

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
LONDON CANADA

Department of Psychology
Fall 2026

Psychology 2720A Section 650
Introduction to Social Psychology

1 Calendar Description

An introduction to the theories, findings, methods, and problems encountered in the study of people as social beings. Emphasis will be placed on experimental research, conducted in the laboratory and field. Content areas include: attitudes and social cognition, social interaction and influence, group processes and applications of social psychology.

Antirequisites: [Psychology 2780E](#), the former Psychology 2070A/B, the former Psychology 2712F/G

Antirequisites are courses that overlap sufficiently in content that only one can be taken for credit. If you take a course that is an antirequisite to a course previously taken, you will lose credit for the earlier course, regardless of the grade achieved in the most recent course.

3 lecture hours; Course Weight: 0.5

Unless otherwise stated, students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all prerequisites prior to enrolling. Where prerequisites have not been met, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the course. In accordance with Western policy, this decision is not subject to appeal.

In the event of a discrepancy between this outline and Senate or University policies, the latter shall prevail. The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of this course outline for pedagogical or operational reasons. Any such changes will be communicated to students in a timely manner.

2 Course Information

COURSE STAFF:

Instructor: Dr. Erin Heerey
Email: eheerey@uwo.ca
Office Hours: TBD

TAs: See information on OWL for names, email addresses and office hours.

TIME AND LOCATION OF CLASSES:

Online/Asynchronous session: New material will be posted at 9am Mondays
(see course schedule below for details)

Note: Exams (Midterm and Final) will be synchronous and take place in person

3 Course Materials

Students must have a reliable internet connection and computer that are compatible with online/technical learning elements.

The textbook for this class is a set of open (i.e., free) modules from the NOBA Psychology series. This means you may access all the reading through its creative commons license for free. The entire series is available at the link below – but for this class, we will only cover a small portion of the available content.

NOBA textbook series: Psychology. Champaign, IL: DEF publishers. Retrieved from: <https://nobaproject.com/browse-content>

Other readings from outside this series (also available to you free of charge) will also be assigned where appropriate and will be viewable on Perusall.

Because of the way the participation component of the class works, you must access the required readings through Perusall.com. More information on how to access the Persuall course site and how to participate in the course component is available on OWL and in the introductory lecture video. The weekly reading lists will appear in Perusall.

4 Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should have an understanding of the basic theories, methods, and findings in various areas of social psychology as well as an understanding of different types of research methods in social psychology and knowledge of the replication crisis and how it may shape the discipline in years to come.

Learning Outcome	Learning Activity	Assessment
<i>Depth and Breadth of Knowledge.</i> Identify and illustrate the ways in which social psychological processes occur in daily life, such as how people perceive themselves and others and how they interact with the surrounding environment	Online readings; Video Lectures	Exams; Reading annotations
Examine social psychology from an empirically-based, scholarly perspective, rather than from an	Online readings; Video lectures;	Exams; Reading annotations

intuitive or speculative perspective based solely on personal experience and observations	Reflection assignments	
<i>Application of Knowledge.</i> Apply concepts and theories in social psychology to novel examples of behaviours and situations to make predictions about social behaviour and outcomes	Online readings; Video lectures; Experiments; Reflection assignments	Exams; Reading annotations
Debate and reflect upon social psychological concepts and their application to everyday experience	Reflection assignments	Exams; Reading annotations; Reflection assignments
<i>Application of Methodologies.</i> Explain the scientific study of social psychology to a non-academic/non-psychologist	Online readings; Experiments; Reflection assignments	Exams; Reading annotations
Integrate knowledge gained from the empirical tradition of social psychology with knowledge gained from the “folk” psychological perspective	Video lectures; Online readings; Reflection assignments	Exams; Reflection assignments
<i>Awareness of Limits of Knowledge.</i> Identify and think critically about weakness in social psychology research methods	Video lectures; Online readings; Experiments; Reflection assignments	Exams; Reading annotations; Reflection assignments

5 Evaluation

Reading annotations	10%
Research reflections	10%
Midterm Exam	37%
Final Exam	43%

The evaluation and testing formats for this course were created to assess the learning objectives as listed in section 4 and are necessary for meeting these learning objectives. All evaluations

listed in this course outline are required components of the course and together account for 100% of the final grade. Weightings and assessment formats may be adjusted where required to support course learning objectives, with appropriate notice to students.

