



**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 447.08 (L1) – Advanced Topics in Personality or Social Psychology**  
**Moral Psychology**  
**Fall 2009**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	John Ellard	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	Administration 253
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-4960	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	NWF 2:00 – 2:50 p.m.
<b>Email:</b>	ellard@ucalgary.ca	<b>Office:</b>	Administration 231A
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Thursday, Friday 3:00 – 4:00		

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### **Course Description and Goals**

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. Building on these foundations more focused analysis will be given to topics such as attribution of responsibility, punishment reactions, forgiveness, revenge, justice, moral development, moral emotions (e.g. shame, guilt, regret), destructive obedience, and evil. 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.

### **Prerequisites**

Psyc 205 – Principles of Psychology, and  
Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

### **Reading**

There is no required text for the course. Reading material will be made available in PDF format through the course Blackboard site.

### **Evaluation**

*Tests and Final Exam:* There will be two in-class 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 composed of multiple-choice questions and an essay question. The in-class tests and final examination will be scheduled and weighted as follows:

- Test 1. **Wednesday, October** and worth **20%** of the final grade. Format: multiple choice and short answer
- Test 2. **Wednesday, November 4** and worth **20%** of the final grade. Format: multiple choice and short answer
- Final Exam. Scheduled by the Registrar and worth **35%** of the final grade. Format: multiple choice and essay

**Research Proposal:** A research proposal worth **25%** of the final grade will be submitted electronically through the Blackboard Digital Drop Box no later than **Monday December 7**. A penalty of 10% will be applied for each day the proposal is late, including weekend days. Proposals will not be accepted by email or in hard copy form. In the proposal you will develop a research plan for a psychological investigation of a topic to be discussed and agreed upon in a meeting with the course instructor before **November 9**. A detailed description of assignment requirements and grading criteria will be posted at the course Blackboard site.

### 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

Lecture topics and chapters/readings to be covered will be posted at the course Blackboard site.

### Important Dates

Date	
Sept 8	Lectures begin
Sept 18	<i>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.</i>
Sept 22	<i>Last day for registration/change of registration.</i>
Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day. University closed.
Nov 11-15	Reading Days. No lectures.
Dec 7	Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits
Dec 8	Fall Session Lectures end. Last day to withdraw
Dec 11-21	Final exams (scheduled by the Registrar)
Dec 25-31	Holiday Observance. Session Break. University closed.

### 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. 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 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 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.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**

### **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 220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is **Sep 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.