

Psychology 497
Consciousness
Fall 2015

Instructor:	Dr. Glen Bodner	Lecture Location:	SA 235
Phone:	403-220-2714 (no callback)	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 12:30-1:45 pm
Email:	bodner@ucalgary.ca (I aim to respond to emails within 1 weekday)		
Office:	AD 235B	Office Hours:	By appointment

Course Description

An exploration of the origin, nature, and function of consciousness as informed by research on conscious and unconscious processes, psychological disorders, neuropsychological case studies, consciousness-altering drugs, hypnosis, meditation, state-dependent memory, sleep, and dreams.

Course Learning Outcomes

- able to describe both philosophical and scientific approaches to the study of consciousness
- able to propose a study that could further our understanding of consciousness
- able to work effectively as a team
- able to deliver effective oral presentations
- able to write a convincing research proposal
- able to write critical, constructive peer reviews

Prerequisites

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

Psyc 365 – Cognitive Psychology or Psyc 375 – Brain and Behaviour

Required Text

Blackmore (2012). Consciousness: An Introduction (2nd Edition). In bookstore. 1st Edition is fine, too.

Evaluation

Most research in Psychology is accomplished via collaboration. At the start of the course you will join a team (3-4 students) based on shared interest in a topic. You will work with your team throughout the term on a topic presentation, a proposal presentation, and a proposal paper. Teams will distribute points for team assignments as a function of members' relative contributions. Thus team members who commit and contribute the most to their team projects should expect to receive higher grades.

Component	% Final Grade	Due Date
1. Team topic presentation	20%	Oct 6 – Oct 22
2. Team proposal presentation	20%	Nov 17 – Dec 8
3. Team proposal paper	35%	Dec 8
4. Peer review 1	10%	Nov 17
5. Peer review 2	10%	Nov 26
6. Class participation	5%	

1. *Team topic presentation (20%)*. Your team will choose a topic about consciousness (suggested topics will be posted on D2L) and will deliver a coherent, engaging, and informative 30-minute interactive (questions, discussions) and multimedia-based (slides, media clips, demos) topic presentation. Each team member must contribute to both the preparation and the delivery.

2. *Team proposal presentation (20%)*. Your team will develop a research proposal based on your topic and will deliver a coherent, engaging, and informative 20-minute presentation followed by a discussion period. The goal is to propose a study that will further our understanding of consciousness in that topic area. Each team member must contribute to both the preparation and the delivery.

3. *Team proposal paper (35%)*. Your team will collaborate on a written version of the team's research proposal (see D2L for details), to be submitted at the end of term (see schedule). The APA-formatted paper will be 12 double-spaced pages of text, and must include at least 12 references. A cover letter must be submitted with each paper describing it and detailing how it was improved in response to the peer reviews (see 4&5 below). Each team member must contribute to the paper and cover letter. Late submissions will be penalized 5% out of 100% per day, including each weekend day, without exception. Must be submitted in class or via the Psych Office (AD 255), not via email.

4&5. *Peer review 1 (10%) and 2 (10%)*. Each student will peer review 2 other team's proposal papers, providing critical and constructive suggestions for improvement. Peer reviews must be completed using the template posted on D2L. Each peer review will be 1 single-spaced page. Peer reviews can be anonymous or signed. Late reviews will be penalized 5% out of 100% per day, including each weekend day, without exception. Must be submitted in class or via the Psych Office (AD 255), not via email.

6. *Class participation (5%)*. The quality of your contributions to class discussions will be evaluated during the first (2.5%) and second (2.5%) portions of the term (as defined in class). You will receive 0.5% for each quality contribution. You will receive 0% if you do not contribute effectively to class discussions.

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% rounds to 90% = A, 89.4% rounds down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Oral Work Due	Written Work Due
T S 08	Introduction to the course	
R S 10	Forming teams and assigning topics	
T S 15	Parts 1-3: The Problem, The World, The Self	
R S 17	Parts 1-3: The Problem, The World, The Self	
T S 22	Parts 4-6: The Brain, Evolution, Artificial Consciousness	
R S 24	Parts 4-6: The Brain, Evolution, Artificial Consciousness	
T S 29	Parts 7-9: Borderlands, Altered States, First-Person	
R O 01	Parts 7-9: Borderlands, Altered States, First-Person	
T O 06	Parts 1-3: Team 1-2 Topic Presentations (20%)	
R O 08	Parts 1-3: Team 3-4 Topic Presentations	
T O 13	Parts 4-6: Team 5-6 Topic Presentations	
R O 15	Parts 4-6: Team 7-8 Topic Presentations	
T O 20	Parts 7-9: Team 9-10 Topic Presentations	
R O 22	Parts 7-9: Team 11-12 Topic Presentations	
T O 27	Team 1-4: Proposal workshopping	
R O 29	Team 5-8: Proposal workshopping	
T N 03	Team 9-12: Proposal workshopping	
R N 05	Team proposal consultations	

T N 10	Peer review information and paper distribution	Initial proposal papers due
N 11-15	Reading Days. No lectures.	
T N 17	Team 1-2 Proposal Presentation (20%)	Peer review 1 due (10%)
R N 19	Team 3-4 Proposal Presentation	
T N 24	Team 5-6 Proposal Presentations	
R N 26	Team peer review consultations	Peer review 2 due (10%)
T D 01	Team 7-8 Proposal Presentations	
R D 03	Team 9-10 Proposal Presentations	
T D 08	Team 11-12 Proposal Presentations	Proposal papers due (35%)

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 psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues. If students cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam 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 students cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam 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 **Dec 8, 2015**.

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 Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. Call 403-220-6420 or visit 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

Date	Importance
F Sep 18	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.
M Sep 21	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.
F Sep 25	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
M Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
Nov 11-15	Reading Days. No lectures.
W Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
R Nov 12	Reading Days. No lectures.
T Dec 8	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
Dec 11-22	Fall Term Exam Period.