

PSYC 443
INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
Fall 2015

Instructor:	Dr. K. Edwin Sheppard	Lecture Location:	SH 274
Phone:	403-220-8970	Lecture Days/Time:	T/R: 9:30 – 10:45
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Office Hours:	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*, 7th Ed., McGraw-Hill. Available at the Bookstore.

Additional Readings

Additional readings will be provided on D2L throughout the course.

Evaluation

Course Component	Weighting	Date
Midterm	20%	Thursday October 22, 2015
Thought Papers/Exercises	20%	Two assignments will be due throughout the term. See the lecture schedule below for due dates.
Group Presentation	15%	Scheduled throughout the term beginning October 6 th
Final Paper	Idea and outline: 5% Final paper: 15%	Paper Idea and Outline: October 15, 2015 Final Paper: December 1, 2015
Final Exam	25%	To be scheduled by the registrar during the final exam period

EXAMS

The mid-term exam (25%) will be conducted during class time and will cover material from September 8th to October 22nd.

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 exam period.

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.
2. *Final paper (15%)*. An 8 – 10 page paper (maximum, excluding title page and references) is due Thursday December 1st, at the beginning of lecture.

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

Thought Papers / Exercises (20%)

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 6th. 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.

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 (6th 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 Date	Chapter	Assignments and Presentations
T Sep 8	Lecture begins. Introduction and Building Blocks in Relationships	Ch. 1	
R Sep 10	Building Blocks in Relationships Continued		
T Sep 15	Building Blocks in Relationships Continued		
R Sep 17	Attraction	Ch. 3	
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.		
T Sep 22	Attraction Continued		
R Sep 24	Attraction Continued		
F Sep 25	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.		
T Sep 29	Social Cognition	Ch. 4	
R Oct 1	Social Cognition Continued		Thought Paper #1: Due at the beginning of lecture

T Oct 6	Communication	Ch. 5	Group 1
R Oct 8	Communication Continued		
M Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.		
T Oct 13	Interdependence, Trust, and Commitment	Ch. 6	Group 2
R Oct 15	Interdependence, Trust, and Commitment Continued		Paper idea and outline: Due at the beginning of lecture
T Oct 20	Interdependence, Trust, and Commitment Continued		Group 3
R Oct 22	Midterm 1: Everything from September 8 – October 20		
T Oct 27	Friendship	Ch. 7	Group 4
R Oct 29	Friendship Continued		
T Nov 3	Love and Other Emotions	Ch. 8	Group 5
R Nov 5	Love and Other Emotions Continued		
T Nov 10	Sex and Relationships	Ch. 9	Group 6
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 Nov 17	Sex and Relationships Continued		Group 7
R Nov 19	Stresses, Strains, and Conflict	Ch. 10 and 11	Thought Paper #2: Due at the beginning of lecture
T Nov 24	Stresses, Strains, and Conflict Continued		Group 8
R Nov 26	The Dissolution and Loss of Romantic Relationships	Ch. 13	
T Dec 1	The Dissolution and Loss of Romantic Relationships Continued		Final paper: Due at the beginning of lecture
R Dec 3	Maintaining Relationships	Ch. 14	
T Dec	Maintaining Relationships Continued		

8	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.		
Dec 11-22	Fall Term Exam Period.		

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/.

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.

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 <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. 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. 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 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

(<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

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 **September 18, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 21, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 8, 2015**.