

## 1.0 BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

### Psych 2780E Section 550 Basic and Selected Problems in Social Psychology

Instructor:	Dr. Irene Cheung
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Email address:	icheung5@uwo.ca
Scheduled class times:	M 1:30-3:30 pm EST; W 2:30-3:30 pm EST
Office Hours:	M 10:30-11:30 am EST or by appointment
Course Website:	Access via <a href="https://owl.uwo.ca/portal">https://owl.uwo.ca/portal</a> using Western ID and password

It is recommended that you check OWL and your Western email at least once a day to ensure that you do not miss any important class announcements, messages, or emails from the instructor.

## 2.0 CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the behaviour of individuals in a social context and is one of our core courses in psychology. A research-oriented course, it treats the problems of social psychology in terms of theory, research and methodology. Topics covered will include interpersonal attraction, social perception, pro-social and antisocial behaviour, the development and changing of social attitudes, and the structure and functioning of small task groups.

Antirequisites: Psychology 2712F/G, 3780F/G or the former Psychology 170, 271.

Prerequisites: Psychology 1100E and Psychology 2830A/B. A minimum of 60% is required in Psychology 1100E. May be taken concurrently with Psychology 2830A/B.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours, 1 hour to be assigned by the instructor, 1.0 course.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course requirements. If you do not have the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in this course, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

## 3.0 COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify major concepts, topics and theories in Social Psychology.
- Be knowledgeable about methodological and theoretical issues important to the study of Social Psychology.
- Think critically about various research paradigms used in social psychological research.
- Find, read, and evaluate scientific articles in social psychology.
- Formulate research questions and testable hypotheses in social psychological research.

- Select an appropriate methodology to test a research question, execute the study, and produce a written report of the work.
- Write an APA-format research paper (literature review, methodology, results, discussion, and references).
- Reflect on the application of social psychological research and how it might be used to solve real-world problems and understand everyday life experiences.

#### 4.0 DESCRIPTION OF CLASS METHODS

Each module in the course is about two weeks in duration and consists of the following:

1. **Readings.** This will involve reading chapters from the textbook, empirical articles, and other sources.
2. **Lectures.** There will be short lectures on key concepts, themes, and issues related to each topic.
3. **Quiz.** There will be a quiz for each topic consisting of multiple choice questions.
4. **Participation.** Students will be asked to reflect on a topic from each module. This may be in written or discussion format.

During the course, students will also be working in small groups on a **major research project**. Students will be required to conduct a study using an experimental design on a topic provided by the instructor or a topic of the group's own choosing. Students will also have the opportunity to reflect on theories and broader themes related to the course through writing **critical reflection papers**.

#### 5.0 TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER SOURCES

Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., Akert, R. M., & Fehr, B. (2021). *Social Psychology*, Seventh Canadian Edition. Pearson Education Inc.

A digital copy of the textbook may be purchased through the UWO bookstore:

<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/cebcodid35496>

#### 6.0 METHOD OF EVALUATION

1. **Module quizzes (20%):** At the end of each topic, there will be a quiz consisting of multiple choice questions. The two lowest quiz marks will be dropped from the final course grade. The quizzes may cover material from the textbook, lectures, and activities. Quizzes can be completed during the dates the topic is covered, and once the quiz has started, students will have a set amount of time to complete it. The dates and time limit for each quiz will be posted on OWL.
2. **Participation (10%):** For each module, students will be asked to think about the select topics in more depth. For example, students may be asked to read an empirical paper about a current event and reflect on how it connects to course concepts, or to provide an example of a social psychological phenomenon. The two lowest participation marks will be dropped from the final course grade. The dates and grading rubric will be posted on OWL.

3. **Research Project (40%).** Students will be working in small groups to design an experiment to test a research question. Each group will be meeting the instructor on a regular basis, preferably during the assigned lecture time, but alternate times are also possible. Each student will be required to submit an **ethics application (15%)** and an **APA-style report of the experiment (25%)**. Therefore, all work submitted for the project will be completed *independently*. More details will be posted on OWL.
4. **Critical reflections (30%).** Two critical reflections will be assigned during the course. At the start of the course, students will be asked to submit a critical reflection on their current knowledge and perspectives about psychological research and social psychology (**10%**). At the end of the course, students will be asked to submit a critical reflection consisting of several broader questions related to the course content (**20%**). These questions may ask students to think about how they have met the learning outcomes of the course, identify broader themes in the course that have been observed in different topics, reflect on their assumptions and biases about their environment and others, or apply a theory to solve a social issue. They may also be asked to reflect on the research skills that they learned in the course. More details will be posted on OWL.

