



**Department of Psychology
Psychology 345 (L29) – Social Psychology**

Spring Session 2008

Instructor:	Dr. Nancy J. Smith	Lecture Location:	Professional Faculties room 120 (PF 120)
Phone:	239-0255 220-2242	Lecture Days/Time:	Saturdays 1-5:30 pm: May 3, 10, 24, 31; June 7, 14, 21
Office:	Admin 257D		
Email:	njsmith@ucalgary.ca		
Office Hours:	By appointment		
Course Blackboard Site:	blackboard.ucalgary.ca		

Course Description

Course Description and Goals

This course will familiarize you with social psychological approaches to understanding a variety of human experiences. To that end, we will review theoretical and empirical strategies social psychologists have developed to help us understand such things as attitude change, conformity, prejudice, aggression, altruism, and attraction.

Required Text: Aronson, Wilson, Akert, & Fehr (2007). Social Psychology (3rd. Canadian ed.), available in the University Bookstore. **Recommended: Student Study Guide, for Soc. Psych. 3rd Can. Ed.**

Evaluation

Performance in the course (grades) will be evaluated on the basis of two mid-term examinations, a final examination, and 2 written thought pieces.

Important Note: Students must complete all assignments and examinations to receive a passing grade in the course.

Examinations: All three examinations are non-cumulative and multiple choice. They will cover assigned material in the textbook as well as the content of lectures (including all films and videos shown in class). The exam schedule that follows provides specific information regarding the textbook material to be covered by each exam. As well, lecture outlines and video guiding questions will be posted on the course

blackboard page. Nonetheless, you are encouraged to obtain class notes from another student should you miss class.

If you must miss a mid-term exam due to illness or other circumstances beyond your control, a make-up test will be arranged. Documentation will be required and you should contact the instructor before the test (preferably), or as soon as possible after the test.

	Textbook Content	Weight	Date
Midterm Exam 1:	Chaps. 1- 4, part of 5	20%	May 24
Midterm Exam 2:	Chaps. Part of 5, 6 – 9, part 10	32%	June 14
Final Exam:	Chaps. Part 10, 11 -12 & SPA 3, plus any specified topics In SPA 1 and 2	32%	June 28

Thought Piece Assignments: Two reports--minimum 3 pages—maximum 4 pages, with an **additional** cover page including your ID (but not your name) typed, font size 12, double spaced, with page numbers beginning on cover page -- each report worth 8% of the final grade, for a total weight of 16%. Each assignment will consist of your application of social psychological theories or concepts from specified text chapters to gain increased understanding of a relevant experience or event in your own life. These reports are to be prepared using readings from the textbook and must not include references. The goal is for you to develop your ability at achieving insight into everyday experiences using ideas learned in the course. Format details will be explained in class and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Late papers will lose 10% of the assignment grade per day late.

All assignments: You are expected to hand in printed assignments in class on the due date. Printed assignments will be returned, graded, in class to you generally the following lecture date. If you cannot attend class that day, you must 1) drop off the assignment into the Green Box outside A275 before 4:30 pm on the Friday (building closed on Saturday) before the due date or 2) e-mail in your assignment by **1 pm on the due date** as a Word file attachment. if you wish your graded e-mailed assignment returned, you must also drop off a printed version of that e-mailed assignment to the Psychology Office Admin A275 before the next class date.

If illness or other circumstances beyond your control make it difficult to complete an assignment on time as described above, you are expected to advise the instructor of this before the due date has passed. Faxed assignments will not be accepted.

Thought Piece #.	Due Dates:	Applicable Chapter Content
1	May 31	1-6
2	June 21	7-12 plus SPA 3

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%

Note: To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.).

