

Psychology 345	Social Psychology	Fall 2014
Instructor: Basia Ellis	Lecture Location: 164 Murray Fraser Hall	
Phone: 416-820-4991	Lecture Days/Time: TR 12:30 – 13:45	
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Course Description and Goals

This course introduces students to the variety of research topics, methods, and perspectives that fall under the rubric of social psychology. The course is organized around some of the major areas of interest in the field (e.g., self and identity, attraction and relationships, prosocial behavior, prejudice, conformity, aggression), each of which is examined from diverse research perspectives. By deliberately drawing on different social psychological approaches, the aim of the course is for students to develop an appreciation for the debates that exist in the discipline, as well as join them through discussion and thought-provoking assignments.

Prerequisites / Antirequisites

Psychology 200 & 201 – Principles of Psychology I & II

Not open to students with credit in Psychology 445 or Sociology 341.

Required Text

Dickerson, Paul (2012). *Social Psychology: Traditional and Critical Perspectives*. Toronto: Pearson Education Limited. Available in the University Bookstore.

Evaluation

Midterm	35%
Final Exam	45%
Critical Reading Worksheet	5%
Reflection Assignments*	15%**

	100%

**See general descriptions of assignments below. Detailed information pertaining to grading, requirements, and format will be posted on the Desire2Learn website and reviewed in class.*

***You must complete 3 out of 5 assignments to pass the course. Only one of the three can be a 'guest speaker' assignment (i.e., you can complete either #4 or #5).*

Midterm (35% of final grade)

The midterm exam will cover assigned readings (from the textbook) and class materials (e.g., lecture notes, videos, guest speaker discussions) from the beginning of the course until the end of the lecture on Thursday, October 16th. This means readings from chapters 1 through 5 as well as related class materials will be included.

The format of the exam will be multiple-choice. In addition to studying the readings and notes from class lectures, to prepare for the exam, students are encouraged to make use of the practice questions, podcasts, and other resources located on the companion website to the textbook:

http://wps.pearsoned.co.uk/ema_uk_he_dickerson_socpsych_1/

The midterm exam will take place in the first 60 minutes of the class on Tuesday, October 28th. No accommodation will be made for late arrivals.

Final exam (45% of final grade) – Date: During Final Exam Period (TBA)

The final exam will cover assigned readings (from the textbook) and class materials (e.g., lecture notes, videos, guest speaker discussions) beginning from (and including) Tuesday, October 21st until the end of the final lecture on the lecture on Thursday, December 4th. This means that the final exam is not cumulative and includes readings from chapters 6 through 11 as well as related class materials.

The format of the exam will be multiple-choice. In addition to studying the readings and notes from class lectures, to prepare for the exam, students are encouraged to make use of the practice questions, podcasts, and other resources located on the companion website to the textbook:

http://wps.pearsoned.co.uk/ema_uk_he_dickerson_socpsych_1/

Critical Reading Worksheet (5% of final grade) - due September 16, 2014

The purpose of this assignment is for students to gain useful skills for reading and reflecting on course material effectively and efficiently. With these skills students will be able to succeed not only in this course but also in academia more generally. The assignment will require students to read a section of the first chapter of the course textbook while applying particular reading and reflection strategies (namely, SQ4R strategies).

Reflection Assignments – Complete 3 out of 5 (3 x 5% = 15% of final grade)General Purpose

The aim of the reflection assignments is for students to learn how to address and respond critically to research topics and questions relevant for social psychology.

You must complete 3 out of 5 reflection assignments listed below to pass this course. However, only one of these can be a guest speaker assignment (i.e., you can complete either #4 OR #5). This means that you must complete at least two assignments from the first three choices.

Submission instructions

All assignments must be submitted electronically via the Desire2Learn dropbox on the designated due date. In the unlikely event that you experience trouble submitting your assignment online, you must send the instructor your assignment via email by the designated due date, after which

you must resolve the online issue with the IT Support Centre (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help>) and resubmit the assignment electronically.

Late assignments will be assessed with a penalty of 10% per calendar day and must be submitted online. Assignments handed in 6 or more days after the due date will not be accepted and therefore not considered submitted.

#1 Who am I? (5% of final grade)

The purpose of the assignment is for students to understand how 'the self' can be variably explained by social psychologists and consider the implications of these explanations.

Part A - due September 18, 2014

For the first part of the assignment, you will be asked to write freely a one to two page (double-spaced) response to the question 'who am I?'. This part will not be evaluated but must be handed in by the required due date.

Part B – due September 30, 2014

In the second part of the assignment you will be asked to re-visit your original account of 'who am I?' (part A) and examine it using two different social psychological theories.

#2: Social Psychology and Film (5% of final grade) – due October 7, 2014

The aim of this assignment is for students (a) to understand how social psychologists study and explain attraction and relationships in various ways; (b) to apply this knowledge to a concrete case; (c) to think critically about the implications of social psychological explanations.

