



Department of Psychology
PSYC 507.73/PSYC 637 - Transportation Human Factors
Winter 2009

Lecture (LEC 01), Tuesday 1:30-3:30 p.m., Admin. 151

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Caird

Office: Admin. 222

Telephone: 220-5571

Hours: T, Th: 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.
or by appointment

E-mail: jkcaird@ucalgary.ca

Course Description and Goals

Classic and current papers that encompass core topics in transportation human factors will be reviewed and discussed. Previous exposure to literature on ergonomics and human factors is helpful, however, not required. The instructor reserves the right to limit entry into the course. The readings for the course will be available from the instructor.

Topics to be covered:

1. Methods and Theory
2. Teen and Novice Drivers
3. Crash Investigations
4. Social Factors
5. Driving Simulation
6. Driver Error
7. Intelligent Transportation Systems

Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to learn and to be able to articulate a broad understanding of transportation human factors. The process set forth to achieve this objective will be to review classic and current papers that cover a representative set of topics within the field. A secondary objective is to provide an environment where skill in the application of basic and applied psychological research to transportation systems can be developed.

Evaluation

Class Paper Presentations and Participation: The instructor will usually give a broad overview of a particular area of knowledge. A more in-depth paper will then be assigned within a particular domain. An individual presenter will be responsible for leading the class discussion

on assigned papers. The whole class is expected to actively participate in these discussions. Class participation or active verbal contribution to each paper discussion will be worth 20% of your final grade. Each student will be expected to present a minimum of three papers over the semester. Each presentation will be worth 10%. The number of presentations will be established at the second meeting when readings are assigned. More papers will be assigned to graduate students than to undergraduates. A presentation is not limited to a brief overview, general impressions, outstanding significance of the paper, limitations of the paper, theoretical and empirical significance, logical extensions of thought, and so forth. After a brief presentation, questions should be posed that direct the discussion of the class towards the key issues or findings of the paper. The aim of paper presentations is to learn how to present and to learn how to critique papers. Students will be evaluated on both their presentations and class participation. Missed class presentations, without proper documentation, will be assigned a 0%. Each class participation that is missed will result in a 2% reduction in your final grade, if not documented.

Examination: The final take-home exam will cover all lectures and readings. It is designed to test your ability to apply human factors knowledge to particular problems. At the appropriate time, example questions will be discussed. The take home exam will last 3 days and be scheduled in accord with each student’s final exam schedule. A number of essay questions types will be used including definitions, compare and contrast, short essay and case study. The length of the exam will be shorter for undergraduate students.

Date	Activity
T Jan 13	Class organization
T Jan 20	Readings Assigned
Apr 20-30	Take Home Final Exam Scheduled

Distribution of Grades:

Class Presentations	30%
Class Participation	20%
Take Home Final Exam	50%
Total	100%

Readings

Papers for the entire term will be provided by the instructor.

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.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., presentation, 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/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.

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 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 **January 23, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 17, 2009**.