



Department of Psychology

Psychology 345 (L01) – Social Psychology

Fall 2007

Instructor:	Dr. S. Boon	Lecture Location:	MFH 164
Phone:	220-5564	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 12:30 – 13:45
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Office:	A231B		
Office Hours:	TBA		

Course Description and Goals

Course Description: Social psychological approaches to understanding social influence, social perception and cognition, attitudes and group dynamics. H(3-0) Area II

Prerequisite: Psychology 205 or equivalent.

Course Goals: 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.

Required Text (available at the bookstore)

Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., Akert, R. M., & Fehr, B. (2007). Social Psychology, 3rd Ed. Toronto: Pearson. **BE SURE TO GET THE 3rd EDITION.**

Additional Readings Available online at the sites indicated below or, by prior arrangement, you may borrow the readings from my office to photocopy at your own expense.

Osherow, N. (2004). Making sense of the nonsensical: An analysis of Jonestown. In E. Aronson (Ed.), *Readings about the social animal*, 9th ed (pp. 80-97). NY: Worth.

[http:// www.academicarmageddon.co.uk/library/OSHER.htm](http://www.academicarmageddon.co.uk/library/OSHER.htm)

Moorhead, G., Ferrence, R., & Neck, C. P. (1991). Group decision fiascoes continue: Space shuttle challenger and a revised groupthink framework. *Human Relations*, 44(6), 529-550.

[http:// hum.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/44/6/539](http://hum.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/44/6/539)

Meyer, P. (1994, February). If Hitler asked you to electrocute a stranger, would you? *Esquire*.

[http:// www.learnquestion.com/resources/database/archives/000820.html](http://www.learnquestion.com/resources/database/archives/000820.html)

Steele, C. M. (1994, April). Race and the schooling of black Americans. *The Atlantic Monthly*, 269(4), 68-77. The Atlantic Monthly Group.

[http:// www.nubiannews.com/nubia/csteele.htm](http://www.nubiannews.com/nubia/csteele.htm)

Evaluation

midterm 1	October 9 (chapters 1-5)	33.3%
midterm 2	November 15 (chapters 6-9 and readings)	33.3%
final exam	exam period (chapters 10-12 and readings)	33.3%

Exams will consist of approximately 40-50 multiple-choice items. Questions will cover material from lectures, *including* material presented in films/film clips/videos and guest lectures, assigned chapters in the text, and the additional readings. Exams will be noncumulative in nature. **N.B. All deferred and make-up exams will be short-answer in format.**

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 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 (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.). **N.B. In light of opportunities you have to earn research credit throughout the term and in the interest of being fair to all students in the class, I will not entertain requests to raise grades for any reason.**

Lecture Schedule

DATE	Topic	Readings
Sept. 3	Labour Day – University closed	
Sept. 10	Lectures begin for Fall Session	
Sept. 11, 13	Introduction & Methodology	Ch. 1, 2
Sept. 18, 20	Social Cognition	Ch. 3
Sept. 21	Last day for Fall registration and change of registration for Fall Session or full courses. No fee refunds for withdrawals after this date.	
Sept. 25, 27	Social Perception	Ch. 4
Oct. 2, 4	Self-Knowledge & Self-Evaluation	Ch. 5
Oct 8	Thanksgiving – University closed	
Oct. 9	<i>Midterm #1 (chapters 1 through 5 inclusive)</i>	
Oct. 11	Guest lecture: Rebecca Malhi (TBA)	
Oct. 16, 18	Attitude and attitude change	Ch. 6
Oct. 23, 25	Conformity	Ch. 7 Osherow; Meyer
Oct 30, Nov. 1	Group processes	Ch. 8 Moorhead et al.
Nov. 6, 8	Interpersonal attraction	Ch. 9
Nov. 10-13	Reading days – No classes	
Nov. 15	<i>Midterm # 2 (chapters 6 through 9 inclusive and additional readings)</i>	
Nov. 20, 22	Prosocial Behaviour	Ch. 10
Nov. 27, 29	Aggression	Ch. 11
Dec. 4, 6	Prejudice	Ch. 12 Steele
Dec. 6	Last day to allocate Bonus Credits to Fall Session half courses.	
Dec. 7	Fall Session lectures end Last day to withdraw from Fall Session half courses	
Dec. 10-19	Fall Session Final Examinations <i>Final exam (chapters 10 through 12 inclusive and additional reading)</i>	

University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives

Core Competencies

This course addresses the following core competencies:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Abstract reasoning and its applications

With the following course characteristics:

- Class discussion; students are prompted to think critically about course material
- Students are encouraged to apply course concepts to everyday experience
- Test questions in which students are required to apply concepts to the understanding of novel problems

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen 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 fifteen 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 fifteen 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 fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

Course Credits for Research Participation

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 an individual's final grade. Students can create an account and access the Research Participation System website at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in research is December 6, 2007.

Student Organizations

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

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

Fall Session:

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is September 21, 2007.
The last day to withdraw from this course is December 7, 2007.