## 6.1 SCHEDULE OF DUE DATES FOR COURSE WORK

Course Component	Due Date	Value
Module quizzes	Dates posted on OWL	20%
Participation	Dates posted on OWL	10%
Critical reflection	Sep 20, 2021	10%
Ethics Application*	December 6, 2021	15%
Research paper**	March 21, 2022	25%
Final critical reflection	April 1, 2022	20%

*Note.* All assignments must be submitted electronically on OWL.

\*Data collection may not begin until the group receives ethics approval.

\*\*Students' research paper will only be graded if their ethics application has been completed and submitted. Students who submit a research paper without a completed ethics application will receive a zero on their paper.

## 7.0 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, READINGS, & GROUP PROJECT

Dates	Topic	Readings	Group Project
Sep 8	Introduction to course		Intro to group project
Sep 13-26	Willpower	Francis & Job (2018) Logel & Cohen (2012)	Meet your group members
Sep 27-Oct 10	Research methods	Morling (2015), pp. 271-302 Morling (2015), pp. 343-365	Read main paper & explore literature
Oct 11-24	Social cognition	Text Ch. 3	Generate research questions & review ethics module
Oct 25-31	Social perception	Text Ch. 4	Design study to test research question
Nov 1-7	Fall reading week		
Nov 8-14	Social perception	Text Ch. 4	Design study to test research question
Nov 15-28	The self	Text Ch. 5	Complete ethics application (done independently)
Nov 29-Dec 6	<i>Work on Research Project</i>		Ethics application due Dec 6.
Winter break			
Jan 3-16	Attitudes and Attitude Change	Text Ch. 6	Create online survey using Qualtrics
Jan 17-30	Conformity	Text Ch. 7	Finalize online survey; Review ethics application with instructor (in groups)
Jan 31-Feb13	Group Processes	Text Ch. 8	Data collection ( <i>groups may not begin data collection until approval received from the instructor</i> )
Feb 14-18	Interpersonal Attraction	Text Ch. 9	Data analysis and interpretation
Feb 19-27	Winter reading week		
Feb 28-Mar 6	Interpersonal Attraction	Text Ch. 9	Data analysis and interpretation; Write research paper
Mar 7-20	Prejudice	Text Ch. 12	Write research paper
Mar 21-Apr 1	Special topics in social psychology. Course wrap-up. Period for completing report and final course reflection.		Paper due Mar 21 Final reflection due Apr 1.

## **8.0 POLICY ON GRADING STANDARDS**

Students at Huron University College should consider a grade in the range from 70-74 to be evidence of satisfactory performance in a 2100-level Psychology course. Grades in the B+ (75-79) or A (80-89%) ranges will only be awarded for performance that is demonstrably superior to the second-year standard associated with the Major or Minor modules. A grade of A+ (90-100%) will only be awarded very rarely and only for work that is truly exceptional.

## **9.0 SUBMISSION OF WORK**

Please note that ALL written work must be submitted electronically through the course website, which allows TurnItIn to conduct a plagiarism check (you do not need to go to the TurnItIn website). Please allow ample time for your submission—this means that you should avoid submitting your paper last minute. The TurnItIn report can sometimes take a while to generate so submit your paper as early as possible. If you are having issues with your electronic submission, you must contact the instructor BEFORE the deadline. Do NOT submit your paper as an email attachment to the instructor and expect to use that as a record of when you submitted your paper as this submission will not contain a TurnItIn report.

## **10.0 PENALTIES FOR LATE SUBMISSIONS AND MISSED QUIZZES AND MINI-ASSIGNMENTS**

**An electronic copy of written work is due at 11:55 pm EST.** The late penalty is 2% a day for up to 21 days (including weekends). Any written work turned in later than the 21st day following the due date will receive a grade of zero. Extensions for written work are normally considered only before the deadline and granted for medical reasons deemed acceptable by the Dean or his or her designate. Additional information regarding University policy regarding relief based on medical grounds appears in the Appendix.

Students who miss more than two quizzes or two mini-assignments for their participation grade over the year will have the remaining quizzes and mini-assignments reweighted only with recommendations for accommodation.

## **11.0 UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

The Senate policies in force for this course (i.e., academic accommodation, accessibility, academic misconduct, course drop dates, and other related university policies) may be found posted on the OWL course site.

## **Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022**

### **Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information**

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### **Pandemic Contingency**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, typically using a combination of synchronous instruction (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) and asynchronous material (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor. In the unlikely event that changes to the grading scheme are necessary, these changes will be clearly communicated as soon as possible.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

### **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/attendance.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf).

### **Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf). The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf).

### **Turnitin.com**

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 The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

### **Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)**

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

### **Academic Consideration for Missed Work**

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf) are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>.

### **Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence**

**(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade:  
Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

**(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca).**

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca) for any further questions or information.

**Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>  
Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>  
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>



Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>  
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>  
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

**Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western**

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: [huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca)

Community Safety Office: [safety@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:safety@huron.uwo.ca)

Chaplaincy: [gthorne@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:gthorne@huron.uwo.ca)

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.