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Psychology 445	Psychology of Morality	Winter 2014
<b>Instructor:</b>	John Ellard	<b>Lecture Location:</b> SH 274
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-4960	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.
<b>Email:</b>	ellard@ucalgary.ca	<b>Office:</b> Administration 231B
		<b>Office Hours:</b> Monday: 4:30 – 5:00, Friday: 2:00 – 5:00 or by appointment

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### Course Description and Goals

The course is an exploration of the origins and nature of moral conduct from the perspective of psychological theory and research. We will examine why people care about morality, do or do not behave morally, and the psychological bases of moral judgment. Upon completion of the course, students will be expected to have enhanced awareness and comprehension of the role psychological of inquiry in understanding moral dimensions of human behaviour.

### Prerequisites

PSYC 200 & 201 – Principles of Psychology I & II

PSYC 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

### Reading

There is no required textbook for the course. Reading material will be made available through the course D2L site and the Reserve Reading Room in the Taylor Family Digital Library

### Evaluation

**Tests and Final Exam:** There will be two in-class tests during the term as well as a final exam scheduled by the Registrar. The tests and final exam in this course are non-cumulative. Each will only cover material not covered on previous tests. The in-class tests will include multiple choice and short answer format. The final examination will be composed of multiple-choice questions and an essay question. The in-class tests and final examination will be scheduled and weighted as follows:

- Test 1. **Tuesday, February 10** and worth **20%** of the final grade. Format: multiple choice and short answer
- Test 2. **Thursday, March 12** and worth **20%** of the final grade. Format: multiple choice and short answer
- Final Exam Scheduled by Registrar, and worth **25%** of the final grade. Format: multiple choice and essay

**Research Paper:** A research proposal worth **35%** of the final with **5%** allocated to a detailed outline with references due **Friday, March 6**. The remaining **30%** is allocated to the final paper that will be submitted through the D2L assignment system no later than **Friday, April 3**. A penalty of 10% will be applied for each day the outline or paper is late, including weekend days. Papers will not be accepted by email or in hard copy form. In the paper you will develop a research proposal on a moral psychology. A detailed description of assignment requirements and grading criteria will be posted at the course D2L site.

### **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. 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-).

## Course Schedule (Lecture topic schedule tentative)

Date	Lecture Topics and Course Component Schedule
T Jan 13	Course Overview
R Jan 15	Situating moral psychology
T Jan 20	Situating moral psychology
R Jan 22	Situating moral psychology
F Jan 23	<i>Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.</i>
M Jan 26	<i>Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i>
T Jan 27	Biological bases of morality: the role of evolutionary processes
R Jan 29	Biological bases of morality: comparative psychology, Frans de Waal and primates
F Jan 30	<i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i>
T Feb 3	Biological bases of morality: punishing free riders & cheaters
R Feb 5	Disgust as a basis for moral sentiment
T Feb 10	<b>Test 1</b>
R Feb 12	Moral judgment: overview
Feb 15-22	<i>Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day).</i>
M Feb 16	<i>Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</i>
T Feb 24	Moral intuitionism – social intuition model
R Feb 26	Moral intuitionism – social intuition model
T Mar 3	Moral intuitionism – belief in a just world
R Mar 5	Beyond moral intuitionism
F Mar 6	<b>Research paper outline due</b>
T Mar 10	Beyond moral intuitionism
R Mar 12	<b>Test 2</b>
T Mar 17	Moral development: general themes
R Mar 19	Moral development: psychoanalytic approaches
T Mar 24	Moral development: social learning approaches
R Mar 26	Moral development: social cognitive approaches: Piaget
T Mar 31	Moral development: social cognitive approaches: Kohlberg

R Apr 2	Moral conduct: overview
F Apr 3	<b>Research paper due</b>
T Apr 7	Moral conduct: situationism & student cheating
R Apr 9	Moral conduct: moral agency & disengagement
T Apr 14	Moral conduct: moral identity, integrity, personal responsibility
W Apr 15	<i>Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.</i>
Apr 18-29	<i>Winter Term Final Examinations.</i>

### **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**.