

SOSC 2210: Social Psychology

Mondays & Wednesdays, 12:00 pm – 1:20 pm (Hong Kong time); Canvas/Zoom

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 must have completed either SOSC 1960 or SOSC 1980 as a prerequisite 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)
7 Sept	Introduction	9 Sept	Research methods of social psychology
14 Sept	Research methods of social psychology	16 Sept	Understanding ourselves
*21 Sept	Understanding ourselves	23 Sept	Understanding the social world
28 Sept	Understanding the social world	30 Sept	Judging ourselves and others
*5 Oct	Judging ourselves and others	7 Oct	Persuasion
**12 Oct	Social influence	14 Oct	Social influence
19 Oct	Quiz 1	21 Oct	The social group
26 Oct	<i>(Day after Cheung Yeung, no class)</i>	28 Oct	Group behavior
*2 Nov	Intergroup relations	4 Nov	Intergroup relations
9 Nov	Improving intergroup relations	11 Nov	Improving intergroup relations
*16 Nov	Helping others	18 Nov	Helping others
**23 Nov	Helping ourselves	25 Nov	Helping ourselves
30 Nov	The psychology of happiness	2 Dec	Quiz 2

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 all course materials will be made through the course Canvas website: <https://canvas.ust.hk/courses/32642>.

Due to health concerns, our course will be held online for the Fall 2020 term. You are therefore responsible for checking our course Canvas website for announcements, accessing lecture recordings, submitting assessments, and accessing other course material.

If you have any issues using Canvas, you must let us (either the instructor or the teaching assistant) know immediately; we will work with you (and ITSC) to resolve the issues as soon as possible.

Learning activities

1. **Lectures**

- Lectures lay the foundation of your learning. They cover the fundamental concepts and reviews of past research studies, and include class discussion (held through Zoom Chat/Polls), interactive activities, and videos.
- 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.
- If you cannot attend the Zoom lectures at the time they are given, videos/video links will be available on Canvas so that you can view them on your own; they will count as part of the course content.

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.
- In addition to attending lecture classes, you are expected to participate in several Discussions on the course Canvas website to share your understanding of the course material throughout the term. These Discussions will count towards your course grade.
- For each Discussion, a prompt related to the course material will be posted 10 minutes after the END of class (1:30 pm); you will then be asked to post at least one response (each 200 words minimum) to the prompt by 1:30 pm of the next 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.
- Both quizzes will be administered 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%	September 21, October 5, November 2, November 16
Quiz 1	10%	October 19
Quiz 2	10%	December 2
Paper Assignment 1	30%	October 12
Paper Assignment 2	30%	November 23

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 can't 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.
- When it is safe to do so, if you do prefer to come to our offices, please remember to wear a mask!