

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

UG Course Syllabus

SOSC2210 Social Psychology (Spring 2025)

3 Credits

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

Instructor

Name: Annie Shu

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Teaching Assistant

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

Lecture Time: Tue, Thu 15:00 – 16:20
Venue: LG3008

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
Class Participation	10%	8/5/2025
Group Presentation	20%	17, 22, 24, 29/4/2025 11 or 13/3/2025 (consultation sessions)
Group PPT Slides	10%	14/4/2025
Group Video	10%	9/5/2025
Quiz 1	25%	18/3/2025
Quiz 2	25%	8/5/2025

Class Participation

- You are strongly encouraged to participate actively in class activities and group discussions. The activities or discussions will be issues that you will come across in your everyday life that are related to the course contents.
- Your contributions in the class discussions or activities will be recorded on Qualtrics and count towards your participation score.

Group Presentation and Video

- In a group of 5 people for 12 minutes (plus a 3-minute Q&A), students will design a campaign to reduce a stereotype about university students. 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 or concepts or theories in social psychology. More details can be found in the separate guidelines.
- Each group has to submit the PPT slides and a video explaining the details of the campaign.
- All group members should attend and discuss with the teaching team your presentation in the consultation session.
- Attendance of all presentation sessions is required. 1% (out of 30%) will be deducted for absence from each session.

Quiz 1 and Quiz 2

- Two quizzes will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. They will include multiple-choice questions only and will be non-cumulative. Both quizzes cover all materials in lectures and required readings (the relevant chapters will appear on the last page of the lecture handouts).
- The coverage for Quiz 1 and Quiz 2 will be announced in the lectures.
- Supplementary readings are also listed in the lecture slides, but they will NOT be included in the quizzes. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding of the course contents.
- 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
Class Participation	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 and Video	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).
Quiz 1 and Quiz 2	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.
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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.

Late Submission Policy

A 5-hour grace period after the deadline is applied to all submissions. Submissions received less than 5 hours after the deadline will NOT be penalized. NO submissions will be accepted after the grace period of the due date.

Mark deduction applies to any assignments over the word limit. Details can be found in the assignment guidelines.

Required Texts and Materials

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

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	Required Readings Chapters
1	Feb 4	Introduction and Research Methods in Social Psychology	1
	Feb 6		
2	Feb 11	Self	3
	Feb 13		
3	Feb 18	Choices and Self-Regulation	4
	Feb 20		
4	Feb 25	Attitudes and Social Influence	7
	Feb 27		
5	Mar 4	Stereotype and Prejudice	13
	Mar 6	Social Reasoning I	5
6	Mar 11	Group Project Consultation	
	Mar 13		
7	Mar 18	Quiz 1 (from Week 1 to 5)	
	Mar 20	Social Reasoning II	5
8	Mar 25	Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviors	9, 10
	Mar 27		
9	<i>Apr 1</i>	<i>Mid-Term Break</i>	
	<i>Apr 3</i>		
9	Apr 8	Attraction and Relationship	11, 12
	Apr 10		
10	Apr 15	Culture and Social Psychology	2
	Apr 17	Group Project Presentation	
Apr 22			
Apr 24			
12	Apr 29	<i>Labor Day</i>	
	<i>May 1</i>		
13	May 6	Quiz Review	
	May 8	Quiz 2 (Week 7 to 10)	

Important Dates

Date	Submission
Feb 17	Finalize Group List on Canvas
Apr 14	Group PPT
May 9	Group Video
May 12	Peer Evaluation