Lecture Schedule—subject to change as necessary
WEEKEND UNIVERSITY - Spring Term

DATE	Topic	Chapter
May 3	Weekend University Spring Session lectures begin Introduction to Social Psychology Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research Begin: Social cognition	1 2 3
May 10	Finish: Social Cognition Social Perception Begin: Self –Knowledge and Self-Evaluation	3 4 5
May 17	<u>No classes</u>	
May 24	<u>Midterm Exam</u> on Ch. 1-4, plus the portion of Chapter 5 covered in class May 10 Finish: Self-Knowledge and Self-Evaluation Begin: Attitudes and Attitude Change	5 6
May 31	<u>Thought Piece 1 Due (on Ch 1-6)</u> Finish: Attitudes and Attitude Change Conformity Begin: Group Processes	6 7 8
June 7	Finish: Group Processes Interpersonal Attraction Begin: Prosocial Behaviour	8 9 10
June 14	<u>Midterm Exam 2, on remainder of Ch.5, all of Chapters 6 – 9, plus the portion of Chapter 10 covered in class June 7</u> Finish: Prosocial Behaviour Aggression	10 11
June 20	Last day to allocate Research Credits to WU courses	
June 21	<u>Thought Piece 2 due (on Ch. 7- 12, plus SPA 3)</u> Prejudice Social Psychology and the Law Weekend University Spring Session lectures end. Last day	12 SPA 3

	to withdraw from WU full courses or Spring Session half courses.
June 28	<u>Final Exam: Ch. 10 – 12, SPA 3</u>

Learning objectives include:

- Awareness and understanding of what scientific social psychology is and its domains of inquiry.
- Comprehension of the social psychological perspective and its significance for understanding human experience.
- Knowledge of important social psychological theories and facts and their application to understanding human experience.
- Awareness and understanding of the methods and research strategies employed in scientific social psychology including their strengths and limitations.
- Appreciation of the ethical issues involved in social psychological research.
- An enhanced ability to understand our day-to-day experiences with others.
- Awareness of the relevance of scientific social psychology for understanding and addressing important social problems.
- Awareness of some of the applications of social psychology

University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives

Students' learning experiences in this course support the following University of Calgary Curriculum Redesign Features:

1. *Interdisciplinarity*: by means of lecture material presenting theoretical perspectives from other social science disciplines such as culture studies, sociology, discursive psychology, and women's studies.
2. *Research Integration*: by examination of students on a chapter devoted to social psychology research methods and by class discussions centering on methodological and conceptual issues in research studies
3. *Broad and Extended Faculty-Student Interaction by means of the instructor's feedback on all individual written assignments and availability outside of class and by appointment to meet with students.*
4. *An international component*: by lecture content drawing on North American, European and non-European perspectives in social psychology.

Core Competencies

University of Calgary Core Competencies facilitated by successful completion of this course include:

1. *Critical and creative thinking* through application of course concepts to everyday experience.
2. *Abstract reasoning and analysis of problems* through application of course concepts in “thought piece” reports and through careful selection of exam questions. The goal is for the student to be able to answer questions correctly by engaging a variety of theoretical ideas present in social psychological research.
3. *Effective oral communication*—through both small group and whole class discussion.
4. *Insight and intuition in generating knowledge*—through lectures allowing the student to develop a familiarity with some of the research carried out by social psychologists, as well as develop an insight into the generation of this knowledge. The goal is for the student to be able to identify and comprehend the ‘social psychological perspective,’ as well as develop a familiarity with some alternative viewpoints.
5. *Effective written communication* through preparation of three written reports.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen 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 fifteen 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 fifteen 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 fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

Course Credits for Research Participation

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 an individual's final grade. Students can create an account and access the Research Participation System website at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. Last day to allocate Research Credits to WU courses is June 20, 2008.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). It is located in the Administration building, room 170 or the association may be contacted at 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 suvpaca@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 May 16, 2008. The last day to withdraw from this course is June 21, 2008.

A copy of this course outline may be viewed on the Internet at the following web address:

<http://www.psychology.ucalgary.ca/students/courses/>