



**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 441 (L01) – Social Psychology: Theory and Research**  
**Winter 2010 - Course Outline**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Dr. S. D. Boon</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	Basia Ellis
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-5564	<b>TA office</b>	A263
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:sdboon@ucalgary.ca">sdboon@ucalgary.ca</a>	<b>TA email</b>	<a href="mailto:bellis@ucalgary.ca">bellis@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Office:</b>	A231B	<b>TA phone</b>	403-220-7130
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA	<b>TA office hours</b>	TBA
<b>Lecture Location:</b>	SH 280	<b>Lab B01 Day/Time</b>	T 11:00 – 12:50
<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MWF 10:00-10:50	<b>Lab B02 Day/Time</b>	R 17:00 -18:50
		<b>Lab location</b>	A248

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### **Course Description and Goals**

A review of current theory and research in the area of social psychology. Research projects will introduce methodologies used in this area. This course examines theory and research in social cognition concerned with error and bias in human judgment and decision-making. For the first two-thirds or so of the course we will consider intuitive strategies for processing information and compare them with normative principles for rational judgment. The final weeks of the course will focus on possible ways to reduce the occurrence of inferential errors, as well as a consideration of several critiques offered in objection to the viewpoint that social inference is fundamentally error-prone.

### **Prerequisites**

PSYC 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology  
PSYC 345 – Social Psychology

### **Required Text**

Gilovich, T. (1991). *How We Know What Isn't So: The Fallibility of Human Reason in Everyday Life*. The Free Press.

Plous, S. (1993). *The Psychology of Judgment and Decision Making*. McGraw-Hill.

Supplemental readings: Please see the READINGS folder on Blackboard for sets of supplemental readings for the lab and class.

## Evaluation

Course Component	Weighting	Due Date
Midterm exam (short answer)	33.3%	In class, March 5, 2010
Final exam (essay)	33.3%	Take home final exam. Questions posted April 16, 2010. Exams due no later than 4:00 pm April 23, 2010.
Laboratory	33.3%	Six assignments due throughout term. See Lab Schedule below for descriptions and individual weightings.

Note: Students must achieve a passing grade on both the class and lab components to pass this course.

**Exams.** The midterm (to be held in class March 5, 2010) will be **short answer** in format; the final exam (take home) will be **essay** in format. The midterm will cover lecture and text material for the weeks up to and including the end of our discussion of assessment of covariation. The final exam will be **cumulative** and requires you to apply what you've learned during the term to the analysis of a (real or hypothetical) inferential shortcoming in an organization of your choosing. The final examination questions will be posted on blackboard no later than April 16, 2010. Essays will be due in the Psych office (A275) no later than 4:00 pm on April 23, 2010. All sources must be appropriately cited on a separate reference page and you must do your own work. Answers must be typewritten and submitted in hardcopy format. Electronic submission of any kind will not be permitted. Late exams will not be accepted.

**Lab Component.** Lab assignments must be handed in at the beginning of the lab on which the due date falls (see the Lab Schedule below). Under exceptional circumstances (e.g., illness), other arrangements may be made at the discretion of the Teaching Assistant. Late lab assignments will not be accepted, except under exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Teaching Assistant and with the approval of the Instructor. Lab assignments may NOT be submitted via email or other electronic means. If at all possible, missed lab presentations will be rescheduled. Should one or more of the group members be ill on the date of a group presentation, thus compromising the group's ability to present, arrangements (e.g., rescheduling or other possibilities) will be determined on a case by basis via consultation between group members and the Teaching Assistant.

### 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	Topics	Required Reading
Jan 11 Jan 15	Lectures begin. Introduction and overview of course	Gilovich ch. 1, 8-10
<b>Part I</b>	<b>Intuitive Strategies of Inference</b>	
Jan 18 Jan 22	The role of context in judgment and decision-making	Plous ch. 1-6
<b>Jan 22</b>	<b>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund</b>	
Jan 25 Jan 29	Judgmental heuristics and knowledge structures	Plous ch. 10-11
<b>Jan 26</b>	<b>Last day for registration/change of registration.</b>	
Feb 1 Feb 5	Assigning weights to the data: the vividness criterion	
<b>Part II</b>	<b>Inferential Tasks: Normative Principles and Lay Practice</b>	
Feb 8 Feb 12	Characterizing the datum, sample, and population	
<b>Feb 15 Feb 19</b>	<b>Reading Week – No lectures Feb 15-19</b>	
Feb 22 Feb 26	Assessment of covariation	Gilovich ch. 2-3 Plous ch. 14-15
Mar 1 Mar 5	Causal analysis <b>Midterm exam in class Mar. 5 (introduction to end of assessment of covariation)</b>	Plous ch. 16
Mar 8 Mar 12	Causal analysis cont'd Mar. 12	
Mar 15 Mar 19	Decision-making and prediction	Plous ch. 7-9, 12-13, 19, 21 supplemental reading: Dawes
Mar 22 Mar 26	Theory maintenance and theory change	Gilovich ch. 4-5 Plous ch. 20
Mar 29 Mar 31	Theory maintenance and theory change cont'd	
<b>F Apr 2</b>	<b>Good Friday. No lectures. University closed.</b>	
<b>Part III</b>	<b>Inferential Error: Improving Social Inference and Critiques of the Errors/Biases Viewpoint</b>	
Apr 5 Apr 9	Improving Social Inference: Strategies and Barriers to Change	Gilovich ch. 11 Plous Afterword
Apr 12 Apr 16	Critiques of the error/biases viewpoint and a rebuttal; <b>final exam questions posted on blackboard April 16</b>	supplemental reading: Funder
<b>Apr 16</b>	<b>Winter Session Lectures end. Last day to withdraw.</b>	
<b>Apr 15</b>	<b>Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits</b>	
R Apr 23	<b>Final exam answers (i.e., essays) due in A275 no later than 4:30 pm April 23</b>	

