

# PSY420H5S – Special Topics in Social Psychology

## IN-PERSON

Wednesday 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm ROOM: MN 3210

### Course Delivery

**Winter 2022 Return to Campus Update:** In order to curb the spread of COVID-19 amid the emergence of the Omicron variant, most in-person learning has been **delayed until Jan 31, 2022.** Keep in mind this date is subject to change as per the Universities need to monitor any new developments and will be keeping with the latest evidence and public health guidelines.

### Delivery Method until January 31, 2022

**ONLINE VIA Zoom:** Please see the Quercus website for the course to find out how to attend the Zoom lectures which will be offered on the days and times specified above. We will try to make these lectures as interactive as possible. For instance, you can ask questions during a lecture using the chat and raise your hand function.

### Learn Anywhere Guide for Students

<https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/students/quercus/learn-anywhere>

- University of Toronto tech [requirements for online learning](#)

### Delivery Method after January 31, 2022

In-person

### Contact Information

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Teaching Assistant  
Melanie Munroe  
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**Student hours (AKA office hours): Wednesdays 11-12 pm.** Virtual via Zoom (find the link on Quercus) and in-person.

(Be sure to register for a UTM Zoom account at <https://utoronto.zoom.us>)

### Course Description

In psychology, we often talk about people in relation to concepts like *attachment*, *happiness*, and *need to belong*. But, how do we actually measure these psychological constructs when we cannot see and touch them? Importantly, how can we be sure that research findings are based on good measurement practices and therefore seen as trustworthy? This

course explores basic issues of psychometrics – the measurement of psychological constructs -- in social psychology. We will read scholarly literature on psychometrics, discuss good practices for conceptualizing and assessing psychological constructs, and learn about how we can provide evidence for the validity and reliability of people’s responses to measures. We will practice using analytic techniques that examine measurement properties.

## Learning Outcome

The student should leave the course with a practical “measurement toolbox” which will allow them to better evaluate measurement practices used in social psychology.

## Reading Material

The course readings will consist of original research articles and some book chapters. They will be listed on Quercus and will be available through the University of Toronto library database PsycInfo.

## Course Evaluation

The evaluation in this course is based on class participation, response posts on the Quercus discussion board, a paper, and a presentation of the results of your paper.

Component/Assignments	Date	%
Active participation	Weekly	20
Response posts (on Quercus)	Weekly	20
Presentation	April 6	25
Paper	April 8	35

**Active participation:** Each student will be expected to actively engage with the course material. Students will be expected to participate orally during class and/or by sharing their thoughts on the discussion board by replying to response posts on the Quercus discussion board. The instructor will consult with the students to determine alternative ways of earning active participation points on the first day of class.

**Response posts:** By each Monday at 6 pm, please submit response posts to the Quercus discussion board. Your response posts will help facilitate Wednesday’s discussion. Response posts should include at least 2 questions or comments that address the assigned readings for the coming week; additional questions or comments can be made about the class discussion from the previous week. Response posts should not be more than 1 page single-spaced.

**Paper:** Pick a psychological construct that you find interesting and report on how it is conceptualized and measured in the research literature. What strengths and weaknesses do you see with regards to the way the construct has been defined and assessed? Evaluate your findings using the material you are learning about in class. Provide concrete directions for the future assessment and evaluation of your construct. The body of the paper should a maximum of 5 pages, single-spaced, in 12-point font; your references can be as long as needed and will not count towards the page total.

**Presentation:** Create a 5-minute presentation that contains the key points of your final paper. You will give your presentation on the final day of class. Alternative forms of presenting are also welcome (e.g., zine, video, performance, etc.), but please consult with Dr. Joanne before doing so.

## Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

**Note:** You don't need to create a new login for Canvas; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and

password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

## **IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES \*\*PLEASE READ\*\***

### **Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process**

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request **directly to the Instructor** for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>. You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

### **Supporting Documentation**

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

### **Missed Final Exam or Extension of Time beyond exam period**

Missed final exams or for extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the Office of the Registrar. <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/current-students/petitions> and follow their procedures.

### **Penalties for Lateness**

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including week-ends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

### **Academic Guidelines**

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar at: <http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/regcal/>. You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

### **AccessAbility Services**

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the AccessAbility Office (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847. <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessability/>

### **Privacy and Copyright Disclaimer**

***Notice of video recording and sharing (Download and re-use prohibited)***

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session. Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor. For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be an instructor's intellectual property covered by the Copyright Act, RSC 1985, c C-42. Course materials such as PowerPoint slides and lecture recordings are made available to you for your own study purposes. These materials cannot be shared outside of the class or "published" in any way. Posting recordings or slides to other websites without the express permission of the instructor will constitute copyright infringement.

### **Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto Mississauga is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, UTM treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

#### In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

#### On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

#### In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to **the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters** regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

#### Remote assessments:

1. Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.
2. Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.
3. Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
4. Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."
5. Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

## **Academic Rights**

### **Equity Statement**

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at [edo.utm@utoronto.ca](mailto:edo.utm@utoronto.ca) or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at [vpequity@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpequity@utmsu.ca).

## **Academic Rights**

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use University of Toronto's Detection Tool (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth 25% or more in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

*Please note that this outline is subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need additional time to cover a topic). Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class one week before. However, the assignment and test dates are fixed.*

## Course Outline

Date	Topic	Delivery Mode	Assignment Due
January 12	Introduction	Zoom	
January 19	Some measurement history	Zoom	
January 26	Construct validity	Zoom	
February 2	Reliability	In-person	
February 9	Survey development	In-person	
February 16	<b>Meet with a peer to discuss your construct (No Class)</b>		
February 23	<b>Reading Week (No Class)</b>		
March 2	Writing items	In-person	
March 9	Evaluating items and tests	In-person	
March 16	More analysis of measurement properties	In-person	
March 23	Response styles and biases	In-person	
March 30	Catch up and wrap up	In-person	
April 6	In-class presentations!	In-person	Presentation
April 8			Paper (submit on Quercus)