



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Department of Psychology
Psychology 345 (L01) – Social Psychology
Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Boyce **Lecture Location:** ES 162
Phone: 403-210-6257 **Lecture Days/Time:** Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00 – 9:50 am
Email: mboyce@ucalgary.ca
Office: Admin 258
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description: Social psychological approaches to understanding social influence, social perception and cognition, attitudes and group dynamics.

Prerequisite: Psychology 205 or equivalent.

Course Goals: This course surveys a wide range of areas of study within the field of social psychology. By the end of the course you should be:

1. able to identify and understand the social psychological perspective on psychological phenomenon and how it differs from perspectives in other areas of psychology and the social sciences
2. able to identify and understand the major theoretical frameworks within social psychology (e.g., social learning theory, cognitive dissonance theory, etc.) and their real life applications (e.g., aggression, attitude formation, etc.)
3. familiar with the types of research questions and research designs common in studies in this area, and able to critique research findings on relevant topics that you encounter in the media and elsewhere.

Required Text

Olson, J., Breckler, S. J., & Wiggins, E. (2008). *Social Psychology Alive (First Canadian Ed.)*, Toronto, ON: Nelson Education Ltd.

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.

Evaluation

Exams: Three exams are scheduled for this course covering text and lecture material (including films). Exams are non-cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice questions.

	Date	Chapters Covered	Worth
Exam 1	Oct 3, 2008	1-5	25%
Exam 2	Nov 12, 2008	6-10	25%
Exam 3	TBA (during final exam period)	11-14	20%

Max total = 70% of your mark

In-Class Group Assignments: Two in-class group assignments (Oct 17, Nov 26) worth 5% each (max total = 10% of your mark). These assignments are intended to help you apply the concepts that you have learned in class. You will work on these assignments in groups of 4-6 and hand them in at the end of class.

Thought Paper: Two thought papers 3-4 pages double-spaced in length worth 10% each (max total = 20% of your mark) where you will apply social psychological theories or concepts that you have learned about in class to a real life event (either from your own life or from a newspaper article). These papers are intended to help you develop insight into everyday experiences using ideas learned in the course. Further details will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard. Due Oct 17 and Nov 21.

You are expected to hand in your printed assignments at the beginning of class on the due dates. If you cannot attend class on either of those days, you must 1) deliver the assignment to the main office to be put in my mailbox or 2) email me the assignment as a Word file attachment, before noon on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted.

Course Credits for Research Participation

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. 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. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **December 4, 2008**.

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-).

Attendance

Lectures are intended to highlight and extend, rather than summarize, assigned text readings. In some classes, videos that illustrate classic social psychology experiments or real life phenomena will be shown and then discussed as a class. You will benefit most from lectures if you read the assigned material prior to the corresponding lecture. The chapters of the text are distributed

fairly evenly across the duration of the classes, so your reading load is reasonably constant. Class notes are provided to assist you in organizing and understanding the material and are not a substitute for class attendance. Any questions you may have about the text can be clarified in class, and it is your *understanding* of the topics that will be tested in the exams.

Lecture Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
1	Mon, Sept 8	Intro to Social Psychology	Ch 1
	Wed, Sept 10	Intro to Social Psychology	Ch 1
	Fri, Sept 12	Research Methods in Social Psychology	Ch 2
2	Mon, Sept 15	Social Cognition	Ch 3
	Wed, Sept 17	Social Cognition	Ch 3
	Fri, Sept 19	Class Cancelled	
3	Mon, Sept 22	Video - What Jennifer Saw	
	Wed, Sept 24	Social Perception	Ch 4
	Fri, Sept 26	Social Perception	Ch 4
4	Mon, Sept 29	Self-Concept	Ch 5
	Wed, Oct 1	Self-Concept	Ch 5
	Fri, Oct 3	Exam 1	All material to date
5	Mon, Oct 6	Attitudes and Social Behaviour	Ch 6
	Wed, Oct 8	Attitudes and Social Behaviour	Ch 6
	Fri, Oct 10	Attitude Change	Ch 7
6	Mon, Oct 13	Thanksgiving – University Closed	
	Wed, Oct 15	Attitude Change	Ch 7
	Fri, Oct 17	In-Class Assignment 1	Thought Paper 1 due at the beginning of class
7	Mon, Oct 20	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch 8
	Wed, Oct 22	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch 8
	Fri, Oct 24	Video - Milgram's Obedience	
8	Mon, Oct 27	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Ch 9
	Wed, Oct 29	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Ch 9
	Fri, Oct 31	Video - A Class Divided	
9	Mon, Nov 3	Group Dynamics and Intergroup Relations	Ch 10
	Wed, Nov 5	Group Dynamics and Intergroup Relations	Ch 10
	Fri, Nov 7	Video - Quiet Rage: The Stanford Prison Experiment	
10	Mon, Nov 10	Reading Week – No lecture	
	Wed, Nov 12	Exam 2	All material since Exam 1
	Fri, Nov 14	Aggression and Violence	Ch 11
11	Mon, Nov 17	Aggression and Violence	Ch 11
	Wed, Nov 19	Video – Little Criminals	
	Fri, Nov 21	Helpful Social Behaviour	Ch 12 Thought Paper 2 due at the beginning of class

12	Mon, Nov 24	Helpful Social Behaviour	Ch 12
	Wed, Nov 26	In-Class Assignment 2	
	Fri, Nov 28	Liking, Loving, and Close Relationships	Ch 13
13	Mon, Dec 1	Liking, Loving, and Close Relationships	Ch 13
	Wed, Dec 3	Liking, Loving, and Close Relationships	Ch 13
	Fri, Dec 5	Social Psychology in Your Life	Ch 14

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 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

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam. A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

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 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 [suyaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and still receive a fee refund is **September 19, 2008**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 5, 2008**.