

PSYC 203	Psychology for Everyday Life	Fall 2021
Instructor:	Dr. Daniel McGrath	Lecture Location: Online
Phone:	403-220-7268	Lecture D2L Lectures Posted
Email:	mcgrathteach@ucalgary.ca	Days/Time: Weekly
Office:	Online	Teaching Assistant Braydon Slack
Office Hours:	By appointment on Zoom	braydon.slack@ucalgary.ca

Course Description

Provides students with an understanding of the key theories, research methods, and discoveries in coping and resilience, identity development, interpersonal relationships, and mental health with an emphasis on developing the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective consumers of psychological theory and research. Through a focus on adjustment issues that arise in everyday life, this course will demonstrate some of the ways in which psychology can be used to benefit students' wellbeing in their personal and professional lives.

Areas of focus in this course include:

- Psychology as a biological and social science
- The areas where psychology can be applied to an understanding of everyday life
- Current theories and approaches for understanding human behaviour and mental health
- The research methods used in psychology and the critical thinking skills they support

Note: PSYC 203 does not count toward the minimum requirements for the Major or Honours in Psychology.

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)
Understand key concepts and theories in selected areas of psychology.	Multiple choice exams	1,5	I
Understand the role research plays in building psychological knowledge. Explain why Psychology is a science and the basic principles of research methods (e.g., correlations, descriptive statistics, and experiments).	Multiple choice exams	1,2,5,7	I

Explain each of the major schools of thought in Psychology as well as the key historical figures associated with each.	Multiple choice exams	1,5 6,7	I
Acquire skills needed to locate and interpret psychological information and apply it appropriately to one's own or another's life situation.	Multiple choice exams Assignment	1, 2, 5	I
Understand the key differences between scientific and pseudo-scientific reasoning.	Multiple choice exams Assignment	1, 2, 5	I

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 in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity,* and inclusion. 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. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

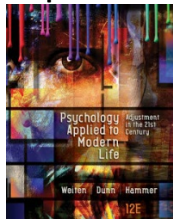
Course Format

Class materials will be posted to the course D2L page by the Tuesday at 12:00pm of each week.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites to take this course

Required Text



Weiten, W., Dunn, D. S., and Hammer, E. Y. (2017). **Psychology Applied to Modern Life: Adjustment in the 21st Century** (12th Ed.), Belmont, CA: Nelson Education Ltd. (available in the university bookstore, online from the bookstore, for rental online, and from other sources such as Amazon).

Desire2Learn (D2L) for PSYC 203

There is an area on the general campus D2L site set aside for this course. D2L can be accessed via this link: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>

THIS SITE SHOULD BE YOUR FIRST STOP FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSE TOPICS, DATES, ETC.

Assessment Methods

Two midterm exams and a final exam (date to be set by the Registrar) are scheduled. All are non-cumulative, multiple-choice tests based on textbook and lecture material (including films and other

demonstrations). Not all test material will be covered in lectures, and some test material covered in lectures will not be covered in the text, so watching all lectures is important for success in this course. Note that you are responsible for all assigned readings from the text even if the specific content has not been covered in lectures. **An assignment and research participation points are also scheduled for the course.**

Exams 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.

Assessment Methods

(1) Midterm Exam #1	25%
(2) Midterm Exam #2	25%
(3) Assignment	10%
(4) Final Exam (scheduled by the registrar)	36%
(5) Research Participation Points	4%

(1) Midterm Exam #1 – Tuesday, October 5th 2021; TIME: 12:00pm – 1:30pm MT

- Could include any material covered in class as well as from the assigned textbook chapters
- 1.5 hours will be allocated for the midterm (50% extra time has been allotted to help deal with any technical issues that could occur)
- Chapters include: 1 (Intro Psychology), 2 (Personality), & 6 (The Self)
- Comprised of a mix of multiple choice questions
- Worth 25% of the final grade
- Midterm 1 will be conducted via D2L
- Students will have 24 hours to access the test (i.e., the test will be accessible for 24 hours beginning on October 5th at 12:00pm MT)

(2) Midterm Exam #2 - Thursday, November 4th 2021; TIME: 12:00pm – 1:30pm MT

- Could include any material covered in class as well as from the assigned textbook chapters
- 1.5 hours will be allocated for the midterm (50% extra time has been allotted to help deal with any technical issues that could occur)
- Chapters include: 3 (Stress), 4 (Coping), & 5 (Health)
- Comprised of a mix of multiple choice questions
- Worth 25% of the final grade
- Midterm 2 will be conducted via D2L
- Students will have 24 hours to access the test (i.e., the test will be accessible for 24 hours beginning on November 4th at 12:00pm MT)

(3) Self-Help Book Review Assignment – Due Tuesday, November 23rd 2021; TIME: 4:00pm MT

- Detailed instructions will be available on the course D2L page

- You will choose, summarize, and analyze a self-help book. There will also be a number of questions on the book that students will have to answer
- Worth 10% of the final grade
- The assignment is due on November 23rd 2021 by 4:00pm MT. Please place a Word version of your assignment into the D2L dropbox. Name the file: **Last Name_FirstName.doc**
- Without instructor approval, late assignments will be penalized 5% per day, including weekends” (note that 10% per day, including weekends, is the standard practice in the department). Students may be asked for documentation.

