

**PSYC 443**
**INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS**
**Spring 2017**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. K. Edwin Sheppard	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	SA 121
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-8970	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	M/W – 9:00-11:45
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<b>Office:</b>	Admin 155		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBD		

### Course Description and Goals

Application of social psychological theory and methodology to a variety of topics in the area of interpersonal relationships, such as; attraction, close relationships, interpersonal conflict, communication, and power. Course projects will be an integral part of the course.

### 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	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Apply theories of social psychology and interpersonal relationships to real-life settings	1, 4, 5, 7	A
Convey key concepts and theories of interpersonal relationships through class discussions	1, 4, 7	C
Deliver an oral presentation of a selected area of interpersonal relationships	2, 3, 4, 7	A
Critically evaluate primary research papers, comparing and contrasting findings, and identifying gaps in the literature	2, 3, 4, 7	A
Write a research proposal on a novel topic that could further our understanding of a specific area of interpersonal relationships	1, 2, 3, 4, 7	A
Recall research findings on a wide range of issues regarding romantic relationships	1, 5	A
Evaluate the accuracy of stereotypes in the media and popular literature	2, 5, 7	C

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

PSYC 312 – Experimental Design and Qualitative Methods

PSYC 345 – Social Psychology

### Required Text

Miller, R. S. (2012). Intimate Relationships, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed., McGraw-Hill. Available at the Bookstore.

### Additional Readings

Additional readings will be provided on D2L throughout the course.

### Evaluation

Course Component	Weighting	Date
Midterm	25%	Monday June 5 <sup>th</sup>
Thought Papers/Exercises	10%	Two assignments (5% each) will be due throughout the term. See the lecture schedule below for due dates.
Group Assignment / Presentation	15%	Scheduled throughout the term – to be scheduled the first day of lecture.
Participation	5%	Throughout the course
Final Paper	20%	Monday June 26 <sup>th</sup>
Final Exam	25%	To be scheduled by the registrar during the final exam period

### EXAMS

The mid-term exam (25%) will be conducted during class time and will cover material from May 15 – May 31) and will include all lecture and textbook material (Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6) covered during that time. The exam will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. No electronic devices can be used during the exam period.

The final exam (25%; to be scheduled by the registrar) **will be cumulative**. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, short- and long-answer questions. Questions will be drawn from all materials (lectures, video clips, etc.) presented in class as well as in the textbook. No electronic devices can be used during the exam period.

**The use of additional resources (i.e., computers, iPads, iPhones, books, notes, etc.) is NOT permitted for exams in this course. Exam answers must be written in the exam booklets provided during the exam.**

### Thought Papers / Exercises (10%)

During the term you will be required to complete two thoughts papers / exercises. Each of these papers/exercises will vary in length and format, and will relate to concepts discussed in lecture and the textbook. Possible thought papers / exercises may include designing your own follow-up study to a published research paper, providing a critique of a published research paper, applying theoretical

concepts to your own experiences (i.e., your own relationships, relationships of friends, relationships portrayed in movies, etc.), watching and responding to an online TED talk, etc. Thought paper topics and details will be announced at the beginning of the course and will be posted on D2L. Thought papers must be double-spaced and adhere to the guidelines in the APA manual (6<sup>th</sup> Edition).

### **Research Proposal (20%)**

The research proposal (20%) will be a 10 page double-spaced paper of text, plus title page, references, and tables (if any). You must use Times New Roman font, size 12, with margins of 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all four sides of the page, and adhere to the guidelines in the APA manual (6<sup>th</sup> Edition). The research proposal is due in class on Monday June 26<sup>th</sup>.

The research proposal will describe a novel experiment that would contribute to the literature on interpersonal relationships. The paper should include an introduction that reviews past studies and explains how your study would extend our knowledge; a method section that describes how the experiment should be done (e.g., participants, manipulations, measures, procedure, etc.); and an implications section that describes how the expected pattern of results will contribute to the literature and applied setting.

### **Group Presentation (15%)**

Group presentations will be scheduled throughout the term (signups will take place the first day of lecture). Groups will have 45 minutes dedicated to them during lecture to present their assigned topic. Should one or more group members be ill on the date of the presentation, thus compromising the group's ability to present, arrangements (e.g., rescheduling or other possibilities) will be determined on a case basis via consultation between group members and the instructor.

Detailed information will be provided in lecture and on D2L.

### **Participation (5%)**

Participation grades will be assigned based on each student's comments during each session. In order to benefit from the course material you must read and analyze the assigned readings before each class session. Thorough preparation before each session will help you to consistently offer high-quality comments during the class discussions. You are encouraged to regularly contribute relevant facts, questions, interpretations, examples, terminology, frameworks, and alternative points of view during the class discussions. It is important to understand that the class participation grade is intended not just to provide me with information about your preparation and understanding of the assigned material and your persuasive abilities, but to provide you with an incentive to get involved in discussions and share your unique perspective.

**Keep in mind that the participation grade is not a function of the quantity of participation, but the quality of participation.**

The following questions will be considered in grading participation:

- Does the student arrive promptly for class and participate in discussions? Do the questions and comments move the discussion forward and contribute to a learning environment?

- Is the student prepared to report facts, analyses, and conclusions? Do comments interpret and integrate case facts using marketing theories, concepts, and analytical tools.
- Does the student take a defensible position on the recommended course of action? Are the arguments and answers to questions persuasive?
- Is the student able to communicate effectively? Are comments presented in a concise, compelling, and convincing manner?
- Does the student listen to other comments? Is the student able to build upon and evaluate other comments? Does the student learn from and show respect for other speakers and their points of view?

**Your discussion performance will be graded following each class session based on the considerations above.**

**Submission of Assignments/Papers:** You are expected to hand in your printed assignments at the beginning of class on the assigned due dates. Electronic submissions will **NOT** be accepted. A 10% penalty will be assessed for each work day that the paper is late (including weekends). It is your responsibility to ensure that I receive the assignment on time. Late assignments may be handed in at the Psychology Office Dropbox (after hours, the grey box outside this office), but will still be subject to late penalties.

#### **Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy**

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be "A" grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be "A" grades.

#### **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%

*Your outline must include a statement about your policy for rounding final grades. Include the following statement in your course outline:*

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.

**In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.**

**Tentative Lecture Schedule**

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date (revise and add columns & rows as necessary)	Chapter	Assignment
M May 8	Spring term lectures begin. NO CLASS – Block week		
W May 10	NO CLASS – Block week		
M May 15	Introduction to PSYC 443 and Building Blocks in Relationships	Ch. 1	
W May 17	Attachment Theory		
F May 19	Last day to change spring registration		
M May 22	Victoria Day UNIVERSITY CLOSED		
W May 24	Attraction	Ch. 3	
M May 29	Social Cognition and Communication	Ch. 4 & 5	
W May	Interdependency	Ch. 6	Thought Paper #1

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M Jun 5	Midterm		
W Jun 7	Friendship	Ch. 7	
M Jun 12	Love	Ch. 8	
W Jun 14	Sexuality	Ch. 9	Thought Paper #2
M Jun 19	Stresses and Strains	Ch. 10 & 11	
W Jun 21	Relational Dissolution	Ch. 13	
M Jun 26	Maintaining Relationships	Ch. 14	Final Paper: Due at the beginning of class
T Jun 27	End of Classes (Last Day to Withdraw)		

### 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 Accommodation

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/](http://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 [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

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 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-review-and-makeup-exams>. 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). Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

### **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). Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

### **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.

### **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 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 **June 27, 2017**.

### **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 [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@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 19, 2017**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **May 19, 2017**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **June 27, 2017**.