You will be required (a) to watch the film HER (2013, director Spike Jonze); (b) to examine the relationship of the two protagonists (Theodore and Samantha) from two social psychological perspectives; and (c) to discuss some of the limitations of your explanations.

#3: Stereotypes and prejudice (5% of final grade) – due November 6, 2014

The aim of this assignment is for students (a) to understand how social psychologists explain stereotypes and prejudice in various ways; (b) to apply this knowledge to a concrete case; (c) to think critically about the implications of social psychological explanations.

You will be asked to select a major news event having to do with questions of prejudice and employ social psychological theory to explain the event. You will then critically evaluate your account, addressing the implications of your assessment.

#4: Guest Speaker Presentation (5% of final grade) – due November 25, 2014

The purpose of this assignment is for students to think critically about a concrete case of aggression and intergroup conflict in light of their studies in social psychology thus far. Based on a guest speaker presentation on two historical genocides, you will be asked to (a) describe a major claim made by the speaker and (b) elaborate on this point as a social psychologist. You will be encouraged to be creative, the aim being for you to demonstrate your learned ability to apply some of the ideas and themes from the course in your own way, taking a stance as a social psychologist.

#5: Guest Speaker Presentation (5% of final grade) – due December 4, 2014

The purpose of this assignment is for students to think critically about the making and dissemination of research findings in social psychology. Based on a guest speaker presentation on

the Milgram experiments, you will be asked to (a) describe a major point made by the speaker and (b) elaborate on this point as a social psychologist. You will be encouraged to be creative here, the aim being for you to demonstrate your learned ability to apply some of the ideas and themes from the course in your own way, taking a stance as a social psychologist.

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%

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. 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	Lecture Focus	Readings / Assignments
T Sep 9	Introduction. Overview of the course, aims, expectations, & key ingredients for success.	
R Sep 11	What is social psychology?	Chapter 1: Sec 1.0-1.4
T Sep 16	Thinking critically in and about social psychology	Critical Reading Worksheet due
R Sep 18	Varieties of social psychological research	Chapter 1: Sec 1.5-1.6 Reflection Assign #1 – Part A due
F Sep 19	Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term) or Fall Term half courses after this date.	
M Sep 22	Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.	
T Sep 23	Who am I? Responses from social psychologists	Chapter 2: Sec 2.0-2.4
R Sep 25	Who am I? Examining self and identity in social interaction	Chapter 2: Sec 2.5-2.7
F Sep 26	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.	
T Sep 30	Attraction and relationships: Major theories and research	Chapter 3: Sec 3.0-3.5 Reflection Assign #1 – Part B due
R Oct 2	Rethinking attraction and relationships	Chapter 3: Sec 3.6-3.7
T Oct 7	Attribution: Major theories and research	Chapter 4: Sec 4.0-4.2 Reflection Assign #2 due
R Oct 9	Attribution biases	Chapter 4: Sec 4.3-4.5
M Oct 13	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
T Oct 14	Explanatory Talk: Reconsidering attribution	Chapter 5: Sec 5.0-5.3
R Oct 16	Explanatory Talk: Examining research applications	Chapter 5: Sec 5.4
T Oct 21	Attitude change & persuasion: Major theories and research	Chapter 6: Sec 6.0-6.4
R Oct 23	Critical perspectives on attitude research	Chapter 6: Sec 6.5-6.7
T Oct 28	IN CLASS MIDTERM EXAM (covers chapters 1-5 & related class materials)	
R Oct 30	Stereotypes and prejudice: Major theories and research	Chapter 7: Sec 7.0-7.3
T Nov 4	Stereotypes and prejudice: Schemas & critiques	Chapter 7: Sec 7.4-7.6
R Nov 6	Why and when do we engage in prosocial behavior?: Major theories and research	Chapter 8: Sec 8.0-8.3 Reflection Assign #3 due
T Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library,	

	Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
Nov 8-11	Reading Days. No lectures.	
R Nov 13	Re-examining the study of prosocial behavior	Chapter 8: Sec 8.4-8.5
T Nov 18	Guest speaker: Dan Sellers	Chapter 9
R Nov 20	Aggression and intergroup conflict: Major ideas and critiques	Chapter 9
T Nov 25	Social influence & intragroup processes: Major theories and research	Chapter 10: Sec 10.0-10.2, 10.4 Reflection Assign #4 due
R Nov 27	Critical reflections on social influence Guest speaker: Brianne Collins	Chapter 10: Sec. 10.3 & 10.5
T Dec 2	Communication and interaction: Expressing and conveying to others	Chapter 11: Sec 11.0-11.3
R Dec 4	Communication and interaction: Identity matters	Chapter 11: Sec 11.4-11.5 Reflection Assign #5 due
F Dec 5	Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.	
Dec 8-18	Fall Term Exam Period.	

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

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.

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 except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

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 via the Department Office (Admin 255), 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.

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.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 [suyaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@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 (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

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 Friday, September 19, 2014.** Last day for registration/change of registration is **Monday, September 22, 2014.**

The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 5, 2014.**