


Fall Term 2024
Psychology 308A: Social Psychology



Section 4: TTH 14:00-15:30 Buchanan 140
Section 5: 15:30-17:00 TTH Buchanan 140

Course Email: 308A@psych.ubc.ca
Course Website: <https://canvas.ubc.ca>

Instructor

Dr. Ara Norenzayan (He/him) Call me: Ara or Dr. Ara Office: CIRS 4354 Office Phone: 604-827-5134 Office hours: In-person walk-in: Tue 11-12 Virtual: Sign up on the course website	
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Teaching Assistants

<u>Section 4 14:00 class</u> Carmelle Bareket-Shavit (She/her) Call me: Carmelle Office hours: Fri 11-12 Location TBA or Zoom	<u>Section 5 15:30 class</u> Nick Kay (He/him) Call me: Nick Office hours: Wed 2:30-3:30 Kenny 4210G or Zoom
	

Course Content and Goals

How much do we know ourselves? Why do people vehemently disagree about some moral issues but not others? How do we form social relationships? Why does cooperation succeed or fail? How do the social groups we live in transform our thinking? These are some of the big questions of social psychology, the branch of psychology that is the scientific study of the feelings, thoughts, and behaviors of individuals in social contexts. We will cover diverse topics such as the self, social thinking, emotions, moral cognition, relationships, groups, prejudice & stereotyping, altruism & cooperation, and cultural change. Class time includes lectures, films and film segments, and class activities and discussions in which student participation is actively encouraged. The goals of this

course are to learn about (1) the broad themes, basic theories, current debates, and important findings of social psychology, (2) the scientific methods of social psychology, (3) ways that social psychology is harnessed for human flourishing and to find solutions to today's pressing social problems, such as social bias, intergroup conflict, and environmental degradation.

Prerequisites

Either (a) PSYC 100 or (b) two of PSYC 101, PSYC 102, PSYC 205, PSYC 207, PSYC 208, PSYC 216, PSYC 217. Strongly recommended: PSYC 102 and PSYC 216 or 217.

Canvas, Textbook and Lectures

The course website is on Canvas. You can login at this link (<https://canvas.ubc.ca/>)

Textbook and Assigned Articles

Gilovich, T., Keltner, D., Chen, S., & Nisbett, R. (2023). *Social Psychology, 6th Ed.* New York: WW Norton. Hard copy and ebook versions are available through the UBC bookstore (Use the link below that applies to your class section).

[https://the.bookstore.ubc.ca/CourseSearch/?course\[\]=UBC,2023W2,PSYC,PSYC308A,004](https://the.bookstore.ubc.ca/CourseSearch/?course[]=UBC,2023W2,PSYC,PSYC308A,004)

[https://the.bookstore.ubc.ca/CourseSearch/?course\[\]=UBC,2023W2,PSYC,PSYC308A,005](https://the.bookstore.ubc.ca/CourseSearch/?course[]=UBC,2023W2,PSYC,PSYC308A,005)

Both versions come with InQuizitive, a useful online learning tool for this course. Do NOT use the older 5th edition; it is not the same as the 6th edition we use in this course. Students must read the assigned chapters for each week before coming to class.

In addition to the textbook, several original research articles are also assigned throughout the term. These readings complement the textbook. These articles will be posted on Canvas. (Note: these articles are copyrighted and for your own reading for pedagogical purposes; they should not be distributed in any way).

Lectures

Lectures are based on 1) the assigned readings from the textbook and assigned articles, as well as 2) new material that is NOT in the textbook or articles. Lecture slides are posted at the end of the week (Thursday or Friday). However, they are not a substitute for class notes. If you miss a class, borrow notes from a classmate.

Several times in the term, I will lecture on a Timely Topic (TT) not covered in the textbook. These TT lectures can be on the exams like anything else we do in class.

Lectures, the assigned articles, and the textbook will overlap, but I have designed this course so that there will be assigned material in the textbook and assigned articles that **will not be** covered in the lectures and lecture material that **will not be** covered in the textbook. **All textbook, assigned articles, and lecture materials can be tested in the exams, whether or not they overlap.**

Top Hat

We will be using Top Hat's student engagement software. It will keep track of participation (see below) and also enable real-time in-class engagement. Top Hat is free for UBC students.