Reading Annotations (10%)

***** This assessment has flexible deadlines.
It is exempt from the academic considerations policy. *****

As noted above, the assigned readings will be available via perusall.com. The idea behind Perusall is a simple one, supported by a large body of research: the more engaged you are with the course readings, the better you will learn and understand the material. In addition, evidence shows that regular access of course material (rather than leaving the reading until just before the exams) promotes better learning. Perusall supports both these ideas. How does it work? Each week, you will login to Perusall and complete the assigned readings. Perusall measures engagement by allowing you to annotate the readings and engage in course dialogue with other students in the class. If you are actively engaged with the readings, you should have questions about the course material. Sometimes, these will be information-related (e.g., a question about how a process works, or a question about something you don't understand). Other times, these will be more fundamental questions about why something works the way the reading describes. When you have a reading-related question, use the annotation tools in Perusall to note your question. You can also use the annotation tools to answer another student's question and engage in relevant dialogue with your classmates. All of these annotations are graded by Perusall's large language model. More information on Perusall, the grading rubric, how many and what types of comments you need to make and how automated grading works is available on OWL.

Starting in week 2, you will be assigned a grade for the week based on the quality of your annotations. The deadline for completing the weekly readings is Friday at 5:00pm in the week they are assigned. Although you should aim to complete the readings by this time, I will always allow you a grace period of an additional 55 hours to complete the reading (this effectively gives you until Sunday at 11:55pm). Any annotations not completed by the expiration of the grace period will receive a score of 0. Note that because participation in the weekly reading is worth < 1% per week, the assignment deadline is flexible, and your lowest 2 marks will be dropped, **I will not accept any accommodations or excuses for late work.**

Research Reflections (10%)

***** This assessment has flexible deadlines.
It is exempt from the academic considerations policy. *****

Each week, starting in week 2, you will complete an exercise designed to introduce you to the week's topic. These exercises will include an online adaptation of a published research study, or a novel research study related to the topic in question. These will be designed to give you a hands-on feel for what the week's topic is and how it is studied. This will provide important background for the week's topic. Afterward, you will read a short debriefing and then you will be asked to complete a short reflection statement on the experiment itself, in which you consider what the

experiment measured from your own perspective (e.g., did you agree with the original researchers about what was going on, do you think that the data from the class will replicate the original findings). At the end of the week in which the experiment is completed, a link to a short video (about 10-12 minutes) explaining the experiment/study, the idea it tests, its historic results (if applicable) and current class results will be posted on OWL. Results will also be linked back to the week's topic.

Links for these exercises will be available on Saturdays at 9am (the week before the topic is available). Ideally, you should complete the topic reflection before you begin the reading/lecture for the next week. Therefore, the due date for these assignments will be Tuesday at 11:55pm. However, you will have a 24-hour grace period for this assignment, meaning that you can submit your results/reflection until Wednesday at 11:55pm. At the end of the grace period, the experiment and reflection assignment will close. Any reflections not completed by the expiration of the grace period will receive a score of 0. Note that because participation in the weekly reflection is worth < 1% per week, the assignment deadline is flexible, and your lowest 2 marks will be dropped, **I will not accept any accommodations or excuses for late work.**

Exams (80%)

There will be two exams in the course. These exams will be IN PERSON and CLOSED BOOK. The midterm (37%) will cover the course material from weeks 1-5. The final (43%) will be cumulative (all course material will be covered).

***** Final Exams are always exempt from the academic considerations policy. *****

***** The Midterm Exam is the designated course component that is exempt from the academic considerations policy. *****

Both exams will follow a similar format comprising multiple-choice items. Exam items will assess a range of learning outcomes including general knowledge of course material, application of course material to real-world scenarios, interpretation of and critical thinking about social psychological findings and understanding of social psychology theories. The items will not be directly drawn from any test-bank. To prepare for the exams, please do your best to learn and understand the course content. Anything presented in any of the course materials may be tested on the exams (exceptions to this rule will be clearly noted). Your engaged participation while reading, listening to the lectures, and completing the research reflections will help you do well on the exams.

The **midterm has been scheduled** for week 7 (**TIME/LOCATION TBD**). The midterm is synchronous, and in person. The final exam is synchronous and in person. It will be scheduled by the registrar during the **December exam period**. If you are an accommodated student, your time will be adjusted according to the time listed in your official accommodation. To receive your accommodation, you **MUST** write the exam with accessible education. One and only one make-up time will be offered for the midterm. This will take place approximately two weeks after the original exam date. A make-up exam will also be offered for the final. It will take place in January. The exact times/dates will be announced on OWL and you must have received a consideration from academic counseling to take these make-up exams. Note that the format and/or items on the make-up exam may differ from the main final exam (although the make-up final exam will remain a cumulative exam). Please ensure that any travel plans you make during the semester allow you to complete the make-up exams in case you need to miss a main exam time.

