

**PSYC 203**
**Psychology for Everyday Life**
**Spring 2018**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Daniel McGrath	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	KNB 132
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-7268	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MW 1:00-2:45
<b>Email:</b>	mcgrathteach@ucalgary.ca		
<b>Office:</b>	Administration Building 216		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesdays 11:00-12:30		

### Course Description

Designed for non-Psychology majors. Provides students with an understanding of the key theories, research methods, and discoveries of psychology, with an emphasis on developing the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective consumers of psychological theory and research. Through a focus upon issues that arise in everyday life, this course will demonstrate some of the ways in which psychology can be of use to students in their personal and professional lives. This course may not be repeated for credit.

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 [psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes](http://psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes)), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Understand key concepts the theories in selected areas of psychology	Multiple choice exams	1	I
Understand the difference between scientifically founded psychological knowledge and folk knowledge or common sense	Multiple choice exams	1	I
Understand the role research plays in building psychological knowledge	Multiple choice exams	1	I
Understand how to identify scientifically grounded psychological knowledge claims in the media internet and research literatures	Multiple choice exams	1	I

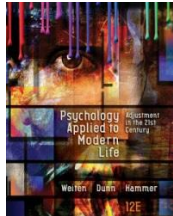
Acquire an understanding of the basic vocabularies of psychological research methodology and some of the limits associated with statements of research results	Multiple choice exams	1	I
Acquire skills needed to locate and interpret psychological information and apply it appropriately to one's own or another's life situation	Multiple choice exams	1	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, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

### 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).

### 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 mid-term exams (May 30, June 18) and a final exam (June 28-30) (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 regular attendance 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. Many test questions will involve critical thinking, a skill you will be given practice developing in class, so again it's to your advantage to come to class. The use of class notes or the text book, computers or calculators is prohibited during the tests in this course. **No notes are allowed during midterms and exams.**

Your course grade will be computed from **Midterm 1 (32%), Midterm 2 (32%), and a Final Exam (36%).**

**NOTE: Mobile phones and other electronic devices are not permitted during exams.**

**“Test-Taking Advice: Especially for the Multiple-Choice Challenged”:**

[http://psyc.ucalgary.ca/sites/psyc.ucalgary.ca/files/Test\\_Taking\\_Advice.pdf](http://psyc.ucalgary.ca/sites/psyc.ucalgary.ca/files/Test_Taking_Advice.pdf)

**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%

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	Topics
M May 14	Chapter 1. Introduction to Psychology
W May 16	Chapter 2. Personality
F May 18	Last day to change spring registration
M May 21	Victoria Day UNIVERSITY CLOSED
W May 23	Chapter 2. Personality
M May 28	Chapter 6. The Self
W May 30	MIDTERM 1 (Chapters 1, 2, & 6) - Chapter 3. Stress begins
M Jun 4	Chapter 3. Stress
W Jun 6	Chapter 4. Coping
M Jun 11	Chapter 5. Psychology and Physical Health
W Jun 13	Chapter 7. Social Thinking
M Jun 18	MIDTERM 2 (Chapters 3, 4, & 5) Chapter 7. Social Thinking cont.
W Jun 20	Chapter 14. Psychological Disorders
M Jun 25	Chapter 15. Psychotherapy
T Jun 26	End of Classes (Last Day to Withdraw)
W Jun 28 - 30	Spring Term Registered Final Exams FINAL EXAM (Chapters 7, 14, & 15)

### 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 Accommodations

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy). Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor.

### **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 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).

### **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 [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final). Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology ([psyugrd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:psyugrd@ucalgary.ca)).

### **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 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.

### **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.

### **Wellness and Mental Health Resources**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

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

#### **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 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 403-220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)  
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@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.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

#### **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 **May 18, 2018**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **May 18, 2018**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **June 26, 2018**.