(4) Final Exam

Scheduled by the registrar during the fall exam period

- 3 hours will be allocated for the exam
- The final exam IS NOT CUMULATIVE
- Could include any material covered in class as well as from the assigned textbook chapters
- Chapters include: 7 (Social Thinking), 9 (Friendship and Love), 10 (Marriage and the Family), 14 (Disorders), & 15 (Psychotherapy)
- Comprised of a mix of multiple choice questions
- Worth 36% of the final grade
- The Final Exam will be conducted via D2L
- Students will have 24 hours to access the exam (i.e., the test will be accessible for 24 hours from the time that the Registrar’s Office schedules the final exam)

(5) Research Participant Points or Article Evaluations

- Worth 4% of the final grade, see below for details on Option 1 and Option 2

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>.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors 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	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
T Sep 7	First day of classes Overview of the course – Dr. McGrath Introduction Video
T Sep 14	Chapter 1. Introduction to Psychology/Modern Life
R Sep 16	Last day to drop a class without financial penalty Chapter 1. Introduction to Psychology/Modern Life
F Sep 17	Last day to add or swap a course
T Sep 21	Chapter 2. Personality
R Sep 23	Chapter 2. Personality

F Sep 24	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses. Article Evaluation #1 Due
T Sep 28	Chapter 6. The Self
R Sep 30	Truth and Reconciliation Day, No Class
T Oct 5	MIDTERM 1 (Chapters 1, 2, & 6); TIME: 12:00pm – 2:00pm
R Oct 7	Chapter 3. Stress
M Oct 11	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
T Oct 12	Chapter 3. Stress
R Oct 14	Chapter 4. Coping
F Oct 15	Article Evaluation #2 Due
T Oct 19	Chapter 4. Coping
R Oct 21	Chapter 5. Psychology and Physical Health
T Oct 26	Chapter 5. Psychology and Physical Health
R Oct 28	Chapter 7. Social Thinking
T Nov 2	Chapter 7. Social Thinking
R Nov 4	MIDTERM 2 (Chapters 3, 4, & 5) TIME: 12:00pm – 2:00pm
F Nov 5	Article Evaluation #3 Due
Nov 7-13	Term Break No Classes
W Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
T Nov 16	Chapter 9. Friendship and Love
R Nov 18	Chapter 9. Friendship and Love
T Nov 23	Self-Help Book Review Assignment Due Chapter 10. Marriage and the Family
R Nov 25	Chapter 10. Marriage and the Family
F Nov 26	Article Evaluation #4 Due
T Nov 30	Chapter 14. Psychological Disorders
R Dec 2	Chapter 14. Psychological Disorders
T Dec 7	Chapter 15. Psychotherapy
R Dec 9	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
Dec 13-22	Fall Final Exam Period

Course Credits for Research Participation

Experiential-Learning/Article-Evaluation Course Component (4% of final grade)

This experiential-learning/article-evaluation component provides enriched learning opportunities in this introductory course. You can complete this component by participating in research studies (Option 1: Research Participation), by completing 1-page article evaluations from a designated list (Option 2: Article Evaluations), or by a combination of the two options. Thus, you will learn more about psychology by taking part in research studies and/or by reading and evaluating articles from a psychological perspective.

Option 1: Research Participation. Students can complete this course component by creating an account and participating in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. Each study will be followed by an educational debriefing experience. 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. **The last day to participate in research and allocate credits is Thursday, December 9, 2021.**

Option 2: Article Evaluations. Students can complete this course component by reading and evaluating articles. Students earn 1% (1 credit) for each acceptable evaluation. Students can submit only one evaluation per due date (**September 24, October 15, November 5, November 26, 2021**), late submissions will not be accepted. Please consult the D2L for this course for more information about this option.

Option 3: Combinations of Options 1 and 2. Students can complete this course component through any combination of Options 1 and 2 (e.g., 3% through Option 1 and 1% through Option 2, or vice versa). Given that each article evaluation counts for 1%, students who complete, for example, 2.5% through Option 1 would need to complete two evaluations to successfully complete all 4% of this course component. As mentioned under Option 2, students can only submit one article evaluation per due date, late submissions will not be accepted. Thus, students who opt to combine Options 1 and 2 must plan ahead carefully.

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. 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 on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. 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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

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>