

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

SOSC2210 Social Psychology (Fall 2026)

3 Credits

Prerequisites: SOSC1960 Introduction to Psychology, SOSC1969 Discovering Mind and Behavior, OR SOSC1980 Psychology of Personal Growth

The Teaching Team

Instructor: Annie Shu (annieshu@ust.hk)

Teaching Assistant: KaYee Wong (egkayee@ust.hk); Vivien Pong (vivienpong@ust.hk)

Office Hours: By appointment

*When contacting us by email, please ***prefix the subject line*** of your message with the course code [SOSC2210 – Fall26]. Use your university email account only. Do NOT leave your messages in the Canvas inbox.

Lecture Time: Tue, Thu 1030 – 1150
Venue: LG3008

***Lecture will NOT be recorded.**

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.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. understand the fundamental concepts and theories in social psychology;
2. familiarize with the key classical and contemporary studies in social psychology;
3. evaluate research studies in social psychology; AND
4. get insights into our relationship with other people and the society where we live.

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided below, outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

Summary

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Lecture Reflection	20%	24/9 & 29/10/2026
Group Presentation	10%	10/11, 12/11, 17/11, 19/11/2026 6/10/2026 (consultation session)
Group Video & PPT	15% + 5%	7/11/2026
Quiz 1	25%	8/10/2026
Quiz 2	25%	26/11/2026

Lecture Reflection

- In two lectures, reflect on some questions about the social psychological concepts discussed in lectures. Questions will be released on Canvas on the lecture day.
- Deadlines for Lecture Reflections:

Lecture	Deadline
Self-Regulation	By 18:00 (HKT), 24/9/2026
Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviors	By 18:00 (HKT), 29/10/2026

**No submissions will be accepted after 18:00 HKT on the due date.*

- Follow the instructions on Canvas carefully. Words exceeding the specified limit will NOT be graded.

Group Presentation

- In a group of 5 people, students will introduce a social psychology concept (or theory) with the public as their target audience. Students will present their work in 12 minutes (plus a 3-minute Q&A). The purpose of this presentation is to apply concepts and theories in social psychology to real-life experiences, so the contents should be linked to findings in social psychology. More details can be found in the separate guidelines.
- Each group will submit the PPT slides illustrating the social psychological concept with a real-life phenomenon.
- A consultation timeslot will be assigned to each group. Prepare and bring your questions to the consultation session. Because of the time constraint, be punctual if you want to consult the teaching team with your questions. 1% out of the total score will be deducted for absence from each of these sessions.
- Attendance of the consultation session and all presentation sessions is required. 1% out of the total score will be deducted for absence from each of these sessions.

Quizzes

- Two close-note and close-book quizzes will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. Items may include MC, true/false, fill-in-the-blanks, and/or short questions.
- Both quizzes cover materials discussed in the lectures. Recommended readings are listed in the lecture slides, but they will NOT be included in the quiz. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding of the course contents.
- The details and coverages of the two quizzes are stated below:

Quiz	Date	Covered Topics
Quiz 1	8/10/2026	Introduction Research Methods in Social Psychology The Duplex Mind The Self Self-Regulation and Choices

Quiz 2	26/11/2026	Social Reasoning Attitudes and Intergroup Relations Social Influence and Persuasion Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviors Interpersonal Attraction
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- Arrive on time for the quiz as no additional time will be given for students arriving late.
- No make-up quizzes will be given to students who are absent from the quizzes unless students can provide validated medical reasons. You should notify the teaching team (through email) about your absence by attaching your official medical certificate ***within 24 hours of the original quiz date*** if you wish to arrange for a make-up quiz. All make-up quizzes will ONLY be in the form of essay questions.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Lecture Reflection	ILO1, ILO4	Participation in class assesses students' ability to understand the key theories and concepts covered in class, and allow students to apply these subject matters to their real-life experience.
Group Presentation	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4	This task assesses students' ability to understand the fundamental knowledge and key concepts in social psychology (ILO1), familiarize the key classical and contemporary findings in social psychology (ILO2), evaluate research studies in social psychology (ILO3) and apply the key concepts reasonably to the real-life setting (ILO4).
Quizzes	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	Quizzes are designed to assess students' understanding and familiarity of the fundamental knowledge, key concepts (ILO1), implications of the research findings in social psychology (ILO2) and evaluate research findings in social psychology (ILO3).

Final Grade Descriptors

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a deep understanding of the fundamental knowledge and key concepts in social psychology. Familiarizes very well with the key classical and contemporary studies in social psychology. Exhibits exceptional critical thinking skills in evaluating the theories and concepts in social psychology. Reasonably applied the concepts to real-life setting with both practicality and innovation.

