



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

## PSY 250 Social Psychology

Fall 2023

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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This course is a comprehensive exploration of social psychology from the perspective of human beings. It provides a general overview of how people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced in social psychology based on classic and contemporary findings from the social psychological literature. The major topics in this course include psychological methods, social cognition, social perception, attitudes and attitude change, interpersonal attraction, aggression and prejudice. Throughout this course, students will be encouraged to think about how research in social psychology can shed a light on events going around the world.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop an understanding of central questions and issues in contemporary psychology;
2. Describe the skill to critically evaluate the major areas of psychology;
3. Connect psychological assumptions to personal experience and social life;
4. Apply scientific methods in data collection and analysis;
5. Enhance academic writing skills.

### **PREREQUISITES**

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PSY100 Introduction to Psychology

### **GRADING**

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Essays	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### **Required Texts:**

Elliot Aronson, Timothy D. Wilson, Beverley Fehr & Robin M. Akert, *Social Psychology*, 6th Edition, Pearson Canada Inc. Press, 2017.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Introduction to Social Psychology Topic 2: Social Psychology and Social Problems Topic 3: Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research Topic 4: Social Cognition: How We Think about the Social World Essay#1 <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#1



Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b>          Topic 5: Personality Tests and the Representativeness Heuristic          Topic 6: Controlled Social Cognition: High-Effort Thinking          Topic 7: Social Perception: How We Come to Understand Other People          Topic 8: Implicit Personality Theories: Filling in the Blanks          Essay#2  <b>Assessments:</b>          Quiz#2</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b>          Topic 9: The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context          Topic 10: The Self: Understanding Ourselves in a Social Context (Cont.)          Topic 11: Attitudes and Attitude Change: Influencing Thoughts, Feelings, and Behaviour          Topic 12: Changing Our Attitudes because of Our Behaviour: The Theory of Cognitive Dissonance  <b>Assessments:</b>          Midterm#1</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b>          Topic 13: Conformity: Influencing Others          Topic 14: Informational Social Influence: The Need to Know What's "Right"                  Normative Social Influence: The Need to Be Accepted                  Minority Influence: When the Few Influence the Many          Topic 15: Group Processes: Influence in Social Groups          Topic 16: How Groups Influence the Behaviour of Individuals  <b>Assessments:</b>          Midterm#2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b>          Topic 17: Interpersonal Attraction: From First Impressions to Close Relationships          Topic 18: Prosocial Behavior: Why Do People Help?          Topic 19: Aggression: Why We Hurt Other People          Topic 20: Prejudice: Causes and Cures  <b>Assessments:</b>          Final Exam</p>

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.



If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (e.g., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed.



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The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.