



**Department of Psychology**  
**Sensory, Perceptual and Cognitive Aspects of Aging**  
**Psychology 455 (L01) – Winter 2009**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Charles T. (Chip) Scialfa</b>	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	<b>SH 288</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>220-4951</b>	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	<b>T TH at 2 pm</b>
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:scialfa@ucalgary.ca">scialfa@ucalgary.ca</a>		
<b>Office:</b>	<b>Admin. 151B</b>		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>TBA</b>		

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### **Course Description and Goals**

A major goal of the course is to provide you with an advanced understanding of experimental aging research and theory. Just as importantly, it is my hope that through this course, you'll learn to evaluate and express ideas both orally and in writing, to synthesize work from different studies and areas, and to critique the literature. It is a lecture course and a seminar. In that sense, it is your class and what you get out of it depends on you.

### **Required Text**

There is no textbook for this course. Readings (see attached list) have been copied and packaged and are available for purchase at the Psychs office (Admin. 170).

### **Evaluation**

There will be one in-term essay exam, counting for 25% of your final mark. There is a term paper (APA style, approximately 30 pages with approximately 25-30 references) that is worth 40% of your mark. To help you in preparing for the writing of this paper, at about the midway point in the term, you must turn in and revise a two-page prospectus that includes reference to the extant literature. This will count for 10% of your mark and the revision of this prospectus is worth 5%. The remaining 20% will be from periodic in-class writing assignments.

### **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 (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.).

## Lecture Schedule

**Winter 2007 – Lecture Schedule**  
(January 2 – April 26)  
TR - (Tuesday, Thursday)

DATE		
Jan. 5	Block Week (Jan. 25-9)	
Jan. 12	Winter Session lectures begin.	
Jan. 13	Methods	
Jan. 15	Methods	
Jan. 20	Methods Writing Exercise	4%
Jan. 22	Sensation and Perception	
Jan. 23	Last day for Winter registration and change of registration.	
Jan. 27	Sensation and Perception	
Jan. 29	Sensation and Perception Writing Exercise	4%
Feb 3	Attention	
Feb. 5	Attention	
Feb. 10	Attention Writing Exercise	4%
Feb. 12	Reaction Times	
Feb. 15-22	Reading Week – No classes.	
Feb. 24	Reaction Times Writing Exercise	4%
Feb. 26	Essay Exam 1	25%
March 3	Language Processing (No readings)	
March 5	Term Paper Prospectus Due and Reviewed	10%
March 10	Catch-up Date	5%
March 12	Term Paper Prospectus Revised	
March 17	Learning	
March 19	Learning	
March 24	Learning	
March 22	Learning Writing Assignment	4%
March 26	Memory	
March 31	Memory	
April 2	TERM PAPER DUE Memory	40%
April 7	Memory	
April 9	Intelligence	
April 14	Intelligence	
April 16	Intelligence	
	Last day of lectures for Winter Session. Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Session half courses.	

## University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives

Critical and creative thinking  
Analysis of problems  
Effective written communication  
Abstract reasoning and its applications  
A defined interdisciplinary component  
Integration of research

### Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen 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 fifteen 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 fifteen 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 fourteen (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.

### **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 **April 16, 2009**.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in the Administration building, room 170 or may be contacted at 220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)  
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is January 23<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The last day to withdraw from this course is April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009.