



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Department of Psychology
Psychology 345 (L01) – Social Psychology
Winter 2009

Instructor: Rose Joudi Kadri
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Office: Admin 257D
Office Hours: By Appointment

Lecture Location: ICT 122
Lecture Days: MWF
Lecture Time: 12 – 12.50pm

Course Blackboard Site: blackboard.ucalgary.ca

Grading TA: Jared Berman
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Office Hours: TBA
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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.

- The first and second midterm exams are worth 25% each (total = 50%)
- Three thought piece assignment worth 5% each (total = 15%)
- Final exam is worth 35%

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

Examinations

All examinations are non-cumulative. The first and second midterm exams are multiple choice questions. While the final exam will include multiple choice questions AND short answer questions. The exams 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. Nonetheless, you are encouraged to obtain class notes from another student should you miss class.

	Textbook Content	Weight	Date
Midterm Exam 1:	Chaps. 1- 4	25%	2 nd Feb
Midterm Exam 2:	Chaps. 5 - 8	25%	6 th March
Final Exam:	Chaps. 9 -12, SPA 1 & 3	35%	between 20 th – 30 th April 2009

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	6 th Feb	1-4
Two	9 th March	5-8
Three	8 th April	9-12, SPA 1 & 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%

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 (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.).

Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date	Chapter
1	M Jan 12	Introduction/Overview of Course	
	W Jan 14	Introduction to Social Psychology	1
	F Jan 16	Introduction to Social Psychology	1
2	M Jan 19	Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research	2
	W Jan 21	Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research	2
	F Jan 23	Social Cognition <i>Last day for registration and change of registration. No fee refunds after today.</i>	3
3	M Jan 26	Social Cognition	3
	W Jan 28	Social Perception	4
	F Jan 30	Social Perception	4
4	M Feb 2	Mid Term Exam 1	(Ch. 1 – 4)
	W Feb 4	Video	
	F Feb 6	Self-Knowledge and Self-Evaluation: Self Understanding and the Need to Maintain Self- Esteem	5 Thought Piece 1 Due in Class (Ch. 1 – 4)
5	M Feb 9	Self-Knowledge and Self-Evaluation: Self Understanding and the Need to	5
	W Feb 11	Attitudes and Attitude Change	6

	F Feb 13	Attitudes and Attitude Change	6
6	M Feb 16	<i>Alberta Family Day – No classes</i>	
	W Feb 18	Reading Week – No classes Feb 15-22	
	F Feb 20	Reading Week – No classes Feb 15-22	
7	M Feb 23	Conformity, compliance and obedience	7
	W Feb 25	Conformity, compliance and obedience	7
	F Feb 27	Video – Milgram’s Experiment	
8	M Mar 2	Group Processes	8
	W Mar 4	Group Processes	8
	F Mar 6	Mid Term Exam 2	(Ch. 5 – 8)
9	M Mar 9	Video – Stanford Prison Experiment	Thought Piece 2 Due in Class (Ch. 5-8)
	W Mar 11	Affiliation, Interpersonal Attraction and Love	9
	F Mar 13	Affiliation, Interpersonal Attraction and Love	9
10	M Mar 16	Prosocial Behaviour	10
	W Mar 18	Prosocial Behaviour	10
	F Mar 20	Aggression	11
11	M Mar 23	Aggression	11
	W Mar 25	Prejudice and Discrimination	12
	F Mar 27	Prejudice and Discrimination	12
12	M Mar 30	Social Psychology and Health	SPA1
	W Apr 1	Social Psychology and Health	SPA1
	F Apr 3	Social Psychology and Law	SPA3
13	M Apr 6	Social Psychology and Law	SPA3
	W Apr 8	Exam Review	Thought Piece 3 Due in Class(Ch. 9 – 12, SPA 1 & 3)
	F Apr 10	Good Friday – No classes	
14	M Apr 13	No Lecture	
	W Apr 15	No Lecture	
	R Apr 16	Last day to allocate research participation credits.	
	F Apr 17	Lectures end. Last day to withdraw.	
15	April 20-30	Final exams (scheduled by the Registrar)	

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.

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.

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 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 **April 16, 2009**.

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 **January 23, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 17, 2009**.