



PSYC 345

Social Psychology

Fall 2013

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Melissa Boyce	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	ST 141
<b>Phone:</b>	403-210-6257	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MWF 4:00 – 4:50 pm
<b>Email:</b>	mboyce@ucalgary.ca		
<b>Office:</b>	Admin 258		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA		

### Course Description and Goals

Social psychological approaches to understanding social influence, social perception and cognition, attitudes, and group dynamics.

This course surveys a wide range of areas of study within the field of social psychology. By the end of the course you should be:

1. able to identify and understand the social psychological perspective on psychological phenomenon and how it differs from perspectives in other areas of psychology and the social sciences
2. able to identify and understand the major theoretical frameworks within social psychology (e.g., social learning theory, cognitive dissonance theory, etc.) and their real life applications (e.g., aggression, attitude formation, etc.)
3. familiar with the types of research questions and research designs common in studies in this area, and able to critique research findings on relevant topics that you encounter in the media and elsewhere.

### Prerequisites

PSYC 200 and PSYC 201 (or equivalent) – Principles of Psychology I & II

### Required Text

Kassin, S., Fein, S., Markus, H. R., & Burke, T. (2008). *Social Psychology (Second Canadian Ed.)*, Toronto, ON: Nelson Education Ltd. (available in the university bookstore)

### Course Website

The course website is located on blackboard:

<https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>

Notes for each week's classes will be posted at the beginning of the week. In addition, announcements and grades will be posted on this site.

## Evaluation

Exams: Three exams are scheduled for this course covering text and lecture material (including films). The first two exams are non-cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice questions. The final exam will be 2 hours in length. This final is cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice questions.

	Date	Chapters Covered	Worth
<b>Exam 1</b>	Oct 9, 2013	1-5	25%
<b>Exam 2</b>	Nov 15, 2013	6-9	25%
<b>Exam 3</b>	TBA (during final exam period)	All course material (with emphasis on chapters' 10-12)	20%

Max total = 70% of your mark

In-Class Group Assignments: Two in-class group assignments (Oct 21 and Nov 29) worth 5% each (max total = 10% of your mark). These assignments are intended to help you apply the concepts that you have learned in class. You will work on these assignments in groups of 3-6 and hand them in at the end of class.

Thought Paper: Two thought papers 3-4 pages double-spaced in length (with 12 pt font and 1" margins) worth 10% each (max total = 20% of your mark) where you will apply social psychological theories or concepts that you have learned about in class to a real life event (either from your own life or from a newspaper article). These papers are intended to help you develop insight into everyday experiences using ideas learned in the course. Further details will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard. Due Oct 21 and Nov 22.

You are expected to hand in your printed assignments at the beginning of class on the due dates. If you cannot attend class on either of those days, you must 1) drop your assignment off in the box outside of A255 or 2) email me the assignment as a Word file attachment, before noon on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted without medical documentation.

### 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

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
1	Mon, Sept 9	Overview of the course <i>Lecture Begins</i>	Course Outline
	Wed, Sept 11	Intro to Social Psychology	Ch 1
	Fri, Sept 13	Intro to Social Psychology	Ch 1
2	Mon, Sept 16	Research Methods in Social Psychology	Ch 2
	Wed, Sept 18	Research Methods in Social Psychology	Ch 2

	Fri, Sept 20	The Social Self <b><i>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.</i></b>	Ch 3
3	Mon, Sept 23	The Social Self <b><i>Last day to add or swap courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i></b>	Ch 3
	Wed, Sept 25	<b>CLASS CANCELLED</b>	
	Fri, Sept 27	Perceiving Persons <b><i>Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.</i></b>	Ch 4
4	Mon, Sept 30	Perceiving Persons	Ch 4
	Wed, Oct 2	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Ch 5
	Fri, Oct 4	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Ch 5
5	Mon, Oct 7	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Ch 5
	Wed, Oct 9	<b>Exam 1</b>	All material to date
	Fri, Oct 11	Attitudes	Ch 6
6	Mon, Oct 14	<b>Thanksgiving Day. University Closed (except for Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher, and Business Libraries). No lectures.</b>	
	Wed, Oct 16	Attitudes	Ch 6
	Fri, Oct 18	Attitudes	Ch 6
7	Mon, Oct 21	<b>In-Class Assignment 1</b>	<b><i>Thought Paper 1 due at the beginning of class</i></b>
	Wed, Oct 23	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch 7
	Fri, Oct 25	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch 7
8	Mon, Oct 28	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch 7
	Wed, Oct 30	Group Processes	Ch 8
	Fri, Nov 1	Group Processes	Ch 8
9	Mon, Nov 4	Group Processes	Ch 8
	Wed, Nov 6	Attraction and Close Relationships	Ch 9
	Fri, Nov 8	Attraction and Close Relationships	Ch 9
10	Nov 9-12	<b>Reading Days. No lectures.</b>	
	Mon, Nov 11	<b>Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</b>	

	Wed, Nov 13	Attraction and Close Relationships	Ch 9
<b>11</b>	Fri, Nov 15	<b>Exam 2</b>	All material since exam 1
	Mon, Nov 18	Aggression	Ch 11
	Wed, Nov 20	Aggression	Ch 11
<b>12</b>	Fri, Nov 22	Aggression	<b><i>Thought Paper 2 due at the beginning of class</i></b>
	Mon, Nov 25	Helping Others	Ch 10
	Wed, Nov 27	Helping Others	Ch 10
<b>13</b>	Fri, Nov 29	<b>In-Class Assignment 2</b>	
	Mon, Dec 2	Law	Ch 12
	Wed, Dec 4	Law	Ch 12
	Fri, Dec 6	Law <b>Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.</b>	Ch 12
	Dec 9 - 19	<b>Final Exam (scheduled by Registrar)</b>	All material since exam 2

### 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 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.

### **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 except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

### **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 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 6, 2013**

### **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)

### **Student Ombudsman's Office**

The Office of the Student Ombuds 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](mailto: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 20, 2013**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 23, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 6, 2013**.