

PSYC 308A: Introduction to Social Psychology

Winter/Spring 2021

Online home: <https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/62974>

Professor: Andrew Rivers

Office hours: **Weds** 6-7pm, **Thurs** 7-8am, &
Fri 3-4pm on *Collaborate Ultra*

Also on **Zoom** at **ID**: 7883625730 **PW**: 998877

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Office hours: **Tues** 3-4pm on **Zoom**
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Social psychology is the study of the way people think about, feel, and behave in social situations. Topics to be covered include: -social cognition, -impression formation, -the self, -attitudes, -conformity, -pro-social behavior, -relationships, -prejudice & stereotyping, and -attraction.

By the end of this course, students should expect to understand social psychological phenomena. Additionally, students should expect to understand 1) core mechanisms underlying social behavior, 2) scientific methods by which we investigate social behavior, and 3) ways that social psychological research is applied in real-world analysis and intervention.

COURSE FORMAT:

This course will take the form of ‘distance learning.’ Because students are all over the world right now, and in different time zones; class will be *asynchronous* – meaning that I will record lecture videos and upload them to our Canvas course webpage along with supplemental materials. Attendance at student hours on *Collaborate Ultra* is not mandatory, but is encouraged. To complement *asynchronous* lectures, I will hold morning, midday, and evening weekly student office hours so that, no matter where in the world you currently are, you’ll be able to meet with me to discuss psychology!!

TEXTBOOK/READINGS:

The required text for this course is *Social Psychology 10th Edition* (Aronson et al., 2019). The text is available at the UBC bookstore, ISBN 978-0-134-70076-2. All additional readings and material will be available on the Canvas website. You will be expected to read, listen to, or watch all additional materials unless otherwise noted.

LEARNING ASSESSMENT:

Learning assessment will consist of the following:

- 1) Podcast Activities, 2) At-home Integration, 3) Individualized Engagement Portfolio, 4) Integration final paper, 5) Midterm exam, and 6) Final exam

1) Podcast Activities (x5)

There will be 5 podcast activities listed on Canvas throughout the term. There are not ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ answers on these activities thus, all completed submissions *meeting activity guidelines* are likely to receive full credit. Because podcast activities are available well in advance of their due dates, late submissions receive a 25% penalty per day.

2) At-home Integration of Psychological Theory and the ‘Real World’ (x4)

There will be 4 at-home integration activities where we, in small discussion groups or on our own, will seek to *integrate* social-psychological theories with real-world events. In these we will be discussing important psychological theories including Bargh’s *Horsemen of Automaticity*, Kelley’s *Covariation Theory of Attribution*, Azjen’s *Theory of Planned Behavior*, and theories about *Helping Behavior*. Late submissions receive a 25% penalty per day.

3) Individualized Engagement Portfolio

Actively engaging with others to discuss human psychology may be the single best way to deeply learn the material in this class. The *individualized engagement portfolio* is designed to allow us to choose our own engagement journey. Talk with a friend about something you read! Watch a course video with a family member! Meet with a discussion group to debate an interesting current event! At the end of the term, I would like you to document, in writing, at least 8 meaningful ways that you have engaged with others. Late submissions receive a 25% penalty per day.

4) Integration Final Paper

The capstone to our integration activities will be a final paper in which you will demonstrate your ability 1) to communicate psychological theories to a lay audience, and 2) to integrate your selected psychological theory with a real-world event that is important to you. This final paper will be due at 11:59pm on the date listed in the syllabus. Late submissions will receive a penalty of 10% for each 24 hours (or part of 24h) they are late.

5) Midterm Exam

There will be one midterm exam, which will assess understanding of material from lecture and the textbook. More details about the exam will be announced as the date of the exam approaches.

6) Final Exam

There will be one *cumulative* final exam, which will assess student understanding of lecture material, activities, and media (video, audio, written) assigned for out-of-class study. More details about the final exam will be available as we near the end of the term.

All assigned textbook readings are fair game for exams, even material not covered in lecture.

GRADING BREAKDOWN		
ASSESSMENT TYPE	POINTS	DUE DATE(S)
1) Podcast Activities (5x)	10	1/24, 2/7, 3/14, 3/21, 4/4
2) At-home Integration (4x)	12	1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/28
3) Individualized Engagement Portfolio	8	Before Final Exam (when scheduled)
4) Integration Final Paper	40	4/14
5) Midterm Exam	40	3/3
6) Final Exam	60	TBA
Total	170	

All online activities and the integration final paper can be completed well in advance of their due dates. Thus, only special circumstances will qualify for extension of submission deadlines.

EXTRA CREDIT: PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH (HSP) (+3%)

Evaluating findings in social psychology requires a working knowledge of *epistemology*—how do we know what we know? One way to acquire this knowledge is to participate in psychological research. Students can receive up to 3% for participating in accredited psychology experiments at UBC (1% for each participation credit). As an alternative to participating in studies, students can complete writing projects, in which you read and summarize a research article. See the HSP website for detailed information including due dates and submission procedures for the writing projects. To take advantage of this extra credit and learning opportunity, see <https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com>

BONUS *Oops! Token* (1x)

Even if we are diligent in keeping up with course material and diligent in our planning for the weeks ahead, *sometimes _____ happens!* Each student will receive an *Oops! Token* that they can use once during the term. The token may be used in the following ways:

- “Oops, I submitted my podcast activity after the deadline!”
 - If you use *Oops!*, I’ll accept your submission with no penalty at any time before the final exam.
- “Oops, I submitted my at-home integration after the deadline!”
 - If you use *Oops!*, I’ll accept your submission with no penalty at any time before the final exam.
- “Oops, I didn’t document the required number of engagement events in my engagement portfolio”
 - If you use *Oops!*, the requirement is now to document at least 4 events.
- “Oops, I missed the midterm exam!”
 - If you use *Oops!*, your score on the final exam will count for both exams.
- “Oops, it’s the end of the term and I don’t see any more HSP studies available!”
 - If you use *Oops!*, you’ll receive 1 ‘free’ HSP credit.
- “Oops, I missed the deadline for the integration final paper!”
 - If you use *Oops!*, you’ll receive a 24-hour grace period.

