The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Social Science
SOSC2210 Social Psychology
Spring Semester, 2024

Instructor
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*When contacting us by email, please ***prefix the subject line*** of your message with the course code [SOSC2210]. Use your university email account only.

Lecture Time: Tue, Thu 16:30 – 17:50
Venue: Room 2503

Course Description
This course introduces the fundamental concepts and theories in social psychology, a scientific field of study that seeks to understand the nature and causes of individuals' thinking and behavior in social situations.

Prerequisite
SOSC1960 Introduction to Psychology, or SOSC1980 Psychology of Personal Growth, or SOSC1969 Discovering Mind and Behavior

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)
Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:
1. understand the fundamental concepts and theories in social psychology;
2. familiarize with the key classical and contemporary studies in social psychology;
3. evaluate research studies in social psychology; AND
4. get insights into our relationship with other people and the society where we live.

Required Textbook
Baumeister, R. F., & Bushman, B. J. (2021). *Social Psychology and Human Nature* (5th edition). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Assessment Scheme

Components	Weighting	ILOs
Class Participation	10%	1, 2
Quizzes	50%	1, 2, 3

Group Project
   Presentation Session
   PPT Slide
   Video
	
	20%
	10%
	10%
		1, 2, 3, 4

1. **Class Participation (10%)**
   - You are strongly encouraged to participate actively in class activities and group discussions. The activities or discussions will be issues that you will come across in your everyday life that are related to the course contents.
   - Your contributions in the class discussions or activities will be recorded on Qualtrics and count towards your participation score.

2. **Quizzes (50%; each 25%)**
   - Two quizzes will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. Quizzes will include multiple-choice questions only. They are non-cumulative. Both quizzes cover all materials in lectures and required readings (the relevant chapters will appear on the last page of the lecture handouts).
   - Supplementary readings are also listed in the lecture note but they will NOT be included in the quizzes. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding of the course contents.
   - Quiz 1 is scheduled on **Mar 12** and covers topics from **Week 1 to 5**. Quiz 2 is scheduled on **May 7** and covers topics from the remaining weeks.
   - Arrive on time for the quiz as no additional time will be given for students arriving late.
   - No make-up quizzes will be given to students who are absent from the quizzes unless students can provide validated medical reasons. You should notify the teaching team (through email) about your absence by attaching your official medical certificate *within 24 hours of the original quiz date* if you wish to arrange for a make-up quiz. All make-up quizzes will ONLY be in the form of essay questions.

3. **Group Project (40%)**
   - In a group of 5, you are required to give a presentation for 12 minutes and a 3-minute Q&A on any topic you selected.
   - Based on what you have learned in this course, you are expected to generate some suggestions to reduce a stereotype about university students. The purpose of this presentation is to apply concepts and theories in social psychology to real-life experiences, so the contents should be linked to findings or concepts or theories in social psychology.
   - Submit your group list to Canvas by **Feb 19**. For students who are not in a group after Feb 19, we will assign a group for you.
   - At least 2 representatives from each group should discuss with me about your presentation in the consultation session on **Mar 21 and 26**.

Academic Integrity

You should observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/regulations-student-conduct-and-academic-integrity). Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating would result in a reduction of scores or even a failing grade in the course. We will investigate every suspected case of plagiarism and report the confirmed case to the Division of Social Science for further review or action. Make sure you understand academic honesty.

Course Communication Platform

All lecture materials and announcements will be posted on CANVAS. Be sure to check CANVAS frequently for any updated news.

*Do **NOT** leave messages in the CANVAS inbox.*

Some Other Notes

- *Interaction in class* – I believe interactions (both verbal and non-verbal) between the lecturer and the students (and among students) are one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. Your active participation in class discussions or activities will not only enhance your learning, but also motivate the teaching team to do better! Stay behind the class and share with me your thoughts about the course contents.
- *Lecture slides* – Lecture slides will be posted to CANVAS before each class, but the contents will be a bit different from the displayed slides as I hope to encourage you to take your notes. Note-taking facilitates your reflection and assimilation of the lecture contents.
- *Penalties* – Score deduction applies to any assignments over the word limit. Details can be found in the assignment guidelines.
- *Late submission* – For any group assignment, the group leader will do the submission. Submissions received less than 5 hours after the deadline will not be penalized. No submissions will be accepted after 5 pm HKT on the due date.
- *Communication* – Please expect that your emails will be responded to during weekdays 10 am to 6 pm HKT.
- *Your feedback* – Your opinions about the course are very valuable to help me improve the course. Feel free to drop by to talk to me. A course evaluation will also be held at the end of the course.

Teaching Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Textbook Chapter
1	Feb 1	Introduction	1
2	Feb 6	Research Methods in Social Psychology	1
	Feb 8	Culture	2
3	*Feb 13*	*Lunar New Year Holiday*	
	Feb 15	Self-concepts	3
4	Feb 20	Choices and Self-Regulation	4
	Feb 22		
5	Feb 27	Social Reasoning	5
	Feb 29		
6	Mar 5		
	Mar 7	*[Tutorial] Writing Workshop*	
7	**Mar 12**	**Quiz 1 (from Week 1 to 5)**	
	Mar 14	Stereotype, Prejudice and Discrimination	13
8	Mar 19	Attitudes and Social Influence	7
	Mar 21	*Group Project Consultation*	
9	*Mar 26*		
	Mar 28	*Midterm Break*	
9	*Apr 2*		
	Apr 4		
10	Apr 9	Social Persuasion	8
	Apr 11	Prosocial Behaviors	9
11	Apr 16	Antisocial Behaviors	10
	Apr 18	Attraction and Relationship	11, 12
12	*Apr 23*	*Group Project Presentation*	
	Apr 25		
13	*Apr 30*		
	May 2		
14	**May 7**	**Quiz 2 (from Week 7 to 12)**	
	May 9	*Submission of Video*	

Important Dates

Date	Submission
Feb 19	Group List on Canvas
Apr 20	Group Project PPT
May 9	Group Project Video
May 10	Peer Evaluation