

Psychology 447
The Social Psychology of Justice
Winter 2023

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Course Description

The topic for this course is justice. The basic premise of the course is that from a psychological point of view, justice is a fundamental and universal concern for human beings. Accordingly, the course will explore the origins, nature, and implications of human justice concerns from the perspective of psychological theory and research. We will examine why people care about justice and how the thoughts and feelings people have about justice inform their reactions to their own and other people's experiences. The analysis will include consideration of what determines judgments of fairness of good and bad outcomes (distributive justice) and the processes involved in determining outcomes (procedural justice). The course will also review psychological research on how people react to injustice to themselves and others. Finally, we will explore how justice related psychological processes inform our understanding of social justice and justice in different life domains including organizations and close relationships.

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)
Identify what the social psychology study of justice is and its domains of inquiry including its relationship with moral philosophy, law, and theology.	Multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams.	1, 2, 6	C, A, A
Knowledge of important social psychological theories and facts pertaining to justice including the justice motive and its origins, how people make fairness judgments and how they react to injustice.	Multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams, research proposal	1	C, A
Knowledge of methods and research strategies employed in social psychological research on justice including their strengths and limitations.	Multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams, research proposal	1, 2	C, A
Knowledge and mastery of designing research to address social psychology of justice research questions	Research proposal	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C, A, C, A, A
An enhanced ability to understand day-to-day experiences with justice issues and injustice.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer,	2, 4, 6, 7	A, A, A, A

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
	and essay question exams.		
Describe the relevance of social psychological justice research for understanding and addressing important social problems.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams.	6, 7	A, A

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.

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 and 301, Research Methods and Data Analysis I and II

Reading

There is no required textbook for the course. Reading material will be made available through the course D2L site and the Reserve Reading Room in the Taylor Family Digital Library

Assessment Methods

Tests and Final Exam: There will be two in-class tests during the term as well as a final exam scheduled by the Registrar. The tests and final exam in this course are non-cumulative. Each will only cover material not covered on previous tests. The in-class tests will include multiple choice and short answer format. The final examination will be composed of multiple-choice questions and an essay question. Smart phones, iPods, tablets, computers, books or notes are not permitted during tests or the final exam. The in-class tests and final examination will be scheduled and weighted as follows:

- Test 1. **Monday, February 6** and worth **20%** of the final grade. Format: multiple choice and short answer. The test will cover reading and lecture material from the beginning of the course.
- Test 2. **Monday, March 13** and worth **20%** of the final grade. Format: multiple choice and short answer. The test will cover reading and lecture material covered after Test 1.
- Final Exam Scheduled by Registrar, and worth **20%** of the final grade. Format: multiple choice and essay. The final exam will cover reading and lecture material covered after Test 2.

Research Paper: A research proposal worth **40%** of the final with **5%** allocated to a detailed outline with references due **Friday, March 10** submitted through D2L before midnight. The remaining **35%** is allocated to the final paper that will be submitted through the D2L assignment system no later than **Wednesday, April 12** before midnight. In the paper you will develop a research proposal on a social

psychology of justice topic. A detailed description of assignment requirements and grading criteria will be posted at the course D2L site. Without approved documentation, late assignments will be penalized 10% per day, including weekends. Papers will not be accepted by email or in hard copy form.

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf>

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	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
M Jan 9	Course Overview
W Jan 11	Situating psychological approaches to justice vis-à-vis moral philosophy, law, and theology
F Jan 13	Situating psychological approaches to justice vis-à-vis moral philosophy, law, and theology
M Jan 16	Why people care about justice; biological, developmental, and social foundations of the justice motive; justice and self-interest
W Jan 18	Why people care about justice; biological, developmental, and social foundations of the justice motive; justice and self-interest
Jan 19	<i>Last day to drop a class without a penalty</i>
F Jan 20	Why people care about justice; biological, developmental, and social foundations of the justice motive; justice and self-interest <i>Last day to add or swap a course</i>
M Jan 23	The justice motive and the search for justice in everyday life, forms of justice, scope of justice, justice and altruism
W Jan 25	The justice motive and the search for justice in everyday life, forms of justice, scope of justice, justice and altruism
F Jan 27	The justice motive and the search for justice in everyday life, forms of justice, scope of justice, justice and altruism <i>Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.</i>
M Jan 30	Distributive justice
W Feb 1	Distributive justice
F Feb 3	Distributive justice
M Feb 6	Test 1
W Feb 8	Procedural justice, psychology of legitimacy
F Feb 10	Procedural justice, psychology of legitimacy
M Feb 13	Retributive justice
W Feb 15	Retributive justice
F Feb 17	Retributive justice
M Feb 20	<i>UNIVERSITY CLOSED Alberta Family Day</i>
Feb 19-25	<i>Term Break</i>
M Feb 27	Restorative justice
W Mar 1	Restorative justice
F Mar 3	Restorative justice
M Mar 6	Reactions to injustice, relative deprivation
W Mar 8	Reactions to injustice, relative deprivation
F Mar 10	Reactions to injustice, relative deprivation Research paper outline due

M Mar 13	Test 2
W Mar 15	Individual differences and justice
F Mar 17	Individual differences and justice
M Mar 20	Social justice, environmental justice
W Mar 22	Social justice, environmental justice
F Mar 24	Social justice, environmental justice
M Mar 27	Justice in context: close relationships, organizations, education
W Mar 29	Justice in context: close relationships, organizations, education
F Mar 31	Justice in context: close relationships, organizations, education
M Apr 3	What's fair? Justice issues in a diverse society (e.g. affirmative action, intergroup relations, historical injustices, reproductive justice)
W Apr 5	What's fair? Justice issues in a diverse society (e.g. affirmative action, intergroup relations, historical injustices, reproductive justice)
F Apr 7	<i>UNIVERSITY CLOSED Good Friday</i>
M Apr 10	<i>UNIVERSITY CLOSED Easter Monday</i>
W Apr 12	Research paper due What's fair? Justice issues in a diverse society (e.g. affirmative action, intergroup relations, historical injustices, reproductive justice). <i>Last day to withdraw with permission from Winter Term half courses.</i>
Apr 15-26	<i>Fall Final Exam Period</i>

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

Seating During Exams

Instructors and exam invigilators are free to ask students to move seats before an exam begins or even during an exam. Students must comply with this request and refusal to do so may warrant a charge of academic misconduct.

Absence From Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-1-1.html>. 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 [Deferred Final Exams | University of Calgary \(ucalgary.ca\)](#). 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 [University of Calgary : B.6.1 Accommodation of Students with Disabilities or Medical Conditions \(ucalgary.ca\)](#)

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 (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) 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, January 19, 2023**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, January 20, 2023**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Wednesday, April 12, 2023** [University of Calgary : Academic Schedule \(ucalgary.ca\)](#)