



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Department of Psychology
Psychology 345 (L01) – Social Psychology
Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. S. D. Boon
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Office: A231B
Office Hours: TBA
Lecture Location: A142
Lecture Days/Time: TR12:00-13:45

Course Description and Goals

Social psychological approaches to understanding social influence, social perception and cognition, attitudes and group dynamics.

Course Objectives: 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.

Prerequisites

Psyc 205 – Principles of Psychology

Required Text (available at the U of C bookstore)

Aronson, E., Wilson, T. D., Akert, R. M., & Fehr, B. (2010). Social Psychology, 4th Ed. Toronto: Pearson. **BE SURE TO GET THE 4th EDITION.**

Additional Readings (n = 4)

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. I confirmed accessibility of each of these websites June 15, 2009. **PLEASE NOTE DUE DATES FOR THESE READINGS ON THE**

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE BELOW. Remember that the second midterm and final exam may include questions based on these readings. Please leave yourself ample time to locate and read them prior to the exams.

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.learntoquestion.com/resources/database/archives/000820.html](http://www.learntoquestion.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

Course Component	Material covered	Weighting	Date
Midterm #1	Ch. 1- 5	33.3%	Oct 6, 2009
Midterm #2	6-9 and readings	33.3%	Nov. 10, 2009
Final exam	10-12 and readings	33.3%	To be scheduled by registrar

Exams

Exams will consist of approximately 40-50 multiple-choice items. Questions will cover material from lectures, the text, and additional readings as indicated in the course outline. Material presented in films/film clips/videos and guest lectures may also appear on the exam, as appropriate. Exams will be noncumulative in nature. **N.B. 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.).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading
Sept 8 Sept 10	Lectures begin Introduction Methodology	Ch. 1, 2 text
Sept 15 Sept 17	Social Cognition	Ch. 3 text
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>	
Sept 22 Sept 24	Social Perception	Ch. 4 text
Sept 29 Oct 1	Self-Knowledge & Self-Evaluation	Ch. 5 text
Oct 6 Oct 8	Midterm #1 (chapters 1 through 5 inclusive) Attitude and attitude change	Ch. 6 text
Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day. University closed.	
Oct 13 Oct 15	Attitude and attitude change cont'd Conformity	Ch. 7 text
Oct 20 Oct 22	Conformity cont'd Group processes	Osherow; Meyer Ch. 8 text
Oct 27 Oct 29	Group processes cont'd Interpersonal attraction	Moorhead et al. Ch. 9 text
Nov 3 Nov 5	Interpersonal attraction cont'd	
Nov 10	Midterm # 2 (chapters 6 through 9 inclusive and additional readings)	
Nov 11-15	Reading Days. No lectures.	
Nov 17 Nov 19	Prosocial Behaviour	Ch. 10 text
Nov 24 Nov 26	Aggression	Ch. 11 text
Dec 1 Dec 3	Prejudice	Ch. 12 text Steele
Dec 7	Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits	
Dec 8	Exam review 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 an individual's final grade. 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 7th, 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
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

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