B	Good Performance	Shows good understanding of the fundamental knowledge and key concepts in social psychology. Familiarizes well with the key classical and contemporary studies in social psychology. Exhibits good critical thinking skills in evaluating the theories and concepts in social psychology. Applied the concepts to real-life setting with only practicality.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Possesses adequate understanding of the fundamental knowledge and key concepts in social psychology. Demonstrates satisfactory familiarity with the key classical and contemporary studies in social psychology, but with some misunderstandings. Shows satisfactory critical thinking skills in evaluating the theories and concepts in social psychology. Applied the concepts to real-life setting, but with limited practicality.
D	Marginal Pass	Has very basic understanding of the fundamental knowledge and key concepts in social psychology. Shows minimal familiarity with the key classical and contemporary studies in social psychology. Shows limited critical thinking skills in evaluating the theories and concepts in social psychology. Applied the concepts to real-life setting with minimal practicality.
F	Fail	Demonstrates insufficient understanding of the fundamental knowledge and key concepts in social psychology. Lacks critical thinking skills in evaluating the theories and concepts in social psychology. Unable to apply the concepts to real-life setting and with no practicality.

Course AI Policy

Use of GenAI in project and individual paper is permitted. Students have to sign a declaration and include the prompts requested.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two to four weeks of submission. Feedback on assignments will include comments on strengths and areas for improvement. Students who have further questions about the feedback including marks should consult the instructor or Tas within five working days after the feedback is received.

Assignment Submission Policy

1. Lecture Reflection – NO submissions will be accepted after 18:00 HKT on the due date.
2. Group Project – Late submission policy is stated as follows:
 - **Grace-period:** A 5-hour grace period after the deadline applies to all submissions. Submissions received less than 5 hours after the deadline will NOT be penalized. Score deduction policy will be as follows:
 - A 50% score deduction off the assigned score: Any submission later than 5 hours to 24 hours from the due date
 - A 100% score deduction off the assigned score: Any submission later than 24 hours to 48 hours from the due date
 - NO acceptance: Any submission later than 48 hours from the due date
 - All these policies will be strictly enforced. NO exception will be made
 - To ensure that your efforts are reflected in the course grade, please make sure to do any submission on time.

- **File format:** Only the submitted file will be graded, even if you claim to have submitted a wrong file, a wrong assignment, an incomplete assignment, or a corrupted file. It is your responsibility to make sure that your submitted file is correct and free of problems. Please check carefully of your submitted files on Canvas.
- **Word limit:** Score deduction applies to all submissions over the word limit. Details can be found in the assignment guidelines.

Recommended Texts and Materials

Baumeister, R. F., & Bushman, B. J. (2021). *Social Psychology and Human Nature* (5th edition). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

[The 2021 edition has been reserved in the library. Some other relevant books have been reserved in library under the course title.]

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

Other Notes

Interaction in Class

I believe interactions (both verbal and non-verbal) between the teaching team and the students (and among students) are one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. Your active participations in class discussions or activities will not only enhance your learning, but also motivate the teaching team to do better! Stay behind the class and share with me your thoughts about the course contents.

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will be posted to Canvas before each class, but the contents will be slightly different from the displayed slides. I hope to encourage you to take your notes. Note-taking facilitates your reflection and assimilation of the lecture contents.

Communication

Expect that your emails will be responded to during weekdays 10 am to 6 pm HKT. Do NOT inbox your message on Canvas.

Teaching Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	Sep 1	Introduction
	Sep 3	Research Methods in Social Psychology
2	Sep 8	The Duplex Mind
	Sep 10	
3	Sep 15	The Self
	Sep 17	
4	Sep 22	Self-Regulation
	Sep 24	
5	Sep 29	Social Reasoning
	Oct 1	<i>No Class – National Day</i>
6	Oct 6	Group Project Consultation
	Oct 8	Quiz 1
7	Oct 13	Social Reasoning (con't)
	Oct 15	Attitude and Intergroup Relations
8	Oct 20	Social Influence and Persuasion
	Oct 22	
9	Oct 27	Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviors
	Oct 29	
9	Nov 3	Interpersonal Attraction
	Nov 5	
10	Nov 10	Group Project Presentation
	Nov 12	Group Project Presentation
11	Nov 17	Group Project Presentation
	Nov 19	Group Project Presentation
12	Nov 24	Quiz Review
	Nov 26	Quiz 2

Important Dates

Date	Submission
Sep 17	Finalize Group List on Canvas
Nov 7	Group Video & PPT
Nov 30	Peer Evaluation