



Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Social Psychology
SOCI 2150A (0.5 Credit) Fall 2026

Instructor: Kory Smith

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Class Time: Thursday, 6:05 p.m. – 8:55 p.m.

Method of Delivery: In-Person

Office Hours: By appointment (Teams/telephone)

Prerequisites: SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003, or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002

Notice: This syllabus is subject to minor modification throughout the semester at my discretion. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the contents of this course outline. Please approach me with any questions or need for clarification.

Course Description: We are social beings and our thoughts, feelings, and actions are strongly influenced by our social environment. Social psychology is the theoretical and empirical study of society and the individual. This course will explore how individuals think, behave, and are influenced by others. This course will introduce you to the subject matter of social psychology and familiarize you with the vocabulary and concepts. Current theories in the field will be applied to real-life situations to make sense of human behaviour. Major topics covered will include self-perception and self-presentation; social perception; social cognition; attitude formation and change; persuasion; social influence; group processes; intergroup relations; stereotype, prejudice, and discrimination; aggression; altruism and prosocial behaviour; interpersonal attraction and close relationships; and research methods. Tests and assignments will be used to help you strengthen your studying, research, and writing skills. Your grade in the course will be based on weekly discussion question responses, a mid-term test, and a final exam.

Learning Objectives: The learning objectives for this course are twofold. There are substantive objectives (things I want you to know about) and there are skills objectives (things you can learn to do better).

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate broad knowledge of social determinants of behaviour;
- Identify, explain, and evaluate key terms, theoretical and methodological approaches, and debates in the field of social psychology; and
- Articulate trends in social psychology

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Review and understand complex university-level readings in social psychology;
- Conduct library and online research;
- Locate peer-reviewed research and show critical thinking about research findings in social psychology
- Express knowledge of social psychology in written form;
- Produce written work which is clear, accurate and concise; and
- Take effective university lecture notes

Instructor's Responsibilities: I am responsible for offering engaging lectures and facilitating learning of the course material. I will also be available for consultation and return graded work in a timely manner.

Students' Responsibilities: You must complete weekly readings, attend lectures, and hand in assignments on time. The course has been designed so that the required reading and lecture material complement each other but do not replicate each other. This means that both lecture attendance and reading are essential for success in this course. One of the outcomes of this course is that you will develop listening and note-taking skills. The lecture material will be posted online, but all of the relevant material will not necessarily be on the PowerPoint slides. It is your responsibility to discern what material is important. Listening and note-taking skills are developed over time, and I will always be available to answer clarifying questions. You must also adhere to Carleton University's Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy (you can access the policy at [Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities-Policy-2025.pdf](#)).

Learning Environment: In this course, you are expected to learn from the readings, your instructor, and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the instructor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Communicating with the Instructor: Please email me from your Carleton University email account. I will attempt to reply to all student queries within 48 hours. Before emailing me a question you should:

- Consult the syllabus;
- Check the Brightspace course page for announcements; and
- Communicate with your assigned TA

Required Textbook: We will be working with the following textbook: Safdar, S. & Sanderson, C.A. (2021). *Social Psychology: Second Canadian edition*. Mississauga: John Wiley & Sons Canada, Ltd. The textbook is available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore for \$104.95 (paper copy) or \$34.00 (access to the ebook). Any additional readings will be made available on Brightspace.

Course Requirements and Assignments: Your final grade in this course is based on attendance and participation, a mid-term test, and a final exam. All written assignments are to be completed individually. Discussing ideas with others is encouraged, but each of you must complete and submit your own work. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per business day late, up until 10 days, after which they will not be accepted. If for some reason you cannot complete the work required, please see me immediately. Please do not leave things to the last minute; if you are struggling to meet deadlines, come see me.

Assignment of Grades: All grades assigned by me are provisional grades. Final grades are released by the Registrar. Grades will be assigned according to the Undergraduate Calendar (see General Regulations, Academic Standing and Conduct).

