

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

SOSC2210 Social Psychology (Spring 2026)

3 Credits

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

Instructor

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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: Mon, Wed 12:00 – 13:20
Venue: 2404

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%	4/3 & 1/4/2026
Group Presentation	15%	22/4, 27/4, 29/4, 4/5/2026 9/3/2026 (consultation session)
Group Video	15%	20/4/2026
Quiz 1	25%	11/3/2026
Quiz 2	25%	6/5/2026

Lecture Reflection

- In two designated lectures, reflect on some social psychological concepts that will be discussed in class. Questions will be posted on Canvas, with **deadlines set for 18:00 HKT on the corresponding lecture day.**
- Deadlines for Lecture Reflections:

Lecture	Deadline
L5 – Social Reasoning	By 18:00 (HKT), 4/3/2026
L8 – Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviors	By 18:00 (HKT), 1/4/2026

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 5-minute 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.
- Attendance of all presentation sessions is required. 1% (out of 30%) will be deducted for absence from each session.

Quizzes

- 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
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.

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. 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 Chapter
1	Feb 2	[L1] Introduction; Research Methods in Social Psychology	1
	Feb 4		
2	Feb 9	[L2] Duplex Mind	2
	Feb 11	[L3] The Self	3
3	Feb 16		
	Feb 18	Lunar New Year	
4	Feb 23	[L4] Self-Regulation and Choices	4
	Feb 25		
5	Mar 2	[L5] Social Reasoning*	5
	Mar 4		
6	Mar 9	Group Project Consultation	
	Mar 11	Quiz 1 (L1 to L5)	
7	Mar 16	[L6] Attitudes and Intergroup Relations	7, 13
	Mar 18		
8	Mar 23	[L7] Social Influence and Persuasion	8
	Mar 25		
9	Mar 30	[L8] Prosocial and Antisocial Behaviors*	9, 10
	Apr 1		
9	Apr 6	Mid-Term Break	
	Apr 8		
10	Apr 13	[L9] Attraction and Relationship	11,12
	Apr 15		
11	Apr 20	[L10] Culture and Application of Social Psychology	2
	Apr 22	Group Project Presentation	
12	Apr 27		
	Apr 29		
13	May 4	Quiz 2 (L6 to L10)	
	May 6		

Important Dates

Date	Submission
Feb 16	Finalize Group List on Canvas
Apr 20	Group Video & PPT
May 8	Peer Evaluation