

Psychology 203 – L01**Psychology of Everyday Life****Fall 2015**

Instructor:	Dr. Dane Burns	Lecture Location:	ST 140
Phone:	403-220-8970	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 3:00 – 3:50
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Office Hours:	By appointment		

Course Description and Goals

This course has been designed especially for non-Psychology majors. Its purpose is to provide students with an understanding of the key theories, research methods, and discoveries of psychology, with an emphasis on developing the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective consumers of psychological theory and research. Through a focus on issues that arise in everyday life, this course will demonstrate some of the ways in which psychology can be of use to students in their personal and professional lives.

Areas of focus in this course include:

- Psychology as a biological and social science
- The areas where psychology can be applied to an understanding of everyday life
- Current theories and approaches for understanding human behaviour and mental health
- The research methods used in psychology and the critical thinking skills they support

Note: PSYC 203 does not count toward the minimum requirements for the Major or Honours in Psychology.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites to take this course

Required Text

Weiten, W., Dunn, D. S., and Hammer, E. Y. (2015). Psychology Applied to Modern Life: Adjustment in the 21st Century (11th Ed.), Belmont, CA: Nelson Education Ltd. (available in the university bookstore)

D2L for PSYC 203

There is an area of the general campus D2L site set aside for this course. This site should be your first stop for questions about the course topics and dates etc. PowerPoint slides will be posted on D2L the night before each class.

Evaluation

Two mid-term exams and a final exam are scheduled. The midterm exams are non-cumulative, and the final exam is cumulative. All exams consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions based on both

textbook and lecture material (including films and other demonstrations). Not all exam material will be covered in class, and some exam material covered in class will not be covered in the text, so regular attendance is important for success in this course. Note that you are responsible for all assigned readings from the text even if the specific content has not been covered in lectures. The use of class notes or the textbook, computers or calculators is prohibited during the exams in this course.

Your **course grade** will be computed as the **average of your three exam scores (exams' 1-2 x 30% each = 60% of final grade; final exam = 36%; total = 96% of final grade) PLUS your Experiential Learning score (4%) (see section below)**. If you miss an exam: see the section "Absence From An Exam," further below. Test dates:

Exam 1	October 14	Chapters 1-4
Exam 2	November 18	Chapters 6-9
Final Exam	TBA	Chapters 1-9, 11, 14, 15

"Test-Taking Advice: Especially for the Multiple-Choice Challenged":

http://psyc.ucalgary.ca/sites/psyc.ucalgary.ca/files/Test_Taking_Advice.pdf

Course Credits for Research Participation

Experiential-Learning/Article-Evaluation Course Component (4% of final grade)

This experiential-learning/article-evaluation component provides enriched learning opportunities in this introductory course. You can complete this component by participating in research studies (Option 1: Research Participation), by completing 1-page article evaluations from a designated list (Option 2: Article Evaluations), or by a combination of the two options. Thus, you will learn more about psychology by taking part in research studies and/or by reading and evaluating articles from a psychological perspective.

Option 1: Research Participation. Students can complete this course component by creating an account and participating in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. Each study will be followed by an educational debriefing experience. 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. **The last day to participate in research and allocate credits is Dec 8, 2015.**

Option 2: Article Evaluations. Students can complete this course component by reading and evaluating articles. Students earn 1% (1 credit) for each acceptable evaluation. Students can submit only one evaluation per due date (**September 18, October 9, October 30, November 20, 2015**), late submissions will not be accepted. Please consult the Blackboard for this course for more information about this option.

Option 3: Combinations of Options 1 and 2. Students can complete this course component through any combination of Options 1 and 2 (e.g., 3% through Option 1 and 1% through Option 2, or vice versa). Given that each article evaluation counts for 1%, students who complete, for example, 2.5% through Option 1 would need to complete two evaluations to successfully complete all 4% of this course component. As mentioned under Option 2, students can only submit one article evaluation per due date, late submissions will not be accepted. Thus, students who opt to combine Options 1 and 2 must plan ahead carefully.

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	Topic	Chapter(s)
T Sep 8	Lecture begins. Course introduction	
W Sep 9	Introduction to Psychology	1
F Sep 11	Introduction to Psychology	1
M Sep 14	Introduction to Psychology	1
W Sep 16	Personality	2
F Sep 18	Personality <i>[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.]</i>	2
M Sep 21	Personality <i>[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.]</i>	2
W Sep 23	Personality	2
F Sep 25	<i>Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.</i>	
M Sep 28	Stress	3
W Sep 30	Stress	3
F Oct 2	Stress	3
M Oct 5	Coping	4
W Oct 7	Coping	4
F Oct 9	Coping	4
M Oct 12	<i>Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</i>	
W Oct 14	Exam 1	1-4
F Oct 16	The Self	6
M Oct 19	The Self	6
W Oct 21	The Self	6
F Oct 23	Social Thinking and Social Influence	7
M Oct 26	Social Thinking and Social Influence	7
W Oct 28	Social Thinking and Social Influence	7
F Oct 30	Interpersonal Communication	8
M Nov 2	Interpersonal Communication	8
W Nov 4	Interpersonal Communication	8
F Nov 6	Friendship and Love	9
M Nov 9	Friendship and Love	9
Nov 11-15	<i>Reading Days. No lectures.</i>	
M Nov 16	Friendship and Love	9
W Nov 18	Exam 2	6-9
F Nov 20	Gender and Behaviour	11
M Nov 23	Gender and Behaviour	11
W Nov 25	Gender and Behaviour	11
F Nov 27	Psychological Disorders	14

M Nov 30	Psychological Disorders	14
W Dec 2	Psychological Disorders	14
F Dec 4	Psychotherapy	15
M Dec 7	Psychotherapy	15
<i>T Dec 8</i>	<i>Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.</i>	
Dec 11-22	Fall Term Exam Period. TBA	Cumulative, emphasis on chapters 11,14, 15

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 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-and-course-information#mues>. 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. 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 make 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. 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 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	suypaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.:	Phone: 403-220-3913	socialsciirep@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 September 18, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 21, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 8, 2015**.