Course Evaluation:

Type	Weight	Due date
10 Weekly discussion question responses	50%	Ongoing
Mid-term test	20%	November 5, 2026
Final exam	30%	TBD

Weekly Discussion Question Responses: Discussions provide students with the opportunity for more focused, continuous engagement with the course material and social issues. During the second half of each class, you will be tasked with writing a response to a discussion question. You will not have a discussion question the first week of the semester (September 10, 2026), the week of the mid-term test (November 5, 2026), and the final class of the semester (December 10, 2026). Your response should include reference to the assigned course content (weekly reading and lecture content). Your response can also identify questions that come from the course content and/or what you found interesting. More in-depth responses will refer to and use concepts presented in the reading and lecture. Responses should be approximately 2 paragraphs long. Your TA will grade your responses based on how relevant it is to the discussion question and the academic quality of the response. A detailed rubric is available on Brightspace. Your TA will grade your response by the next class.

Mid-Term Test: An in-person closed-book mid-term test is scheduled for one hour on Thursday, November 5, 2026. The test is multiple-choice and short-answer format. The mid-term test focuses on course material covered in week 1 to week 7.

Final Exam: An in-person closed-book final exam is set for two hours and scheduled during the regular December exam period by the University. The December examination schedule will be available online on October 9, 2026. The final exam is multiple-choice and short-answer format. The final exam focuses on course material covered in week 8 to week 13.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (September 10)

Topic: Introducing Social Psychology

Readings: Chapter 1

Week 2 (September 17)

Topic: The Self: Self-Perception and Self-Presentation

Readings: Chapter 2

Week 3 (September 24)

Topic: Social Perception

Readings: Chapter 3

Week 4 (October 1)

Topic: Social Cognition

Readings: Chapter 4

Week 5 (October 8)

Topic: Attitude Formation and Change

Readings: Chapter 5

Week 6 (October 15)

Topic: Persuasion

Readings: Chapter 6

Week 7 (October 22)

Topic: Social Influence

Readings: Chapter 7

Week 8 (November 5)

Topic: Group Processes

Readings: Chapter 8

Evaluation: Mid-term test

Week 9 (November 12)

Topic: Intergroup Relations

Readings: Chapter 9

Week 10 (November 19)

Topic: Stereotype, Prejudice, and Discrimination

Readings: Chapter 10

Week 11 (November 26)

Topic: Aggression

Readings: Chapter 11

Week 12 (December 3)

Topic: Altruism and Prosocial Behaviour

Readings: Chapter 12

Week 13 (December 10)

Topic: Interpersonal Attraction and Close Relationships/Research Methods

Readings: Chapter 13 and Research Methods Module

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL COURSES AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course	DEF = Deferred	

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools: Students may use AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT) for ideas, clarifying challenging concepts or studying for tests and exams. However, the use of AI tools to generate any part of a test or exam is strictly prohibited. Unauthorized use of AI in this course will be treated as a violation of academic integrity.

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at **613-520-6608** or **pmc@carleton.ca** for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for October/November exams is October 1, 2026, and for December exams (Fall) is November 15, 2026.

For Religious Obligations

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities website:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/>

For Pregnancy

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities website: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

For Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

Plagiarism

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and

- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Assistance for All Carleton University Students

Academic and Career Development Services: <https://carleton.ca/career/>

Writing Services: <http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/>

Student Mental Health

As a university student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Other Important Information

- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton's Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) within the university. In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your MyCarletonOne account through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the MyCarleton Portal.
- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <https://students.carleton.ca/>.

Important Dates

Fall 2026

September 9	Fall term classes begin.
September 18 – 20	Full and late summer deferred examinations will be written.
September 15	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter term classes.
October 9	December exam schedule available online.
October 12	Statutory holiday. University closed.
October 26 – 30	Fall break, classes suspended.
November 15	Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall term courses.
November 27	Last day for summative or formative tests or examinations totalling more than 15% of the final grade before the official examination period.
December 11	Fall term ends. Last day of Fall term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall term courses.

December 12 – 23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
December 23	All take-home examinations are due.
December 24 – January 1	University closed.