

**Psychology 443**
**INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS**
**Winter 2016**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. K. Edwin Sheppard	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	SH 278
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-8970	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	T/R: 9:30 – 10:45
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:kesheppa@ucalgary.ca">kesheppa@ucalgary.ca</a>		
<b>Office:</b>	Admin 157		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA		

### Course Description and Goals

Application of social psychological theory and methodology to a variety of topics in the area of interpersonal relationships, such as; attraction, close relationships, interpersonal conflict, communication, and power. Course projects will be an integral part of the course.

### Prerequisites

PSYC 312 – Experimental Design and Qualitative Methods

PSYC 345 – Social Psychology

### Required Text

Miller, R. S. (2012). *Intimate Relationships*, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed., McGraw-Hill. Available at the Bookstore.

### Additional Readings

Additional readings will be provided on D2L throughout the course.

### Evaluation

Course Component	Weighting	Date
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>20%</b>	Thursday February 25, 2016
<b>Thought Papers/Exercises</b>	<b>16%</b>	Two assignments (8% each) will be due throughout the term. See the lecture schedule below for due dates.
<b>Group Presentation</b>	<b>15%</b>	Scheduled throughout the term beginning February 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Participation</b>	<b>4%</b>	Throughout the course
<b>Final Paper</b>	<b>Idea and outline: 5%</b> <b>Final paper: 15%</b>	Paper Idea and Outline: February 11, 2016 Final Paper: April 7, 2016
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>25%</b>	To be scheduled by the registrar during the final exam period

## **EXAMS**

The mid-term exam (20%) will be conducted during class time and will cover material from January 12<sup>th</sup> – February 23.

The final exam (25%; to be scheduled by the registrar) **will be cumulative**. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, short- and long-answer questions. Questions will be drawn from all materials (lectures, video clips, etc.) presented in class as well as in the textbook.

**No electronic devices can be used during the exams.**

**The use of computers is NOT permitted for exams in this course. Exam answers must be written in the exam booklets provided during the exam.**

**No study aids will be permitted during exams for this course, apart from those that may be provided by the instructor during the exam.**

### **Paper (20%)**

Throughout the semester you will work on a large multipart project that gives you the opportunity to explore a subtopic of interpersonal relationships in depth. The project contains two graded components that build on each other, with the end result being a research paper. The final paper will consist of a research proposal in which you will be required to design a novel research study examining an aspect of interpersonal relationships. The components of this paper will include:

1. *Idea and outline (5%)*. You will submit a description of a topic that you would like to research and an outline of your final paper. This is due on February 11<sup>th</sup>.
2. *Final paper (15%)*. An 8 – 10 page paper (maximum, excluding title page and references) is due Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>, at the beginning of lecture.

Details regarding this paper will be provided in class as well as on D2L.

### **Thought Papers / Exercises (15%)**

During the term you will be required to complete two thoughts papers / exercises. Each of these papers/exercises will vary in length and format, and will relate to concepts discussed in lecture and the textbook. Possible thought papers / exercises may include designing your own follow-up study to a published research paper, providing a critique of a published research paper, applying theoretical concepts to your own experiences (i.e., your own relationships, relationships of friends, relationships portrayed in movies, etc.), watching and responding to an online TED talk, etc. Thought paper topics and details will be announced at the beginning of the course and will be posted on D2L.

### **Group Presentation (15%)**

Group presentations will be scheduled throughout the term (see lecture schedule below). Groups will have 30 minutes dedicated to them during lecture to present their assigned topic. To ensure that the first group has adequate time to prepare their presentation, group presentations will not begin until Monday October 6<sup>th</sup>. Should one or more group members be ill on the date of the presentation, thus compromising the group's ability to present, arrangements (e.g., rescheduling or other possibilities) will be determined on a case basis via consultation between group members and the instructor. Detailed information will be provided in lecture and on D2L.

### **Participation (5%)**

In addition to attending class, active participation is an important requirement of each class. We will devote a great deal of time to group presentations, where your involvement is especially important. If we have a large class, not everybody will have a chance to talk every class. As such, some activities will involve you posting discussion questions for each topic. This discussion question should be submitted through the course D2L site. Grades will be assigned based on your in class participation, and the quality of Discussion Questions.

**Submission of Assignments/Papers:** You are expected to hand in your printed assignments at the beginning of class on the assigned due dates. Electronic submissions will **NOT** be accepted. A 10% penalty will be assessed for each work day that the paper is late (including weekends). It is your responsibility to ensure that I receive the assignment on time. Late assignments may be handed in at the Psychology Office Dropbox (after hours, the grey box outside this office), but will still be subject to late penalties.

All assignments must be double-spaced and adhere to the guidelines of the APA manual (6<sup>th</sup> edition).

### **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, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

#### Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due	Chapter	Important Dates
T Jan 12	Winter term lectures begin.  <b>Introduction to Relationships and Building Blocks in Relationships</b>	CH 1	
R Jan 14	<b>Building Blocks in Relationships Continued</b>		
T Jan 19	<b>Building Blocks in Relationships Continued</b> <b>Attraction</b>		
R Jan 21	<b>Attraction Continued</b>	CH 3	
F Jan 22	Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.		

M Jan 25	Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.		
T Jan 26	<b>Attraction Continued</b>		
R Jan 28	<b>Social Cognition</b>	CH 4	
T Feb 2	<b>Social Cognition Continued</b>		
R Feb 4	<b>Communication</b>	CH 5	<b>Thought Paper #1: Due at the beginning of lecture</b>
T Feb 9	<b>Communication Continued</b>		<b>Group 1 Presents</b>
R Feb 11	<b>Interdependence, Trust, and Commitment</b>	CH 6	<b>Paper idea and outline: Due at the beginning of lecture</b>
Feb 14-21	Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day).		
M Feb 15	Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.		
T Feb 23	<b>Interdependence, Trust, and Commitment</b>		<b>Group 2 Presents</b>
R Feb 25	<b>Midterm 1: Material from January 12 - February 23</b>		
T Mar 1	<b>Friendship</b>	CH 7	<b>Group 3 Presents</b>
R Mar 3	<b>Friendship Continued</b>		
T Mar 8	<b>Love and Other Emotions</b>	CH 8	<b>Group 4 Presents</b>
R Mar 10	<b>Love and Other Emotions Continued</b>		
T Mar 15	<b>Love and Other Emotions Continued</b>		<b>Group 5 Presents</b>
R Mar 17	<b>Sex and Relationships</b>	CH 9	
T Mar	<b>Sex and Relationships Continued</b>		<b>Group 6 Presents</b>

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R Mar 24	<b>Stresses, Strains, and Conflict</b>	CH 10 AND 11	<b>Thought Paper #2: Due at the beginning of lecture</b>
T Mar 29	<b>Stresses, Strains, and Conflict Continued</b>		<b>Group 7 Presents</b>
R Mar 31	<b>The Dissolution and Loss of Romantic Relationships</b>	CH 13	
T Apr 5	<b>The Dissolution and Loss of Romantic Relationships Continued</b>		<b>Group 8 Presents</b>
R Apr 7	<b>Maintaining Relationships</b>	CH 14	<b>Final paper: Due at the beginning of lecture</b>
T Apr 12	<b>Maintaining Relationships Continued</b>		
W Apr 13	Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.		
Apr 16-27	Winter Term Final Examinations.		

### **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**

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/](http://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 [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

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 date, 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](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 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](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.

### **Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)**

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 **April 13, 2016**.

### **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](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 403-220-3913

[socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

### **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 January 22, 2016**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 25, 2016**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 13, 2016**.