1. You can connect with Top Hat using any device with wifi (e.g., laptop, tablet, mobile phone).
Go to <https://tophat.com/>. Login if you have an existing account or Sign-up > Student sign-up.
2. In the join code field, enter the code for your section: 643967 (section 4) or 889856 (section 5).
3. Create your account. **MAKE SURE THAT YOUR NAME, STUDENT NUMBER, AND JOIN CODE MATCHES YOUR RECORD ON CANVAS.**

Evaluation of Learning

Students' **course mark** will be based on **three non-cumulative** exams, each worth 30% of the course mark, totalling 90% of the course mark. Exams consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Participation is worth 10%. In addition, you may earn up to 3% Extra Credit points by participating in psychology research (see below).

Make-up exams consist of essay questions, and apply only in extraordinary cases of validated conflicting responsibilities, medical or compassionate grounds. For Senate Policy on Academic Concessions, see <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0>

Contact me and your TA as soon as possible in these situations. **This means that if you miss an exam without validation, you will simply lose the percentage of points associated with it.**

1) *Exams (90% of course mark)*. The exams are non-cumulative and will have multiple-choice and short-answer format. Any and all material covered in lectures, assigned readings, and class activities (including films) can be tested on the exams. This includes material that was covered only in class or covered only in the readings. **For Exams 1 and 2 only:** A two-stage exam format will be implemented. Immediately after completing each exam individually, you will re-take the exam in a team effort in 3-4 person small groups. Your team score will count for 10% of each exam, and your individual score will count for 90% of each exam. In most cases, group scores are higher than individual scores. But if your individual score is higher than your team-effort score, your individual score will count for the entirety or 100% of the exam, so the teamwork component can improve your exam score but not lower it. Research shows that this "two-stage" testing improves student engagement and learning. Exam 3 is scheduled by the university during the exam period and will not have a team component.

2) *Participation (10%)*: You will receive participation marks for answering questions on an interactive system we will be using called Top Hat (tophat.com). If you complete all Top Hat questions and comprehension checks, you will automatically receive full marks for participation. **THERE IS NO MAKEUP PARTICIPATION.** However, to allow for occasional absences, technical problems, and other challenges that life throws at you, you can miss up to 20% of participation opportunities, and I'll still give you full (100%) participation marks. Put another way, only 4/5 participation opportunities will count towards your participation mark.

Communication

Course Email Address

308A@psych.ubc.ca

Send questions or issues related to the course to the course email address above. The Professor and the TAs will monitor it; someone will get back to you within 48 hours excluding weekends.

Email Policy. Due to the large size of this course with 2 sections, email communication is limited. Here is the proper email etiquette to follow. Email is an appropriate way of communicating if you have a simple question that can be answered in 1-2 sentences. If not, come to office hours and one of us will be happy to discuss it with you at more length. Emails requiring long responses will not be answered.

Who to contact for your concerns or questions? If you have questions, please consult the course website and this syllabus first. There is a good chance that the answer to your question is provided. Second, reach out to your Teaching Assistant. Your TAs are highly capable, knowledgeable graduate students doing their PhDs, specializing in social psychology. They can provide information on course logistics and content and help you prepare for exams. However, if your question is not answered on the course syllabus and cannot be answered by your TA, contact the professor for help.

Office Hours. I have an open-door, first-come-first-serve policy during my in-person office hours. You are welcome to drop by with any questions you have. You can also reserve a 15-minute slot on Canvas to meet with me remotely via Zoom. The Zoom link to use, as well as the time slots, will be posted on Canvas. Similarly, make use of weekly office hours held by the TA assigned to your section. If you are experiencing difficulties, come and see me or your TA right away – it's far more effective than getting help at the last minute or at the end of the term.

