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Psychology 345	Social Psychology	Fall 2015
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Melissa Boyce	<b>Lecture Location:</b> ST 143
<b>Phone:</b>	403-210-6257	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> MWF 4:00 – 4:50pm
<b>Email:</b>	mboyce@ucalgary.ca	<b>TA:</b> Clark Amistad
<b>Office:</b>	A258	<b>TA Contact Info:</b> TBA
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA	

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**Course Description and Goals**

Social psychological approaches to understanding social influence, social perception and cognition, attitudes, and group dynamics.

This course surveys a wide range of areas of study within the field of social psychology. By the end of the course you should be:

1. able to identify and understand the social psychological perspective on psychological phenomenon and how it differs from perspectives in other areas of psychology and the social sciences
2. able to identify and understand the major theoretical frameworks within social psychology (e.g., social learning theory, cognitive dissonance theory, etc.) and their real life applications (e.g., aggression, attitude formation, etc.)
3. familiar with the types of research questions and research designs common in studies in this area, and able to critique research findings on relevant topics that you encounter in the media and elsewhere.

**Prerequisites**

PSYC 200 and PSYC 201 (or equivalent) – Principles of Psychology I & II

**Required Text**

Kassin, S., Fein, S., Markus, H. R., & Burke, T. (2013). *Social Psychology (Second Canadian Ed.)*, Toronto, ON: Nelson Education Ltd. (available in the university bookstore)

**Evaluation**

Exams: Three exams are scheduled for this course covering text and lecture material (including films). The first two exams are non-cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice questions. The final exam will be 2 hours in length. This final is cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice questions. No resources are allowed for any exams.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapters Covered</b>	<b>Worth</b>
<b>Exam 1</b>	Oct 9, 2015	1-5	20%
<b>Exam 2</b>	Nov 16, 2015	6-9	20%
<b>Exam 3</b>	TBA (during final exam period)	All course material (with emphasis on chapters' 10, 11, Appendix A)	30%

Max total = 70% of your mark

In-Class Group Assignments: Two in-class group assignments worth 5% each (max total = 10% of your mark). These assignments are open-book and do not require advanced preparation. They are intended to help you apply the concepts that you have learned in class. For each assignment, you will be asked to design and propose a solution to a real world issue using social psychological principles discussed in class. You will work on these assignments in groups of 3-4 and hand them in at the end of class.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Worth</b>
<b>Assignment 1</b>	Oct 21, 2015	5%
<b>Assignment 2</b>	Dec 2, 2015	5%

Thought Paper: One thought paper 3-4 pages double-spaced in length (with 12 pt Times New Roman font and 1" margins) worth 10% where you will apply social psychological theories or concepts that you have learned about in class to a real life event (either from your own life or from a newspaper article). This paper is intended to help you develop insight into everyday experiences using concepts discussed in the course. Further details will be provided in class and posted on D2L. Due October 21.

Research Proposal: One research proposal 3-4 pages double-spaced in length (with 12 pt Times New Roman font and 1" margins) worth 10% where you will propose a novel study to test a social psychological question of your choice. Your research proposal should include 1) a rationale for the research with background literature to support your hypothesis or hypotheses, and 2) a description of the method that you propose to test your research question. This research proposal is intended to help you to think about social psychological questions from a scientific perspective. Further details will be provided in class and posted on D2L. Due November 23.

You are expected to hand in a hard copy of your thought paper and research proposal at the beginning of class on the due dates. If you cannot attend class on either of those days, you must 1) drop your paper off in the box outside of A255 or 2) email me the paper as a Word file attachment before 4pm on the due date. In-class assignments are due in either hard copy or by email at the end of class on each in-class assignment date. Late papers and assignments will not be accepted without medical documentation.

**Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)**

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 8, 2015**

### **Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy**

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be "A" grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be "A" grades.

### **Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades**

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

**A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.*** An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

**A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.*** Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

**B Range: *Good Performance.*** Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

**C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.*** Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

**D range: *Marginally meets standards.*** Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

**F grade: *Course standards not met.*** Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

### Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. **In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.**

### Tentative Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	W Sep 9	Overview of the course	Course Outline
	F Sep 11	Intro to Social Psychology	Ch 1
2	M Sep 14	Intro to Social Psychology	Ch 2
	W Sep 16	Research Methods in Social Psychology	Ch 2
	F Sep 18	Research Methods in Social Psychology <i>Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term) or Fall Term half courses after this date.</i>	Ch 3
3	M Sep 21	The Social Self <i>Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i>	Ch 3
	W Sep 23	The Social Self	Ch 4
	F Sep 25	Perceiving Persons <i>Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.</i>	Ch 4
4	M Sep 28	Perceiving Persons <i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i>	Ch 5
	W Sep 30	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Ch 5
	F Oct 2	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Ch 5
5	M Oct 5	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Ch 5
	W Oct 7	Attitudes	Ch 6
	F Oct 9	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>All material to date</b>
6	M Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except	

		Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
	W Oct 14	Attitudes	Ch 6
	F Oct 16	Attitudes	Ch 6
7	M Oct 19	Attitudes	Ch 6
	W Oct 21	<b>In-Class Assignment 1</b>	<b><i>Thought Paper due at the beginning of class</i></b>
	F Oct 23	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch 7
8	M Oct 26	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch 7
	W Oct 28	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch 7
	F Oct 30	Group Processes	Ch 8
9	M Nov 2	Group Processes	Ch 8
	W Nov 4	Group Processes	Ch 8
	F Nov 6	Attraction and Close Relationships	Ch 9
10	M Nov 9	Attraction and Close Relationships	Ch 9
	W Nov 11	<b>Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</b>	
	F Nov 13	<b>Reading Day. No lectures.</b>	
11	M Nov 16	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>All material since exam 1</b>
	W Nov 18	Aggression	Ch 11
	F Nov 20	Aggression	Ch 11
12	M Nov 23	Aggression	<b><i>Research Proposal due at the beginning of class</i></b>
	W Nov 25	Helping Others	Ch 10
	F Nov 27	Helping Others	
13	M Nov 30	Helping Others	Ch 10
	W Dec 2	<b>In-Class Assignment 2</b>	
	F Dec 4	Law	Appendix A
14	M Dec 7	Law	Appendix A
	T Dec 8	<i>Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.</i>	
	<b>Dec 11-22</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>All material to date with an emphasis on material since Exam 2</b>

### Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of

term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. If a student cannot make write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final). Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

### **Travel During Exams**

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the

department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot make write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final). Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act**

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 255), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

### **Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 403-220-3911

[suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 403-220-3913

[socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Student Ombudsman's Office**

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca) (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

### **Safewalk**

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 18, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 21, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 8, 2015**.