



PSYC 501	Honours Topics Seminar in Psychology	Winter 2022
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Instructor:	Dr. Susan D. Boon	Lecture Location:	AD248
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Course Description

In this course, we will explore psychological understandings of forgiveness and revenge as responses to perceived injury or injustice. Discussion of theoretical accounts of and classic and current readings on forgiveness and revenge will be an integral part of this 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 <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Describe and critically evaluate theories and research on revenge and forgiveness	Seminar presentation, infographic, written article critique, research proposal, discussion questions posted on D2L	1,2,4,5	A, C
Synthesize material from several sources (empirical articles, book chapters, review articles, lectures) to formulate appropriate debates and conclusions regarding revenge and/or forgiveness	Seminar presentation	1,2,4,5	A,C
Deliver an effective oral presentation, guide discussion of empirical articles	Seminar presentation	4,5	A,C
Apply understanding of theories and research on forgiveness and/or revenge to analysis of current or historical events or popular culture/media	Application paper	1,2,4	A,C

Critically evaluate a primary research article on forgiveness and/or revenge	Written article critique	1,2,3,5	A
Participate in discussions of empirical articles presented by classmates	Discussion questions posted on D2L	1,2,4	A,C
Provide critical evaluation and summary of previous empirical studies in forgiveness and/or revenge, design a research study, identify the ethical issues associated with the proposed study, and outline the main empirical, theoretical, and/or applied contributions of this study	Research proposal	1,2,4,6	A,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 in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity,* and inclusion. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

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.

Course Format

This is an in-person class held on campus.

Prerequisites

Psychology 300, 301, admission to the Psychology Honours program and consent of the Department

Required Text

No textbook is required for this course. Peer reviewed journal articles and scientific chapters will be assigned for each topic in the course. Readings are available either online through the U of C library or, if not available there, posted on D2L. The reading list will be posted on D2L prior to the first class.

Assessment Methods

Seminar presentation	25%	Throughout term
Written article critique	15%	Due 2 (two) calendar days after seminar presentation by 11:59 p.m. via D2LDropbox
infographic	15%	Throughout term but no later than 11:59 p.m. Friday March 25 via D2L Dropbox

Discussion questions/comments	5%	Throughout term
Application paper	15%	Due Friday February 25 by 11:59 p.m. via D2LDropbox
Research proposal	25%	Due Friday April 15 by 11:59 p.m. via D2LDropbox

Seminar presentation (25% of final grade)

In pairs, students will present once during the term on a topic selected from among those in black on the tentative topic outline (the instructor will lead discussions on topics in green). In consultation with the instructor, presenters will select 2 (two) or 3 (three) empirical journal articles (chapters or theoretical pieces may be permitted with permission and, for some topics, may be the only option). Presenters will post the U of C library links to the approved readings on D2L by 6 pm no later than 1 week in advance of their presentation. **All students are expected to read the selected readings.**

On the day of their presentation, presenters will provide an overview of the major themes and arguments in their selected readings, as well as their limitations and contributions, and then guide class discussion of each article. Care should be taken to develop questions likely to elicit discussion (rather than those that can be answered “yes” or “no”). Presenters should use the full 75 minutes of class time (including discussion) and are free (indeed, encouraged) to use video and other resources to supplement their review and critique of the readings.

Seminar presentations will be evaluated on both content and delivery. Content should include a clear summary of the research evaluated as well as an evaluation of the contributions of the research. Evaluation of quality of delivery will include whether the presenters appear practiced and prepared, how well they engage with the audience and manage discussion, good use of slides, appropriate timing, and how well questions are addressed. More detailed instructions and criteria will be posted on D2L.

Without instructor approval, missed presentations will receive a 0%. If circumstances arise such that you must miss your date, please contact the instructor as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements (e.g., swapping dates with another presenter) may be made.

Written article critique (15% of final grade)

Within 2 (two) calendar days of their seminar presentation, each student is required to submit a written critique of one of the articles from their presentation. Critiques are to be no longer than 750 words and should be double-spaced and prepared in APA style. Assessment criteria will include identification of appropriate critiques of the article, sophistication of treatment in discussing these critiques, and clarity of expression. The emphasis should be on depth of content, rather than breadth of content. More detailed instructions and criteria will be posted on D2L. **Without instructor approval, late submissions will be penalized 10% per day including weekends and holidays.**

Infographic (15% of final grade)

Students will design an Infographic depicting the results of an empirical study of their choice, selected either from among the studies described in readings assigned in the course or from studies identified during a literature search on a course-related topic. In the latter case, the student must get permission from the instructor concerning their choice of paper/study. The infographic will be a digital poster, PowerPoint slide, or static image file. I highly recommend the use of Canva and equivalents for preparation of the infographics. More detailed instructions and grading criteria will be posted on D2L. ****N.B. Students may not prepare an infographic on a study from among those they presented.**