## Tentative Lab Schedule

Week	Lab Topic and Assignment	Reading(s)
Jan 11	<b>No labs this week</b>	
<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Planning/designing your experiment</b>	
<b>Lab 1</b> Jan 18	1. Introduction 2. Assignment to groups 3. Review of experimental design & methodology 4. Reader Survey <b>Assignment 1: Research idea. Due: Lab 3</b>	Bring Text to lab; Ellyson et. al., 1995 pp. 5-13; Aronson, et. al., 1990, ch. 1; Pines et. al., 1993, ch. 1
<b>Lab 2</b> Jan 25	1. Review of ethical guidelines for human subjects research and research proposal instructions. 2. "How to Create a Poster" presentation" <b>Assignment 2: Creating a poster. Due: Lab 4</b> <b>Assignment 3: Ethics application. Due: Lab 4</b>	Ethics guidelines posted on U of C website (see blackboard for link).
<b>Lab 3</b> Feb 1	Discussion of Hawkins & Hastie (1990) <b>Assignment 1 Due</b>	Hawkins & Hastie, 1990
<b>Lab 4</b> Feb 8	Poster Session and Discussion <b>Assignments 2 &amp; 3 Due</b>	
Feb 15	<b>Reading Week – No labs</b>	
<b>Part II</b>	<b>Conducting Your Experiment</b>	
<b>Lab 5</b> Feb 22	1. Discussion of Ethics Applications 2. Questions/discussion re: Individual projects	
<b>Lab 6</b> Mar 1	Discussion of Nisbett & Wilson (1977) and Gavanski & Hoffman (1987)	Nisbett & Wilson, 1977; Gavanski & Hoffman, 1987
<b>Lab 7</b> Mar 8	Discussion of Kahneman & Tversky (1993) <b>Assignment 4: Inferential Errors. Due: Lab 8</b>	Kahneman & Tversky, 1993
<b>Lab 8</b> Mar 15	Discuss real-life examples of errors. <b>Assignment 4 Due</b>	<b>Assignment 3 due</b>
<b>Lab 9</b> Mar 22	Discussion of Rosenhan (1973)	Rosenhan, 1973
<b>Part III</b>	<b>Analyzing and Presenting Your Data</b>	
<b>Lab 10</b> Mar 29	1. Review APA style and writing empirical reports. 2. Discuss Wilson & Brekke (1994) <b>Assignment 5: Presentation of Study. Due Labs 11 &amp; 12</b> <b>Assignment 6: Prepare Report. Due Lab 12</b>	Wilson & Brekke, 1994
<b>Lab 11</b> Apr 5	Mini-conference (part 1) <b>Assignment 5 Due (1/2 of the groups)</b>	
<b>Lab 12</b> Apr 12	Mini-conference (part 2) <b>Assignment 5 Due (remaining groups)</b> <b>Assignment 6 Due (all groups)</b>	

### Distribution of Marks for Lab

Participation in Discussions throughout term	/15
<b>Assignment 1: Research idea. Due: Lab 3</b>	/5
<b>Assignment 2: Creating a poster. Due: Lab 4</b>	/20

<b>Assignment 3:</b> Ethics application. <b>Due: Lab 4</b>	<b>/10</b>
<b>Assignment 4:</b> Inferential Errors. <b>Due: Lab 8</b>	<b>/10</b>
<b>Assignment 5:</b> Presentation of Study. <b>Due Lab 11</b>	<b>/20</b>
<b>Assignment 6:</b> Prepare Report. <b>Due Lab 12</b>	<b>/20</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>/100</b>

**Your Total out of 100 \* 33.3% = your final lab mark**

### **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 403-220-8237. 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 (2) 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 **April 15, 2010**.

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

<b>Student Union VP Academic:</b>	Phone: 403-220-3911	<a href="mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca">suvpaca@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Student Union Faculty Rep.:</b>	Phone: 403-220-3913	<a href="mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca">socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca</a>

### **Important Dates:**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**.