



PSYCHOL 2720A (570)
Introduction to Social Psychology
Fall/Winter 2026 - 2027

Instructor: Dr. Corey Isaacs
Email: cisaacs3@uwo.ca

Course Information

Mode of Instruction: in-person

Calendar Description: An introduction to the theories, findings, methods, and problems encountered in the study of people as social beings. Emphasis will be placed on experimental research, conducted in the laboratory and field. Content areas include: attitudes and social cognition, social interaction and influence, group processes and applications of social psychology.

Prerequisite(s): A mark of at least 60% in 1.0 credits of Psychology at the 1000 level.

Antirequisite(s): [Psychology 2780E](#), the former Psychology 2070A/B, the former Psychology 2712F/G.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours. Priority will be given to students enrolled in a Psychology module.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: PSYCHOL

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

King's University College
Psychology 2720A (Section 570)
Introduction to Social Psychology
Fall 2026

Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Corey Isaacs

Email: cisaacs3@uwo.ca

Please send emails only from your Western email account and include "Psych 2720A" in the subject line. I will always do my best to respond to your email within 48 hours (Monday to Friday), but during busy times it may take a little longer.

Office hours: by appointment, via Zoom

Course Description:

An introduction to the theories, findings, methods, and problems encountered in the study of people as social beings. Emphasis will be placed on experimental research, conducted both in the laboratory and in the field. Content areas include attitudes, social cognition, social interaction and influence, group processes, and applications of social psychology.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students completing this course can expect to gain an understanding of the basic theories, methods, and findings in social psychology. It is also expected that students will learn to think critically about social psychological topics and will become more informed consumers of psychological research.

By the end of this course, successful students should have achieved the following outcomes:

- Identify and describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in social psychology.
- Interpret and critically evaluate social psychological research.
- Apply psychological theories and concepts to the understanding of everyday problems.
- Recognize the limits of one's own knowledge and knowledge in the field of psychology.
- Communicate ideas clearly and concisely, in language accessible to a non-specialist audience.

Mode of Instruction:

Lectures and exams for this course will be held in-person on King's University College campus. Our midterm exams will take place in our usual classroom during our scheduled class time, and our final exam will take place on campus during the December exam period. Our weekly discussion forums will take place on our OWL course website.

Course Textbook (Required):

Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., Somers, S. R., Page-Gould, E., Lewis, N., Midgley, C., & Fehr, B. (2026). *Social Psychology, 8th Canadian Edition*. Pearson Education Canada, Inc. (ISBN: 9780135975602)

The etextbook can be purchased (for \$71.99 and up, depending on format) via the Western Book Store website or directly from Pearson's website: <https://www.pearson.com/en-ca/subject-catalog/p/social-psychology-canadian-edition/P200000013191/9780135395233>

Methods of Evaluation:

Midterm Exam 1 (October 21)	20%
Midterm Exam 2 (November 18)	20%
Final Exam (December Exam Period)	40%
Weekly Online Discussions	20%

Multiple-Choice Exams:

This class includes two midterm exams (each worth 20%) and a final exam (worth 40%), as well as weekly online discussions (worth 20%). Exams will consist of multiple-choice items assessing material from both the textbook and the lectures. Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

Online Discussions:

There will be an online discussion posted to OWL during most weeks (see OWL for schedule), and you will be required to participate in any FIVE of the discussions throughout the term to earn the *Online Discussions* component of your course grade. You can choose to participate in as many of the weekly discussions as you would like, in which case your best five discussion grades will be used to calculate your *Online Discussions* grade. Each discussion forum will be open for seven days, from 12:01 AM on Sunday until 11:59 PM on Saturday.

Academic Consideration:*Exams:*

Students who fail to write an exam at the scheduled time will receive a grade of zero unless they receive formal academic consideration from their Academic Dean's office. If a student is absent from an exam with permission from their Academic Dean's office, they will be required to write the makeup exam. Note that there will only be ONE makeup exam for each midterm. If a student is also excused from the makeup exam (e.g., due to prolonged illness), the weight of the midterm exam may be reassigned to the student's final exam.

Online Discussions:

Because students are only required to participate in any five of the ten online discussions throughout the term and you have the ability to drop your lowest grades, you will not be excused from this assessment except in rare instances of ongoing medical or compassionate

circumstances. Waiting until the last five weeks to participate in the online forums will not change this, except with formal academic considerations from your Academic Dean's office.