Infographics may be submitted to the appropriate D2L dropbox at any point throughout the term but **must be submitted no later than 11:59 Friday March 25**. The infographic will balance color, format, and design with depth, breadth, and accuracy in portraying the results of their chosen study. The purpose of this infographic will be to explain to non-scientific audiences reliable, evidence-based information on the chosen topic. **Without instructor approval, late submissions will be penalized 10% per day including weekends and holidays.**

Discussion questions/comments to be submitted to D2L based on articles presenters posted (5% of final grade)

For presentation topics other than their own, students are required to submit discussion questions/comments on the appropriate Discussion board on D2L no later than **24 hours prior to the scheduled presentation**. There are a total of 10 groups presenting. Students are required to submit a **total of 5 discussion questions/comments for the term**. These questions could be specific and based on one of the readings posted by a member of the presenting group. The questions/comments should be likely to generate stimulating discussion, must not be capable of being answered yes or no, and should extend well beyond matters of opinion. As well the questions should be ones you are prepared to raise in class after the presentation. More detailed instructions and criteria will be posted on D2L.

Application paper (15% of final grade)

Students will select a topic of their choice from among topics relevant to the course material (i.e., it is okay to select a topic we are not covering in class; students are strongly encouraged to consult the instructor if they want to try that route) and write a brief paper that examines that topic as applied to analysis of current or historical events or popular culture/media (e.g., book, movie, etc.). Students should ground their analysis in theoretical or empirical (i.e., research) work on their selected topic and must cite at least 3 (three) relevant scholarly articles in their paper. Papers must be no longer than 750 words and should be double-spaced, prepared in APA style, and submitted no later than Friday February 25 by 11:59 p.m. via D2LDropbox. Assessment criteria will include appropriate application of theory/research to analysis of the topic, sophistication of treatment in the analysis, and clarity of expression. The emphasis should be on demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of how (or the extent to which) the theory/research applies to the particular event/media. More detailed instructions and criteria will be posted on D2L. **Without instructor approval, late submissions will be penalized 10% per day including weekends and holidays.**

Research proposal (25% of final grade)

Students will prepare a 1250-word (maximum) research proposal for a study that investigates an issue of interest in the area of forgiveness and/or revenge. Proposals must include a brief introduction that provides a compelling rationale (grounded in the current literature on the selected topic) for the value and importance of the study they propose to conduct, a detailed method (documenting intended

participants, recruitment procedures, materials, and study protocol i.e., the study procedure), and a discussion of the proposed study's key contributions to our understanding of the selected topic. The rationale should cite relevant theory/research. Assessment criteria will include quality of the rationale that justifies the proposed study, appropriateness and rigour of the proposed design, sophistication of treatment in highlighting the study's anticipated contributions, and clarity of expression. Research proposals should be double-spaced, prepared in APA style, and submitted no later than Monday April 15 by 11:59 p.m. via D2LDropbox. More detailed instructions and criteria will be posted on D2 **Without instructor approval, late submissions will be penalized 10% per day including weekends and holidays.**

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors 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%

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. 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	Tentative Topic Outline
M Jan 10	University Lectures begin.
W Jan 12	Introduction
F Jan 14	Transgressions/betrayals/predicaments/injustice
W Jan 19	Conceptualizing forgiveness: Views on what it is and what it isn't
R Jan 20	Last day to drop a class without penalty
F Jan 21	Does forgiving mean reconciling? Last day to add/swap a class
W Jan 26	Forgiveness and culture
F Jan 28	Indigenous views of forgiveness/reconciliation Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
W Feb 2	Forgiveness and relationships
F Feb 4	Forgiveness and personality
W Feb 9	Communicating forgiveness
F Feb 11	Is forgiveness always the best response to wrongdoing? Critiques of forgiveness
W Feb 16	Unforgiveness I
F Feb 18	Unforgiveness 2

M Feb 21	Family Day No Classes
Feb 22-26	Term Break No Classes Application papers due Friday February 25 by 11:59 via D2L Dropbox
W Mar 2	Conceptualizing revenge
F Mar 4	Game theory/evolutionary approaches to understanding forgiveness and revenge
W Mar 9	Revenge and culture
F Mar 11	Revenge and relationships
W Mar 16	Revenge and personality
F Mar 18	Communicating revenge
W Mar 23	Entitativity and collective guilt and displaced revenge
F Mar 25	Displaced revenge Infographics due by 11:59 via D2L Dropbox
W Mar 30	Is revenge sweet?
F Apr 1	Attitudes toward revenge
W Apr 6	Is revenge moral?
F Apr 8	Logistic and ethical challenges in studying forgiveness and revenge
T Apr 12	Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Winter Term half courses.
F Apr 15	Research proposals due by 11:59 p.m. via D2L Dropbox
Apr 19-29	Fall Final Exam Period

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

Supporting Documentation

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, or a statutory declaration, etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus, please see [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam. It's the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up 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. **Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. 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** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

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** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. **Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).**

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Accommodations

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/. 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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material

protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Freedom OF Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Student Support and Resources

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund is Thursday, Thursday, January 20, 2022.** Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, January 21, 2022.** The last day to withdraw from this course is **Tuesday, April 12, 2022.**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>