



Psychology 345 L404

Social Psychology

Winter 2015

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Nancy J. Smith, PhD	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	PF 110
<b>Phone:</b>	403-239-0255	<b>Lecture Days:</b>	Saturdays, 13:00-16:30
<b>Email:</b>	njsmith@ucalgary.ca	<b>TA</b>	Hongye Wang.
<b>Office:</b>	AD 157		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA		

### 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.

### Prerequisites

Psychology 200 and 201.

### Required Text

Aronson, Wilson, Akert, & Fehr (2013). *Social Psychology* (5th. Canadian Ed.), available in the University Bookstore (includes textbook, MyPsychLab and e-book). An e-book-only version is also available in the bookstore or on the bookstore website: <http://calgarybookstore.ca/>

### Evaluation

Performance in the course (grades) will be evaluated on the basis of two mid-term examinations, a final examination, and two 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. All exams will cover 1) assigned material in the textbook as well as the content of 2) lectures and films and videos shown in class and 3) supplementary readings for each chapter (URLs to be listed in lecture notes with some downloaded versions posted on Blackboard). The exam schedule that follows provides specific information regarding

the material to be covered by each exam. As well, lecture outlines (including a list of relevant video material), supplementary readings and video guiding questions will be posted on the course D2L site. If you miss class, you are encouraged to obtain class notes from another student. Study aids (e.g., class notes) and laptops/iPads/smartphones will not be permitted during the exams.

Exam	Relevant Chapters	% of final grade	Date Given
Midterm Exam 1:	Chaps. 1- 5	25%	February 7
Midterm Exam 2:	Chaps. 6 – 9	30%	March 14
Final Exam:	Chap. 10- 12, SPA 3 plus selected topics in SPA2	35 %	April 18-29 To be scheduled by registrar

**Thought Piece Assignments:** Two reports (first worth 4% of the final grade, the second worth 6% for a total weight of 10%. 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 outside references. The goal is for you to develop your ability to achieve insight into everyday experiences using concepts 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, including weekends.**

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 notify the instructor** and then 1) drop off the assignment into the **Drop Box** (slot in the counter) at A255 before 4:30 pm on the Friday (building closed on Saturday) before the due date OR 2) e-mail in your assignment, by midnight on the due date as a Word.docx file attachment. You must turn in a printed copy before the next class date if you wish to obtain instructor comments relating to your assignment grade. Printed assignments will be returned in the following class.

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.

Assignment	Relevant chapters	% of final grade	Date Due
1	Chaps. 1-7	4 %	February 28
2	Chaps. 8-12	6 %	April 4

### 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 in 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.

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

Date	Topics/ Chapters covered. Exam /assignment due dates
<b>S Jan 17</b>	Ch. 1.Introduction to Social Psychology Ch. 2: Methodology: How Social Psychologists do Research
F Jan 23	Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.
<b>S Jan 24</b>	Ch. 3: Social Cognition: How We Think about the Social World Ch. 4 Social Perception How We Come to Understand Other People
M Jan 26	Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.
F Jan 30	Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.
<b>S Jan 31</b>	Ch. 5: Self Knowledge and the Need to Maintain Self Esteem
<b>S Feb 7</b>	<b>Midterm Exam 1: Ch. 1-5</b> Ch. 6: Attitudes and Attitude Change
<b>S Feb 14</b>	Finish Ch. 6 Ch.7: Conformity: Influencing Others
Feb 15-22	Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day).
M Feb 16	Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
<b>S Feb 28</b>	<b>Thought Piece 1 Due (on Ch. 1-7)</b> Finish Chap. 7 Ch. 8: Group Processes: Influence in Social Groups
<b>S Mar 7</b>	Finish Chap. 8 Ch. 9 Interpersonal Attraction: From First Impressions to Close Relationships
<b>S Mar 14</b>	<b>Midterm 2: Ch. 6—9</b> Begin Chap. 10: Prosocial Behaviour: Why do People Help?
<b>S Mar 21</b>	Finish Chap. 10 Chap. 11: Aggression: Why We hurt Other People
<b>S Mar 28</b>	Finish Ch. 11 Aggression

<b>S Apr 4</b>	<b>Thought Piece 2 Due (on Ch. 8- 12)</b> Begin Ch. 12: Prejudice: Causes and Cures
<b>S Apr 11</b>	Finish Ch. 12 Prejudice SPA 3: Social Psychology and the Law Selected topics from SPA 2: Social Psychology and Health
<b>W Apr 15</b>	Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.
<b>Apr 18-29</b>	<b>Winter Term Final Examinations:</b> Ch. 10-12, SPA3 and selected topics from SPA 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 255), 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 **April 15, 2015**.

### **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 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@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 Ombudsmen 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 **January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.