Academic Integrity:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Possible penalties for a scholastic offence include failure of the assignment/exam, failure of the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Use of AI:

Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, co-pilot) is **not permitted** for any work submitted for evaluation. All work submitted must be the original work of the student in its entirety. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

Multiple-Choice Exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:

Changes to the class schedule will be announced in class and/or on the course website. Students are responsible for being aware of announcements made in class and online. Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

Assessment Schedule:

Midterm Exam 1	3:00 – 4:00 PM on Wednesday, October 21
- Makeup Exam	2:30 – 3:30 PM on Friday, October 30
Midterm Exam 2	3:00 – 4:00 PM on Wednesday, November 18
- Makeup Exam	2:30 – 3:30 PM on Friday, November 27
Final Exam	TBA (December 11 – 22)
Online Discussions	Sundays at 12:01 AM – Saturdays at 11:59 PM

Class Schedule:

I strongly recommend that you review the assigned chapter before class and then return to the text and read the material more carefully after we have discussed it in class. The lectures will highlight certain aspects of each topic and may include material that is not in the textbook. We will not cover all of the relevant textbook material in class; however, you are responsible for all of the material from the text as well as material presented in class.

DATE	READING	TOPIC
Sept. 9	Chapter 1	Introduction to Social Psychology
Sept. 16	Chapter 3	Social Cognition
Sept. 23	Chapter 4	Social Perception
Sept. 30	NO CLASS – Non-Instructional Day	
Oct. 7	Chapter 5	The Self
Oct. 14	NO CLASS – Reading week	
Oct. 21	MIDTERM EXAM 1 (Chapters 1, 3 – 5)	
Oct. 28	Chapter 6	Attitudes and Attitude Change
Nov. 4	Chapter 7	Conformity
Nov. 11	Chapter 8	Group Processes
Nov. 18	MIDTERM EXAM 2 (Chapters 6 – 9)	
Nov. 25	Chapter 9	Interpersonal Attraction
Dec. 2	Chapter 10	Prosocial Behavior
Dec. 9	Chapter 11	Antisocial Behavior
TBA (Dec. 11 – 22)		FINAL EXAM (Cumulative)

Department of Psychology Policies Related to AI Tools

1. Policy on the Use of Generative AI Tools

The Department of Psychology expects that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial).

The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) is not permitted for any submitted coursework unless express permission has been granted by your instructor.

Students **should not have AI tools write any part of their assignments or papers, either by copying and pasting or by paraphrasing the output.** Unauthorized use of AI constitutes an academic offence and will be subject to academic discipline.

Additional information: Students can use AI tools to clarify questions they have about course content (e.g., you can ask ChatGPT about a course concept to help with your understanding), but students should be aware that the response may be inaccurate or inconsistent with the course content. Asking your instructor is a more effective strategy. Students should note that information provided by AI tools such as ChatGPT can include mistakes, inaccuracies, biases, and outdated information. Whenever these tools are used, students should cross-verify the information provided to them. This means verifying that the sources used by AI exist and have been accurately summarized, consulting multiple original and reputable up-to-date sources to verify information, and being cautious of bias that could be present in the information provided.

2. Policy on Use of Translation Tools*

The Department of Psychology views the unapproved use of translation or language applications as an academic offence.

Any usage of translation applications or language generation by students to complete specific assigned work for this course **must be approved** by the instructor **prior** to submitting the work **and noted by the student in the submitted work** itself.

Writing text and then feeding it into a computer application to improve or translate your own words, changing a few words, and then submitting this text as if it was your own **constitutes plagiarism**. You must compose text, choose words, construct logic flow, structure sentences and paragraphs to organize, synthesize, interpret information with your own mind. When you borrow language or ideas from another person or from a machine this must be acknowledged with quotation marks and/or citations.

Why do we have this policy?

- Translation is intellectual work and produces intellectual property, thus any text which is translated must cite the translator.
- Psychology endeavors to advance students' linguistic, analytic, and reasoning competencies – this can not happen outside of specific language competencies.
- Earning a university degree signals that an individual has advanced literacy and communicative skill in the language of instruction at the university; this is English at King's University College at Western University. If translation machines are used by students without regulation, we will have no way of certifying whether these competencies exist and fewer mechanism for encouraging students to do the hard work to develop them.

** Based on the policy developed by the Department of Child and Youth Studies*

**KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2026-27**

1. Academic Accommodations (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found at [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible, and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the **Student Absence Portal**, linked on this website: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>.

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this which assessment has been designated as requiring documentation for consideration (that is, exempt from undocumented absences).
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

If an instructor has built flexibility into their assessments (e.g., “complete 8 of 10 quizzes”), this flexibility will already address consideration needs and thus academic consideration may be denied.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the “Special Examination” (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a multiple exam situation (i.e., you are scheduled to write more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:
<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College:
<https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

Good2talk is an online and phone resource for students, available 24/7, with services in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options on how to obtain help:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's and Western are committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [Mental Health and Wellness at King's](#).

You can reach supports at King's by emailing care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a Social Worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see https://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

6. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. **Check with you instructor to check which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course.** Note that although some courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

7. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

8. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

9. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.