Both exams will be in-person, proctored and conducted closed book. No devices of any kind will be allowed. You will be allowed one “cheat sheet” of notes for the midterm and two cheat sheets for the final exam. Your cheat-sheet(s) may include any course material that you think will help you on the relevant exam and you may use both the front and back sides of each paper. Each cheat sheet may not include more than a single piece of “letter” sized paper (no stapled, glued, or taped elements are allowed). Your cheat sheet(s) will be checked by the proctors. If they are found to be in violation of the requirements the proctors may confiscate them during the exam. You may take an exam only once and are expected to work independently. The answers on the exam must be entirely your own work. If there is evidence that you worked with another student on the exam or that the work is not entirely your own, you will receive a score of 0. Evidence of working with others, sharing test items, etc., will be formally pursued as academic misconduct.

POLICY ON MISSING COURSEWORK

Reading Annotations: Assignments are due at 5:00pm on Friday evening of the week they are due (see schedule below). The grace period for completing your annotations is until Sunday at 11:55pm. Please ensure that you give yourself enough time to complete your submission by this time. There is no need to email the course staff about late readings, as the submission portal will remain available until the grace period expires. If your annotations have not been completed by this time, they will receive a score of 0. Because the annotations are worth < 1% each, there is a grace period between the due date and annotation portal closure, and the lowest 2 scores are dropped, **I will not accept any excuses for missed annotations.**

Research Reflections: Reflections are due at 11:55pm on Tuesday evening of the week they are due (see schedule below). The 24-hour grace period for completing your annotations is until Wednesday at 11:55pm. Please ensure that you give yourself enough time to complete your submission by this time. There is no need to email the course staff about late submissions, as the submission portal will remain available until the grace period expires. If your reflection has not been completed by this time, it will receive a score of 0. Because the reflections are worth < 1% each, there is a grace period between the due date and reflection portal closure, and the lowest 2 scores are dropped, **I will not accept any excuses for missed reflections.**

Exams: If you need to miss an exam due to illness, class schedule conflict, or other issue, you MUST request relief from academic counselling. Without an approved consideration from academic counselling, you will receive a score of 0 on the exam. You will have **an opportunity to make up the final exam**. The make-up final exam will be held on a date and time in January that will be announced on OWL. Note that the make-up exam may include new test questions and/or make this an oral exam.

You will **have ONLY ONE opportunity to make up the midterm exam (the make-up time/date will be announced on OWL)**. If you must miss the midterm or the make-up midterm for any reason and if you have an approved consideration from academic counseling, you will receive a midterm score based on the items on the final exam that cover the same content as the midterm. Your proportion correct on these items will be used to interpolate a midterm score for

you. Your final exam score will then be calculated based on the proportion of items you get correct that cover content from the second part of the course (after week 6).

Students who encounter extenuating circumstances affecting their academic responsibilities may submit a request for academic consideration in accordance with Western University's Academic Consideration policies. Requests must be submitted through the [Student Absence Portal](#) and may require supporting documentation.

Course grades within the Psychology Department are expected to be distributed around the following averages:

70%	1000-level to 2099-level courses
72%	2100-2999-level courses
75%	3000-level courses
80%	4000-level courses

In the event that course grades are significantly higher or lower than these averages, instructors may be required to make adjustments to course grades. Such adjustment might include the normalization of one or more course components and/or the re-weighting of various course components.

Policy on Grade Rounding

Course grades are rounded to the nearest whole number. No additional assignments will be offered to enhance a final grade. Requests to change a grade because it is needed for a future program will not be considered.

6 Assessment/Evaluation Schedule

Weekly Reading Annotation & Reflection Assignments

On Monday of each week, a new lesson, including associated reading and reflection will be released on OWL, starting in Week 2. The **reflections** will be due on Tuesday at 11:55pm and the **annotations** will be due on Friday at 5:00pm. (See note below for exception)

Midterm Exam

TBD (Week 7)

Final Exam

TBD (December Exam Period)

