



**Psychology 203**

**Psychology for Everyday Life**

<b>Instructor:</b>	John Ellard	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	Administration 167
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-4960	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
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<b>Office:</b>	Administration 231A		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	After class or by appointment		

**Course Description and Goals**

This course is 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.

**Course Objectives**

- Awareness and understanding of what psychological science is and its domains of inquiry.
- Knowledge of important psychological theories and facts and their application to understanding human experience.
- Knowledge, through direct experience, reading, and lecture of the methods and research strategies employed in psychological including their strengths and limitations
- Appreciation of the ethical issues involved in psychological research.
- Enhanced ability to critically evaluate knowledge claims about psychological phenomena.
- Enhanced ability to utilize psychological knowledge to enhance personal productivity and well-being.
- Awareness of the relevance of scientific psychology for understanding and addressing important human problems.

**Note: Psyc 203 does not count toward the minimum requirements for the Major or Honours in Psychology. Psyc 200 (Principles of Psychology I) and Psyc 201 (Principles of Psychology II) are the prerequisite courses for all psychology courses except Psychology 305. Psyc 203 cannot be used in place of Psyc 200 or Psyc 201 for prerequisite purposes.**

**Required Textbook and Internet Resources**

1. Textbook: Meyers, David G. (2012). *Psychology in Everyday Life*. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). New York, NY: Worth Publishers.
2. Internet: PsychPortal for *Psychology in Everyday Life*. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). New York, NY: Worth Publishers.

Notes:

1. Both the textbook and PsychPortal registration are required for this course and are available through the University of Calgary Bookstore. However, because PsychPortal *includes* access to the electronic version of the textbook, there is a cost saving for students choosing to only use the electronic version of the book, in which case, only purchase of PsychPortal is required.
2. PsychPortal is optimized for the Firefox browser. Please ensure that you are using the most recent version of Firefox.

**Evaluation: Quizzes, Tests and Final Examination, Experiential Learning and Written Assignment:**

*Pre-lecture quizzes: 11% of final grade*

Before commencing each new topic, a pre-lecture online PsychPortal quiz will be completed with an assignment deadline of one hour before the lecture. These quizzes will typically have 10 questions. The quizzes are open book and will be available for at least one week before they are due *but* must be completed within one hour once you start. Each quiz can be taken up to 3 times and your best score will be the one that is recorded. The quizzes are intended to encourage reading and learning of relevant material *before* it is discussed in lecture. There are 12 quizzes and the lowest quiz grade will be dropped so each quiz is worth 1% of your final grade.

*Proficiency quizzes: 22% of final grade*

PsychPortal Proficiency quizzes are designed to help you master the material. The quizzes will typically have 20 questions and are open book. Each quiz can be taken up to 3 times and your best score will be the one that is recorded. There are 12 quizzes and the lowest quiz grade will be dropped so each quiz is worth 2% of your final grade.

*Class Tests and Final Exam: 60% of final grade*

There will be two in-class tests during the term as well as a final exam. The tests and final exam in this course are non-cumulative multiple-choice tests. Each will only cover material not covered on previous tests. Final grades will be based on performance on each of these as follows:

- Test 1.* To be held in class on **Tuesday, October 9**. The test will be based on the material covered in Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 in *The Psychology of Everyday Life* and relevant lecture material. (Worth **20%** of the final grade.)
- Test 2.* To be held in class on **Thursday, November 8**. The test will be based on the material covered in Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 in *The Psychology of Everyday Life* and relevant lecture material. (Worth **20%** of the final grade.)
- Final Exam.* Date to be scheduled by the Registrar. The test will be based on the material covered in Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 in *The Psychology of Everyday Life* and relevant lecture material. (Worth **20%** of the final grade.)

Notes:

1. Approximately 20% of each test and the final examination will be based on material from lecture and that does not appear in the textbook.
2. Classroom tests and the final examination in this course will employ a “paperless” format, so-called because rather than handing out paper examination booklets, questions are projected on

the screen in the classroom and you will record your responses on an optical score sheet that will be machine scored.

*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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

*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 21, October 12, November 2, November 23, 2012**). 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.

*Psychology in Everyday Life Written Assignment (3 % of final grade)*

This assignment is designed to give you an opportunity to apply a course concept to an event in everyday life. The assignment requires you to identify a noteworthy event and then provide a brief analysis of how a course concept provides understanding of the event. This assignment will be graded by a teaching assistant. Details of the assignment will be made available in a separate document with the due date set according to students' last name as follows:

If your last name begins with the letter...	Your assignment is due.....
A or B	November 23
C	November 2
D or E	November 30
F or G	October 12
H or I	October 19

If your last name begins with the letter...	Your assignment is due.....
J or K	November 9
L	November 16
M	September 28
N, O, P, Q, or R	October 26
S	October 5
T or U	December 7
V, W, X, Y, or Z	September 21

### 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

Day	Week	Date	Topic	Chapter
Tue	1	Sept 11	Course Introduction	
Thurs		Sept 13	Introduction to Psychology and Psychological Science	1
Tue	2	Sept 18	Biology of Mind and Consciousness	2
Thurs		Sept 20	Biology of Mind and Consciousness	2
Tue	3	Sept 25	Development	3
Thurs		Sept 27	Development	3
Tue	4	Oct 2	Gender & Sexuality	4
Thurs		Oct 4	Gender & Sexuality	4
Tue	5	Oct 9	<b>Test 1: Chapters 1 - 4</b>	
Thurs		Oct 11	Sensation & Perception	5
Tue	6	Oct 16	Sensation & Perception	5
Thurs		Oct 18	Learning	6
Tue	7	Oct 23	Memory	7
Thurs		Oct 25	Thinking, Language, Intelligence	8
Tue	8	Oct 30	Thinking, Language, Intelligence	8
Thurs		Nov 1	Motivation & Emotion	9
Tue	9	Nov 6	Motivation & Emotion	9
Thurs		Nov 8	<b>Test 2: Chapters 5 - 9</b>	
Tue	10	Nov 13	Reading Days – No Class	
Thurs		Nov 15	Stress & Health Psychology	10
Tue	11	Nov 20	Stress & Health Psychology	10
Thurs		Nov 22	Personality	11
Tue	12	Nov 27	Psychological Disorders	12

Day	Week	Date	Topic	Chapter
Thurs		Nov 29	Psychological Disorders	12
Tue	13	Dec 4	Therapy	13
Thurs		Dec 6	Social Psychology	14

### ***Important Dates***

1. Friday, Sept 21: Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.
2. Monday, Sept 24: Last day for add or swap courses.
3. December 10 – 19: Final Exams

### **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 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 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.

### **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 275), 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 (2) 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 **December 7th, 2012.**

### **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

[suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 403-220-3913

[socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a tuition fee refund** and the last day for registration/change of registration is **September 24th, 2012.** The last day to withdraw from this course with permission is **Friday, December 7th, 2012.**