

SOSC 2210: Social Psychology

Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:00 am – 10:20 am; Room 2407

Instructor	Teaching Assistant
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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. You should have completed either SOSC 1960 or SOSC 1980 before taking this course.

Intended learning outcomes (ILOs)

On completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Gain insights into how researchers in social psychology contribute to their respective fields
2. Understand how societal events contribute to research in social psychology
3. Gain fundamental knowledge about how humans interact with one another
4. Understand one's own relationship with other people and the society in which one lives

Lecture schedule

Date	Topic (Monday)	Date	Topic (Wednesday)
17 Feb	<i>(semester begins, no class)</i>	19 Feb	Introduction
24 Feb	Research methods of social psychology	26 Feb	Research methods of social psychology
2 Mar	Understanding ourselves	4 Mar	Understanding ourselves
9 Mar	Understanding the social world	*11 Mar	Understanding the social world
16 Mar	Judging ourselves and others	18 Mar	Judging ourselves and others
23 Mar	Persuasion	*25 Mar	Social influence
30 Mar	Social influence	1 Apr	Quiz 1
6 Apr	The social group	**8 Apr	The social group
13 Apr	<i>(Easter Monday, no class)</i>	15 Apr	Group behavior
20 Apr	Intergroup relations	*22 Apr	Intergroup relations
27 Apr	Improving intergroup relations	29 Apr	Improving intergroup relations
4 May	Helping others	*6 May	Helping ourselves
**11 May	The psychology of happiness	13 May	The psychology of happiness
18 May	Quiz 2	19 May	<i>(semester ends, no class)</i>

Note: Course content is subject to change; any changes will be announced in class and on the course Canvas website.

** Due dates for the Canvas Discussions.*

***Due dates for the Paper Assignments.*

Course communication platform

Announcements and dissemination of supplementary course materials will be made through the course Canvas website: <https://canvas.ust.hk/courses/29111>. You will be directed to read the course materials as necessary during the course.

Important note for Spring 2020

Due to health concerns, classes for the Spring 2020 term will begin online. As a result, some adjustments may need to be made throughout the term. We will do our best to minimize these changes, and if such changes are needed, will also update you on Canvas as soon as possible. Thanks for your understanding!

Learning activities

1. **Lectures**

- Lectures lay the foundation of your learning. They cover the fundamental concepts, involving discussion, interactive activities, videos, and reviews of past research studies.
- Lectures provide information you will need to complete the course successfully. Past studies have shown that lecture attendance and participation facilitate learning and predict course grades.
- For the Spring 2020 term, lectures will be taught and recorded online; you will need to access them through the course Canvas website. Videos/video links will be included so that you can view them along with the lectures; they will count as part of the course content. Discussion and interactive activities will be adapted as described in #2 below.

2. **Class participation via Canvas Discussions (5% + 5% + 5% + 5% = 20%)**

- Your participation in the course is essential to building a positive, productive learning atmosphere, and will help facilitate your own learning as well. We will use small group discussions and other activities to encourage participation and gauge your progress in class.
- For the Spring 2020 term, you will participate in several Discussions on the course Canvas website to share your understanding of the course material throughout the term. For each Discussion, a prompt related to the course material will be posted 10 minutes after the END of class (10:30 am); you will then be asked to post at least one response (each 100 words minimum) to the prompt by 10:30 pm of the same day (Hong Kong time). The dates for each Discussion are indicated with an asterisk (*) in the Lecture Schedule.
- More guidelines will be disseminated in due course.

3. **Quizzes 1 and 2 (10% + 10% = 20%)**

- Quizzes assess your learning from the lectures, focusing on your basic conceptual understanding of the course material.
- Quiz 1 covers topics from the first half of term, while Quiz 2 covers topics from the second half. Everything covered in the class lectures (including video content) may be tested in the quizzes.
- Do arrive at the quiz sessions on time. No additional time will be given to late students.
- Absentees will not be granted a make-up quiz, except in the case of critical medical conditions. Doctor's testimony must be provided.
- For the Spring 2020 term, we will administer the quizzes via Canvas Quizzes. You must sign on to Canvas in order to access and complete each Quiz.
- More guidelines, including the format of the quizzes, will be disseminated in due course.

4. **Paper Assignments 1 and 2 (30% + 30% = 60%)**

- Paper assignments provide you with the opportunity to read an original research paper and demonstrate your understanding of the course material by evaluating the paper findings. The paper assignments should be completed in short paragraph form (each 800 words maximum).
- APA-style citation and referencing will be expected for both paper assignments.
- Submit your paper through Canvas Assignments on the course website.
- Submission is subject to a grace-period policy: Submissions will be accepted until 5 pm on the deadline day (Hong Kong time) without penalty. Submissions after this grace period will be subject to a heavy penalty, except in the case of critical medical conditions with a doctor's testimony.
- Be sure to submit original work. Do not copy other current or past students' works. Your paper will be subject to digital plagiarism detection through www.turnitin.com. Suspected cases may be reported to the school administration. A confirmed case will be subject to a penalty ranging from a reprimand to a failing grade.
- More guidelines, including the grading rubric, will be disseminated in due course.

Summary of Assessment Scheme

Assessment Type	Grade %	Key Dates & Times
Class participation (4 times)	20%	March 11, March 25, April 22, May 6
Quiz 1	10%	April 1
Quiz 2	10%	May 18
Paper Assignment 1	30%	April 8
Paper Assignment 2	30%	May 11

Textbook

No textbooks are required for the course. However, the following two textbooks are being held on reserve in the library for your reference, and you are encouraged to use them to review what you have learned.

- Myers, D. G. (2012). *Exploring Social Psychology* (6th ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.
- Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., & Akert, R. M. (2010). *Social Psychology* (7th ed.). Boston/Hong Kong: Prentice Hall.

Academic integrity

The University is a community designed for scholarship, one in which academic integrity and honesty are critical values. As a student of UST, you are expected to understand and follow the Academic Honor Code: <http://ugadmin.ust.hk/integrity/honor.html>.

Course feedback

Your opinions are very much valued. Two course feedback sessions, one in the middle and the other (the standard university SFQ) at the end of the course, will be conducted. We also encourage you to speak with the teaching team directly about any concerns or questions you may have about the course.

Got more questions, but don't want to come to our offices?

- Students can email either the instructor or the TA with their questions; we will always aim to respond within 24 hours.
- We will set up a "Virtual Office Hours" Discussion on Canvas. Here, you can post your questions and concerns for the course; as with email, we will aim to post a response within 24 hours. You can also reference questions other students have posted in the Discussion.
- If you do prefer to come to our offices, please remember to wear a mask!