

Email: jason.plaks@utoronto.ca

Office Hours and Location: Wednesdays 1-2pm at 4003 Sidney Smith Hall

Course Overview

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

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:

1. theories about human behavior are translated into empirically testable hypotheses,
2. these hypotheses are tested by conducting experiments and observing behavior, and
3. 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.

Prerequisites: PSY100H1/PSY100Y5/PSYA02H3/COG250Y1

Corequisites: None

Exclusions: PSY220H5/PSYB10H3/SOC213H1

Recommended Preparation: None

Credit Value: 0.5

Course Materials

Textbook: Social Psychology, 8th Canadian edition

Authors: Myers, Twenge, Jordan, Smith

ISBN: 9781260327014

Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
term test 1	25%		2025-01-21
term test 2	30%		2025-02-25
Packback posts	5%	Students must submit 1 open-ended Question per week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 55.	2025-01-07,2025-01-14,2025-01-21,2025-01-28,2025-02-04,2025-02-11,2025-02-18,2025-02-25,2025-03-04,2025-03-11,2025-03-18,2025-03-25,2025-04-01
In-Person Final Exam	40%		Final Exam Period

Policies & Statements

Missed term test policy

If you miss the term test, please declare your absence on ACORN within one week, email me, and email the TA to arrange a time and place to take the makeup test. You may only use your ACORN absence declaration once per semester, so if you need to declare a second absence, please provide another form of documentation; i.e., a VOI form or a letter from your College or Accessibility advisor.

Late/Missed Assignments

There is a 2% penalty per day of unaccounted for or undocumented lateness.

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/department/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.

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.

Mental Health and Well-being

As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation, financial concerns, family worries and so forth. These factors may affect your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate fully in daily activities. Everyone feels stressed now and then – it is a normal part of university life. Some days are better than others, and there is no wrong time to reach out. There are resources for every situation and every level of stress.

There are many helpful resources available through your College Registrar or through Student Life (<http://studentlife.utoronto.ca> and <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/feeling-distressed>). An important part of the University experience is learning how and when to ask for help. Please take the time to inform yourself of available resources.

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.