



Department of Psychology

Psychology 345 (L60) – Social Psychology

Summer Session 2008

Instructor: Rose J. Kadri
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Lecture Location: A167
Lecture Days/Time: Tues/Thurs
2:00pm – 4:45pm

Office: Admin 257D

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs (By Appointment)

Course Blackboard Site: blackboard.ucalgary.ca

Introduction

Welcome to Social Psychology!! Social Psychology is by its very nature an interesting and enjoyable subject, filled with useful tidbits that will serve students professionally as well as personally. I hope that you will find this course enjoyable, rewarding, and an opportunity to gain some insight into how and why we interact with others as we do.

I look forward to meeting and working with you over the next semester!

RJK ☺

Course Description and Goals

Social psychology, as the name suggests, is a field of psychology concerned with the social side of human behaviour and human relations. It is the study of social interaction and the ways in which individuals influence and interact with one another. Social psychologist Gordon Allport (1897-1967) defined it as the attempt “to understand and explain how the thoughts, feelings, and behaviour of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined or implied presence of others”. Yet, while individuals are the focus, they are studied against the backdrop of the *social contexts* from which they come.

Social psychologists ask and attempt to answer a multitude of questions relevant to social interaction such as:

- What determines whom we like and why we like them?
- What prompts people to come to the aid of others or not?
- What influences our levels of aggression and violence?
- How are attitudes formed or changed?
- What are some of the consequences of interacting in groups?
- Who becomes a leader?
- Will people follow orders even if those orders go against one’s own beliefs?
- How do we develop stereotypes and prejudices?

This course offers you an introduction to the field of social psychology. It will provide you with an understanding of the processes of, and influences on, social interaction, and introduce you to psychological concepts and theories relevant to the study of people as social beings.

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.**

Course Material

Course and lecture materials will be made available weekly on Blackboard. Students are strongly encouraged to access Blackboard on a regular basis, for announcements, updates, and to print off the lecture notes BEFORE coming to class. Lecture materials are NOT provided.

It is important to understand that these materials will not be complete on their own, but rather, they will help students to organise the lecture information, and show students which topics to follow-up on in the textbook.

Evaluation

Performance in the course (grades) will be evaluated on the basis of two midterm examinations, a final examination, and three 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	20%	10 th July
Midterm Exam 2:	Chaps. 5 - 8	30%	22 nd July
Final Exam:	Chaps. 9 -12 &SPA 3, plus specified topics in SPA 1 and 2	35%	TBA

Thought Piece Assignments: Three reports--minimum 2 pages— maximum 3 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 5% of the final grade, for a total weight of 15%.

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. 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, for return to you by e-mail.

If illness or other circumstances beyond your control make it difficult to complete an assignment on time, 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
One	15 th July	1-4
Two	24 th July	5-8
Three	5 th August	9-12, 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

Summer Term - 2008

Date	Topic	Chapter
3 rd July	Introduction to Social Psychology	1
	Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research	2
	<i>Note: 4th July last day to drop this course and receive full refund.</i>	
8 th July	Social Cognition	3
	Social Perception	4
10 th July	<u>Mid Term Exam 1 (Ch. 1 – 4)</u>	
	Self-Knowledge and Self-Evaluation: Self	5

	Understanding and the Need to Maintain Self-Esteem	
15 th July	<u>Thought Piece 1 (Ch. 1 – 4)</u> Attitudes and Attitude Change Conformity	6 7
17 th July	<i>Cont.</i> Conformity, compliance and obedience Group Processes	7 8
22 nd July	<u>Mid Term Exam 2 (Ch. 5 – 8)</u> FILM	
24 th July	<u>Thought Piece 2 (Ch. 5 – 8)</u> Affiliation, Interpersonal Attraction and Love	9
29 th July	Prosocial Behaviour Aggression	10 11
31 st July	Prejudice and Discrimination	12
5 th August	Social Psychology and Law	SPA 3
7 th August	<u>Thought Piece 3 (Ch. 9 – 12 & SPA 3)</u>	
12 th August	Exam Review	
14 th August	<i>Last Day to Withdraw from this Course</i>	

Learning Objectives

On completion of the course the student is able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of key theoretical concepts in social psychology.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the implications of theory for psychological practice.
3. Critically evaluate and compare key theoretical concepts in social psychology.
4. Demonstrate a commitment to honesty, integrity, collegiality and safe, ethical and legally appropriate behaviour.
5. Present work at the appropriate academic standard.

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 (term paper, essay, test, etc.) 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 Director of Undergraduate Studies in Psychology, 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>. **The last day to participate in research and allocate credits is August 13th, 2008**

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in the Administration building room 170 or 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 July 4th, 2008**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **August 14th, 2008**.