



Department of Psychology
Psychology 203 (L02) – Psychology of Everyday Life
Fall 2009

Instructor:	Sarah Watkins	Lecture Location:	MFH 164
Phone:	403-220-8229	Lecture Days/Time:	S 1:00 – 5:00 P.M.
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Office Hours:	TBA		

Course Description and Goals

This course has been designed especially for non-psychology majors. Its purpose is to provide students with an understanding of the key theories, research methods, and discoveries of psychology, with an emphasis on developing the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective consumers of psychological theory and research. Through a focus on issues that arise in everyday life, this course will demonstrate some of the ways in which psychology can be of use to students in their personal and professional lives.

Required Text

Weiten, W., Lloyd, M.A., Dunn, D.S., & Yost Hammer, E. (2009). Psychology Applied to Modern Life (9th Ed.), Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth.

This textbook is available in the University Bookstore.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites required to take this course.

Course Website

The course website is located on blackboard: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>

Evaluation

Exams (96% of final grade)

There are two midterm exams (Oct. 3rd and Nov. 7th) and a final exam (Dec. 5th). All exams are non-cumulative and are each worth 32% of your final grade. All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and will cover lecture material and assigned readings from the textbook.

Experiential-Learning/Article-Evaluation Course Component (4% of final grade)

This experiential-learning/article-evaluation component provides enriched learning opportunities in this introductory course. You can complete this component by participating in research studies (Option 1: Research Participation), by completing 1-page article evaluations from a designated list (Option 2: Article Evaluations), or by a combination of the two options.

Thus, you will learn more about psychology by taking part in research studies and/or by reading and evaluating articles from a psychological perspective.

Option 1: Research Participation. Students can complete this course component by creating an account and participating in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. Each study will be followed by an educational debriefing experience. 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. **The last day to participate in research and allocate credits is Dec 7th, 2009.**

Option 2: Article Evaluations. Students can complete this course component by reading and evaluating articles. Students earn 1% (1 credit) for each acceptable evaluation. Students can submit only one evaluation per due date (**September 26, October 17, November 7, November 28, 2009**). Please consult the Blackboard for this course for more information about this option.

Option 3: Combinations of Options 1 and 2. Students can complete this course component through any combination of Options 1 and 2 (e.g., 3% through Option 1 and 1% through Option 2, or vice versa). Given that each article evaluation counts for 1%, students who complete, for example, 2.5% through Option 1 would need to complete two evaluations to successfully complete all 4% of this course component. As mentioned under Option 2, students can only submit one article evaluation per due date. Thus, students who opt to combine Options 1 and 2 must plan ahead carefully.

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% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept 12	Adjusting to Modern Life	Chapter 1
Sept 18	<i>Last day for registration/change of registration. Last day to drop a WU course with no W grade and tuition refund.</i>	
Sept 19	Theories of Personality Stress and Its Effects	Chapter 2 Chapter 3
Sept 26	Coping Processes The Self <i>Article Evaluation Due</i>	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
Oct 3	Midterm Exam 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Oct 10	<i>No lecture - Thanksgiving weekend.</i>	
Oct 17	Social Thinking and Social Influence Interpersonal Communication <i>Article Evaluation Due</i>	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
Oct 24	Friendship and Love Marriage and Intimate Relationships	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
Oct 31	Gender and Behaviour	Chapter 10
Nov 7	Midterm Exam 2 <i>Article Evaluation Due</i>	Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Nov 14	<i>No lecture – Reading week.</i>	
Nov 21	Development in Adolescent and Adulthood Psychology and Physical Health	Chapter 11 Chapter 14
Nov 28	Psychological Disorders Psychotherapy <i>Article Evaluation Due</i> <i>Last day to withdraw from a WU course</i>	Chapter 15 Chapter 16
Dec 5	Final Exam	Chapters 11, 14, 15, 16
Dec 7	<i>Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits</i>	

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. 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 **Sep 18th, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 8th, 2009**.