

Psychology 445	Psychology of Morality		Fall 2021
Instructor:	John Ellard	Lecture Location:	Synchronous via Zoom
Phone:	403-220-4960	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 12:30 – 1:45
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Course Description

The course is an exploration of the origins and nature of moral conduct from the perspective of psychological theory and research. We will examine why people care about morality, do or do not behave morally, and the psychological bases of moral judgment. Upon completion of the course, students will be expected to have enhanced awareness and comprehension of the role psychological of inquiry in understanding moral dimensions of human behaviour.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Identify what the study of moral psychology is and its domains of inquiry including its relationship with moral philosophy. Comprehend the role psychology has for understanding humans as social and moral animals.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams.	1, 2, 6	C, A
Knowledge of important moral psychology theories and facts and their application to understanding human experience.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams, research proposal	1	C, A
Knowledge of methods and research strategies employed in moral psychology including their strengths and limitations.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams, research proposal	1, 2	C, A
Knowledge and mastery of designing research to address moral psychology research questions	Research proposal	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C, A

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
An enhanced ability to understand day-to-day experiences with morality including moral judgment of others and our own moral conduct.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams.	2, 4, 6, 7	C
Describe the relevance of moral psychology for understanding and addressing important social problems.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams.	6, 7	C

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that we can make arrangements for you. It is also understood that the format of this course, that relies heavily on lectures delivered online, is not ideal for fully engaging the benefits of diversity in learning. Hence, it is particularly important for students to share with me any concerns they have about equity, diversity, and inclusion in connection with this course. Of particular concern are potential inequities associated with online delivery. If your circumstances make online learning difficult, please contact me so we can consider ways of helping.

The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge that the University of Calgary is situated on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising Siksika, Piikani, and Kanai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Course Format

Lectures will be taught live via Zoom during each scheduled class as per the course schedule below and will be recorded and posted to D2L after class.

Prerequisites

Psychology 300 and 301- Research Methods and Data Analysis I and II OR Psychology 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods in Psychology

Admission to the Psychology major or honours program.

Reading

There is no required textbook for the course. Reading material will be made available through the course D2L site

Assignments, Tests, and Final Examination:

Thought Pieces: 15% of final grade

Three, two-page reports summarizing your application of moral psychology to understanding a relevant experience in your own life. These reports, worth 5% of the final grade each, are to be prepared using course readings and must not include references. The goal is for you to develop your ability at achieving insight into everyday experiences using ideas learned in the course. Format details are available at the course D2L site.

Thought Piece Due:	Due Date
Thought Piece 1	Friday, October 15
Thought Piece 2	Monday, November 22
Thought Piece 3	Friday, December 10

Thought pieces must be submitted electronically at the course D2L site. Assignments are due no later than midnight of the due date.

Thought pieces are marked out of five and without instructor approval, one point will be deducted for each day the assignment is late, **including weekend days**.

Tests and Final Exam: There will be two tests during the term as well as a final exam scheduled by the Registrar. The tests and final exam in this course are non-cumulative. Each will only cover material not covered on previous tests. The in-class tests will include multiple choice and short answer format. The final examination will be a take-home exam. The in-class tests and final examination will be scheduled and weighted as follows:

- Test 1. **Tuesday, October 12** and worth **15%** of the final grade. Format: multiple choice and short answer. The test will cover reading and lecture material from the beginning of the course.
- Test 2. **Thursday, November 18** and worth **15%** of the final grade. Format: multiple choice and short answer. The test will cover reading and lecture material covered after Test 1. The test will be administered as a timed D2L quiz.
- Final Exam Scheduled by Registrar, and worth **15%** of the final grade. Format: take-home exam. The final exam will cover reading and lecture material covered after Test 2. The final exam will be made available on **December 10** and will be due by the end of the day on **December 17**.

Note: Class tests in this course are *closed book*. The use of resources, including class notes, the textbook, online resources, and calculators is prohibited during the exams in this course. Students may not communicate with others about course material or the exam either in person or electronically during exams.

Research Paper: A research proposal worth **40%** of the final with **5%** allocated to a detailed outline with references due **Friday, November 5**, submitted through D2L before midnight. The remaining **35%** is allocated to the final paper that will be submitted through the D2L assignment system no later than **Friday, December 3** before midnight. In the paper you will develop a research proposal on a moral psychology. A detailed description of assignment requirements and grading criteria will be posted at the

course D2L site. Without approved documentation, late assignments will be penalized 10% per day, including weekends. Papers will not be accepted by email or in hard copy form.

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>. In this course and consistent with this policy, students will be required to complete three integrity affirmation statements at the beginning of class tests and the final examination.

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. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down

to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Lecture Topics, Test and Assignment Dates, Important Deadlines and Dates
T Sep 7	Course Overview
R Sep 9	Situating moral psychology
T Sep 14	Situating moral psychology
R Sep 16	Situating moral psychology <i>Last day to drop a class without financial penalty</i>
F Sep 17	<i>Last day to add or swap a course</i>
T Sep 21	Situating moral psychology
R Sep 23	Situating moral psychology
F Sep 24	<i>Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.</i>
T Sep 28	Biological bases of morality: the role of evolutionary processes
R Sep 30	<i>No Classes National Truth and Reconciliation Day</i>
T Oct 5	Biological bases of morality: comparative psychology, Frans de Waal and primates
R Oct 7	Biological bases of morality: punishing free riders & cheaters
M Oct 11	<i>Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</i>
T Oct 12	Test 1
R Oct 14	Disgust as a basis for moral sentiment
F Oct 15	Thought Piece 1 due
T Oct 19	Moral judgment: overview
R Oct 21	Moral intuitionism – social intuition model
T Oct 26	Moral intuitionism – social intuition model
R Oct 28	Moral intuitionism – belief in a just world
T Nov 2	Moral intuitionism – belief in a just world
R Nov 4	Beyond moral intuitionism
F Nov 5	Research paper outline due
Nov 7-13	<i>Term Break No Classes</i>
W Nov 11	<i>Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</i>
T Nov 16	Beyond moral intuitionism
R Nov 18	Test 2
M Nov 22	Thought Piece 2 due
T Nov 23	Moral development: general themes
R Nov 25	Moral development: psychoanalytic and social learning approaches
T Nov 30	Moral development: social cognitive approaches: Piaget & Kohlberg
R Dec 2	Moral conduct: overview, situationism & student cheating
T Dec 7	Moral conduct: moral agency & disengagement
W Dec 8	Moral conduct: moral agency & disengagement
R Dec 9	Moral conduct: moral identity, integrity, personal responsibility <i>Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.</i>
F Dec 10	Thought Piece 3 due

Extra Research Participation Course Credit is Not Offered for this Course.**Supporting Documentation**

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, or a statutory declaration, etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus, please see ucalgary.ca/registrar.

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. A student may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request for a make-up exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam. It's the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up 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. Once approved by the instructor 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 write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

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 write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Freedom OF Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Student Support and Resources

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund is Thursday, September 16, 2021**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, September 17, 2021**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Thursday, December 9, 2021**.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>