To use the *Oops Token!* complete the Canvas survey here to let us know how to apply your token.

Fine Print: The *Oops Token!* is a ‘no questions asked’ benefit, you can use it whenever you’d like and for whatever *oops!* might have happened. The *Oops Token!* CANNOT be used for the final exam. Additionally, the *Oops Token!* cannot be used for the midterm exam after you have started taking the exam.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES:

Lecture Notes: I will record and post lecture videos covering class material. This means that you do not need to be present during our scheduled class times – watch the lectures at your convenience (hopefully in a nice park while you get some sun!). Lecture slides in .pdf form will be posted online alongside the videos. Lecture slides are not meant to substitute for watching lecture videos.

Meetings: Meetings, either during office hours or scheduled via email, are the best way to discuss course material and questions. Please take advantage of my scheduled office hours and note that I am *happy* to schedule additional meetings if you are not able to meet during my office hours.

Psychology Department’s Policy on Grade Scaling: In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 100-level class is 72% for an exceptionally strong class, 70 for an average class, 68% for a weak class with a standard deviation of 14 percentage points. Scaling is likely to be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor, department, or school. Therefore, grades are *never* official until they appear on your academic record.

Note: A excellent discussion of the rationale for grade scaling by a UBC Psychology professor is available here: <https://www2.psych.ubc.ca/~schaller/scaling.htm>

Psychology Department's Policy on Academic Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript. All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html).

Acknowledgements: I want to cite those who I learned from in creating this syllabus. Portions are inspired by Dr. Elizabeth Dunn, Dr. Peter Graf, Dr. Mark Lam, Dr. Simon Lolliot, Dr. Lily May, Dr. Catherine Rawn, Dr. Mark Schaller, Dr. Toni Schmader, Dr. Eva Zysk & likely many more. Thank you all!

Reach out and ask for help if you need it

University students often encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. If you run into difficulties and need assistance, I encourage you to contact me by email and we can coordinate a meeting (or not if you'd prefer to stick to email). I will do my best to support your success during the term. This includes identifying concerns I may have about your academic progress or wellbeing through Early Alert. With Early Alert, faculty members can connect you with advisors who offer students support and assistance getting back on track to success. Only specialized UBC advisors are able to access any concerns I may identify, and Early Alert does not affect your academic record.

For more information, visit www.earlyalert.ubc.ca

For information about addressing mental or physical health concerns, including seeing a UBC counsellor or doctor, visit students.ubc.ca/livewell

Healthy Lifestyles

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.

Details of the policies and how to access support are available on [the UBC Senate website](#).

Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and Inclusion: Similar to the broader UBC community, the Psychology Department—and this class—seeks to build a community where students feel included and are treated equitably. This class aims to be inclusive of gender identity, gender expression, sex, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, political and religious affiliation, ability, health, and age (this is not an exhaustive list!). Students, instructors, visitors, and readings may sometimes raise controversial and/or sensitive issues. Respectful and productive discussion is encouraged, and students should feel safe to explore ideas without fear of being judged. Our goal is not to always agree, but rather to disagree without being threatening or alienating. However, if a statement or behaviour is likely to offend others or make others feel alienated in any way, it should not be shared with the class (but can be shared with me after class or in student hours). If at any point you feel offended, threatened, or alienated by anything that happens in our class, please feel welcome to let me or a TA know

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Read</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
1	Jan 11-15	Syllabus & Intro to Social	Ch. 1	
2	Jan 18-22	Social Cognition & Research Methods	Ch. 2, 3	Podcast #1: Sunday 1/24
3	Jan 25-29	Person Perception (Part 1)	Ch. 4	Integration #1: Sunday 1/31
4	Feb 1-5	Person Perception (Part 2) & Social Inference (Part 1)		Podcast #2: Sunday 2/7
5	Feb 8-12	Social Inference (Part 2) & the Self	Ch. 5	Integration #2: Sunday 2/14
-	Feb 15-19	WINTER BREAK		
6	Feb 22-26	Attitudes, Attitude-Behavior Link, & Cognitive Dissonance	Ch. 6, 7	Integration #3: Sunday 2/28
7	Mar 1-5	Midterm Exam		Exam will be Wednesday, 3/3
8	Mar 8-12	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch. 8	Podcast #3: Sunday 3/14
9	Mar 15-19	Group Processes, Social Facilitation, & Loafing	Ch. 9	Podcast #4: Sunday 3/21
10	Mar 22-26	Altruism & Helping Behavior	Ch. 11	Integration #4: Sunday 3/28
11	Mar 29 - Apr 2	Attraction & Relationships	Ch. 10	Podcast #5: Sunday 4/4
12	Apr 5-9	Replication Crisis		
13	Apr 12-14	Stereotyping, Prejudice, & Discrimination	Ch. 13	Integration Final Paper: Wednesday 4/14
-	FINAL EXAM: April 19th at 8:30am OR 7:00pm			