7 Class Schedule (see note below)

Class	Topic	Reading/Reflection
1 9 Sep	Course Introduction	No readings this week.
2 14 Sep	Introduction to Social Psychology	https://nobaproject.com/modules/an-introduction-to-the-science-of-social-psychology https://nobaproject.com/modules/the-replication-crisis-in-psychology
3 21 Sep	Social Psychology Research and Methods	Week 3 Perusall annotations due (Friday, 5pm) Week 3 Reflection due (Tuesday, 11:55pm)
4 28 Sep	Social Cognition	Week 4 Perusall annotations due (Friday, 5pm) Week 4 Reflection due (Tuesday, 11:55pm)
5 5 Oct	Emotion	Week 5 Perusall annotations due (Friday, 5pm) Week 5 Reflection due (Tuesday, 11:55pm)
6 13 Oct	Reading week	No coursework
7 19 Oct	Midterm (In-Person, Synchronous) Time / Location TBA <i>Exam tests content from weeks 1-5</i>	No new readings/reflections
8 26 Oct	The Self and Others	Week 8 Perusall annotations due (Friday, 5pm) Week 8 Reflection due (Tuesday, 11:55pm)
9 2 Nov	Social Influence & Conformity	Week 9 Perusall annotations due (Friday, 5pm) Week 9 Reflection due (Tuesday, 11:55pm)
10 9 Nov	Attitudes & Attitude Change	Week 10 Perusall annotations due (Friday, 5pm) Week 10 Reflection due (Tuesday, 11:55pm)
11 16 Nov	Stereotypes, Prejudice & Discrimination	Week 11 Perusall annotations due (Friday, 5pm) Week 11 Reflection due (Tuesday, 11:55pm)
12 23 Nov	Group Processes	Week 12 Perusall annotations due (Friday, 5pm) Week 12 Reflection due (Tuesday, 11:55pm)
13 30 Nov	Relationships	Week 13 Perusall annotations due (Friday, 5pm) Week 13 Reflection due (Tuesday, 11:55pm)
14 7 Dec	Competition & Cooperation	Week 14 Perusall annotations due (Tuesday, 5pm)* Week 14 Reflection due (Tuesday, 11:55pm)

Exam Period	Final (In-Person, Synchronous) <i>Exam tests content from all weeks</i>	Time: TBA
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** Note: The due date for the Week 14 annotations is Tuesday (the last day of classes). The grace period for this week expires on Sunday, 13 Dec (11:55pm).*

8 Academic Integrity

Scholastic offences are treated seriously at Western University. Students are expected to understand and comply with the University's standards of academic integrity. Scholastic offences may result in penalties up to and including expulsion from the University. Please read [Western's Scholastic Offences](#) policy for definitions and examples of Scholastic offences.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices of any type may be used during exams. You may use any electronic devices you wish in all other class periods.

Plagiarism Detection Software

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western and Turnitin.com.

Use of AI

Responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools is **permitted** in this course as a support for learning, not as a substitute for critical thinking or scholarly work. All use of artificial intelligence tools must comply with Western University's academic integrity standards.

Students may use AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot) for:

- Brainstorming ideas or refining research questions
- Improving clarity, grammar, or organization
- Preliminary or background exploration of topics

AI must not be used to:

- Generate full drafts or final versions of assignments
- Replace analysis, interpretation, or synthesis
- Fabricate, misrepresent, or cite sources that the student has not independently consulted
- Bypass engagement with course materials

You are ultimately responsible for all work submitted under your name. AI output should be critically evaluated, substantially revised, and integrated thoughtfully, not copied verbatim.

All written assignments must include a brief AI Usage Statement, indicating:

- Which tools were used (if any)
- The purpose for which they were used
- How the output was modified and incorporated

Assignments submitted without an AI Usage Statement will not be accepted. Misuse of AI or failure to disclose its use may constitute a scholastic offence and will be addressed in accordance with Western University's academic integrity policies. Students are responsible for ensuring that all work complies with Western's scholastic integrity standards.

Multiple Choice Exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

9 Academic Accommodations and Accessible Education

Western University is committed to providing an accessible learning environment. Students with disabilities or medical conditions requiring accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessible Education as early as possible. Accommodations will be implemented in accordance with University policy. Please review [Western's policy on academic accommodations](#) for student with disabilities. Accessible Education provides supports and services to students with disabilities at Western. If you think you may qualify for ongoing accommodation that will be recognized in all your courses, visit [Accessible Education](#) for more information. Email: aew@uwo.ca Phone: 519 661-2147

10 Absence & Academic Consideration

Please review Western's policy on [Academic Considerations](#):

11 Other Information

Helpful Websites

- Western's academic policies are available at the [Office of the Registrar](#).
- Departmental policies are available at the [Psychology Department website](#).
- Learning supports available at [Learning Development & Success](#).

Well-being

Western University provides a range of supports to promote student well-being. Students are encouraged to seek assistance when needed. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Health and Wellness at Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain

help. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you.

Grade Appeals

If you wish to appeal a grade, please read the [policy documentation](#) on requests for relief. Please first contact the course instructor. If your issue is not resolved, you may make your appeal in writing to the Undergraduate Chair in Psychology (psyugrd@uwo.ca).

Copyright Statement

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