Extra Credit

SUBJECT POOL EXTRA-CREDIT POINTS. One way to learn more about psychology is to participate in ongoing research projects. You may earn up to 3 points of credit toward your course grade by participating in studies. Please register on the online system as soon as possible at <https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com/> All of your credits for study participation or the library option will be added to your final course grade, after any scaling is applied (if at all).

Tentative Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Jan 9	Overview of Course	1
Jan 16	Research Methods Murphy et al. 2020	2
Jan 23	The Social Self Timely Topic #1: Self-compassion	3
Jan 30	Social Cognition Exam #1 on Feb 1 (Ch. 1-4, TT1)	4
Feb 6	Emotion & Well-being Timely Topic #2: Emotional Intelligence	5
Feb 8	Class Cancelled	
Feb 13	Relationships and Attraction	9
Feb 19-23	Midterm Break	
Feb 27	Social Influence Gelfand et al. 2021	8
March 5	Attitudes and Behavior Exam #2 on March 7 (Ch. 5,9,8,6, TT 2)	6
March 12	Stereotyping, Prejudice & Discrimination	10
March 19	Groups	12
March 26	Aggression	13
April 2	Morality, Altruism and Cooperation Awad et al. (2020)	14
April 9	Last Week of Classes: Wrapup Timely Topic #3: Psychology of Sustainability	
April 16-27	Final Exam (Ch.10, 12,13, 14 & TT3)	

Notes. All exams are Non-Cumulative. Chapters 7 and 11 are NOT assigned. The schedule of readings may be adjusted during the term.

University Values and Policies

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise that require additional resources. 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 and cultural 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 at this link (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>)

Equity, Inclusion, Diversity, and Respect

University courses should be conducive to learning and rigorous and open intellectual inquiry within a context where everyone feels included and respected—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, political or religious affiliations, ability, age, and social status. All students in this class are encouraged to express themselves thoughtfully when discussing course material; and when you do express yourself, it's important that you do so in a manner that shows respect for every other member of this class. Therefore, please ensure that you're familiar with [UBC's policy on building and maintaining a respectful environment](#). You can find additional information about resources pertaining to equity, diversity, and inclusion on the Psychology Department's website: <https://psych.ubc.ca/about/equity-inclusion/>

Psychology Department's Policy on Grade Distributions and Scaling

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all Psychology classes are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to these adjusted norms, the average grade in 300-level Psychology classes will be 75 for an exceptionally strong class, 73 for a typical class, and 71 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13. (In other words: The average grade in this class will most likely be in the lower end of the B range.) Grades may be scaled in order to comply with these norms (grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by an instructor or the department).

UBC Grading Policies

Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record. You will receive both a numerical and a letter grade for this course. (See the UBC Course Calendar for additional information about [UBC grading scale--showing letter grades and corresponding numerical grades](#).)

Academic Integrity

As members of the academic community, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. For details on university policies and procedures pertaining to student conduct and academic dishonesty, please see the [UBC Calendar: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Academic Accommodation

Academic accommodations help students with a disability or ongoing medical condition overcome challenges that may affect their academic success. Students requiring academic accommodations must register with the [Centre for Accessibility](#). This course is designed to maximize accessibility for all students, so it is only necessary to submit documentation for this course if you anticipate that you'll require additional accommodation.

Academic Concession

UBC has well-articulated policies regarding what sorts of circumstances do and don't qualify for academic concession. Please make sure that you are familiar with UBC's [policies on academic concession](#).

Additional Useful Resources for Students

Guidance for online classes: <https://keeplearning.ubc.ca/>

Guidance on useful skills for students: <https://learningcommons.ubc.ca/student-toolkits/>

Student's guide to Canvas: <https://students.canvas.ubc.ca/>

COVID-19 health guidance: <https://covid19.ubc.ca/health-guidance/>

Mental health support: <https://students.ubc.ca/covid19/mental-health-during-covid-19-outbreak>

Counselling Services: <http://students.ubc.ca/livewell/services/counselling-services>

Wellness Centre: <https://students.ubc.ca/health/wellness-centre>

Student Health Services: <https://students.ubc.ca/health/student-health-service>