



Psychology 203-01

Psychology of Everyday Life

Winter 2014

Instructor:	Dr. Melissa Boyce	Lecture Location:	ICT 102
Phone:	403-210-6257	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 4:00 – 5:15pm
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Office Hours:	TBA		

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 tools and 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. Psyc 200 (Principles of Psychology I) and Psyc 201 (Principles of Psychology II) are prerequisite courses for all psychology courses.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites to take this course.

Required Text

Weiten, W., Dunn, D. S., and Hammer, E. Y. (2012). Psychology Applied to Modern Life: Adjustment in the 21st Century (10th Ed.), Belmont, CA: Nelson Education Ltd. (available in the university bookstore)

Note: We will be using Top Hat Monocle in this course. You will receive an email with an invitation to join the course in Top Hat or you may search for the course and add yourself to it on your own by following this link: <https://app.tophat.com>.

Course Website

The course website is located on blackboard: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>.

Notes for each week's classes will be posted at the beginning of the week. In addition, announcements and grades will be posted on this site. You will also be able to access practice quizzes and review material from the textbook directly through the course blackboard page.

Evaluation

Exams (exams' 1-3 x 20% each = 60% of final grade; exam 4 = 32%; total = 92% of final grade)

There are three exams (February 4, March 6, and March 27) and a final exam (to be written during the final exam period) scheduled for this course. Exams' 1-3 are worth 20% of your mark. These multiple-choice exams are non-cumulative and will cover text and lecture material (including films and other demonstrations). The final exam is worth 32% of your mark. This exam is cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice questions.

In-Class Participation using Top Hat Monocle (4% of final grade)

Top Hat Monocle is being used in this class in order to enhance your participation, allow you to assess your mastery of course concepts, and ultimately, to help you to engage better with the material. To encourage student use of Top Hat Monocle, 4% of your grade has been assigned to Top Hat participation. To receive participation credit for using Top Hat Monocle, you will have to register online. Information will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard telling you how to register for the class account in Top Hat Monocle.

Top Hat participation marks will be broken down as follows:

- At least 80% of Top Hat questions answered = 4%
- At least 60% of Top Hat questions answered = 3%
- At least 40% of Top Hat questions answered = 2%
- At least 20% of Top Hat questions answered = 1%
- Less than 20% of Top Hat questions answered = 0%

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 Apr 14th, 2014.**

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 (**January 24, February 15, March 7, March 28**). 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. 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. In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Thurs, Jan 9	Overview of the Course	Course Outline
2	Tues, Jan 14	Introduction to Psychology	Ch 1
	Thurs, Jan 16	Introduction to Psychology	Ch 1
	Fri, Jan 17	<i>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.</i>	Ch 2
3	Mon, Jan 20	<i>Last day for add or swap courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i>	
	Tues, Jan 21	Personality	
	Thurs, Jan 23	Personality	Ch 2
	Fri, Jan 24	<i>Fee payment deadline for Winter term fees.</i>	
4	Tues, Jan 28	Stress	Ch 3
	Thurs, Jan 30	Stress	Ch 4
5	Tues, Feb 4	Exam 1	All material to date
	Thurs, Feb 6	Coping	Ch 5

6	Tues, Feb 11	Coping	Ch 5
	Thurs, Feb 13	Self and Identity	Ch 6
7	Tues, Feb 16	Reading Days. No classes. University open.	
	Thurs, Feb 18	Reading Days. No classes. University open.	
8	Tues, Feb 25	Self and Identity	Ch 6
	Thurs, Feb 27	Social Influence	Ch 7
9	Tues, Mar 4	Social Influence	Ch 7
	Thurs, Mar 6	Exam 2	All material since Exam 1
10	Tues, Mar 11	Psychological Disorders	Ch 8
	Thurs, Mar 13	Psychological Disorders	Ch 8
11	Tues, Mar 18	Therapy	Ch 9
	Thurs, Mar 20	Interpersonal Attraction	Ch 11
12	Tues, Mar 25	Interpersonal Attraction	Ch 11
	Thurs, Mar 27	Exam 3	All material since Exam 2
13	Tues, Apr 1	Relationships and Communication	Ch 12
	Thurs, Apr 3	Relationships and Communication	Ch 12
14	Tues, Apr 8	Development in Adolescence and Adulthood	Ch 14
	Thurs, Apr 10	Development in Adolescence and Adulthood	Ch 14
15	Mon, Apr 14	<i>Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.</i>	
	Apr 19 – 29	Final Exam	All material with an emphasis on material since Exam 3

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. 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.

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 275), 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

suvpaca@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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **January 17, 2014**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 20, 2014**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 14, 2014**.