



**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 501 (S01) – Psychology of Humour and Happiness**  
**Fall 2010 – Course Outline**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Vina Goghari, Ph.D.	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	A051
<b>Phone:</b>	403-210-7344	<b>Lecture:</b>	TTh 11-12:15
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Email to set-up individual appt		

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### **Course Description and Goals**

Psychology has traditionally focused on deficits and disability. More recent interest has focused on more positive aspects of life. This course will discuss recent psychological research on humour and happiness. Students will be exposed to empirical research on these topics. This course is designed to focus on students interests and focus on enhancing students oral and written skills.

### **Prerequisites**

Psyc 312 – Experimental and Quantitative Methods for Psychology, and consent of the Department. Note: Normally restricted to Psychology Honours students.

### **Required Texts**

1. The Psychology of Humor: An Integrative Approach by Rod Martin 2007.
  2. Happiness by Ed Diener and Robert Biswas-Diener 2008.
- Available at the University Bookstore.

### **Readings**

Readings for this course will be assigned from the textbook to complement the topics chosen by the students for their article presentations and class presentations. You will be given a reading syllabus once those topics are chosen. You will be expected to read the articles presented by other students.

### **Evaluation**

#### *Participation (10%)*

As this is a senior seminar class, students are expected to prepare for and participate in class discussion. Effective participation involves both quality and quantity of responses. Quantity does not make up for lack of quality. Students will be expected to complete the readings before class. It may useful as students read the articles/textbook to think about comments or questions that arise and also integrating between the material and issues. Participation also includes listening to what others are saying respectfully.

#### *Article Critique (15%) & Article Presentation (15%)*

These will be assigned first week of classes. You are allowed to choose your own article for the critique and presentation, but must obtain approval from the instructor. To help students improve their processing of the scientific literature, each student will complete one writing assignment critiquing an empirical research article. For this assignment you will find one empirical article pertaining to themes of the class. The research critique must be no more 3 pages long, double-spaced, with 12-point font and a minimum of 1-inch margins. **Remember that you are providing a summary and critical analysis, not just a retelling of the study. A hard copy of the critique is due at the start of the class you are presenting your article and leading the discussion.**

In writing your research critiques and presenting your research article, make sure that you do the following.

- (1) Explain, briefly, the theoretical background, i.e., the rationale, of the study. What theory, previous findings, and logic led up to the present study?
- (2) Explain the hypotheses being tested. What specifically is being predicted, based on the rationale?
- (3) Summarize the methodology. Who were the participants? What was done to measure the key variables? What is the research design?
- (4) Summarize the results in relation to the hypotheses. What was found, in relation to what was predicted?
- (5) Summarize the implications of the study, according to the discussion presented by the author(s). What did THEY conclude?
- (6) What do YOU conclude, based on your reading of the results and based on your understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the study? What was convincing about the study? What was not convincing? \*\* YOU SHOULD ALLOCATE THE MOST SPACE TO THIS PART.

Plan to present your article for 30-35 minutes. Article presentations should take the format of journal club (i.e., no PowerPoint presentation is necessary). Presenters should engage the audience in the discussion of the article. More details will be discussed in class.

#### *Paper Presentation (25%) & Paper (25%)*

These will be assigned first week of classes. You are allowed to choose your own topic for the paper and presentation after discussion with the instructor. The paper should be a maximum of 10 pages, 12-point font, 1-inch margins excluding references and include a minimum of 10 references (excluding your textbooks). APA formatting is required. The paper is due the last day of lecture (Dec 9<sup>th</sup>) at the beginning of class and to be handed to the instructor. With regards to the presentation, please provide me with a copy of your PowerPoint slides at the beginning of your presentation. Plan to present for 30 minutes, with 10 minutes for discussion and questions. In addition, please assist your fellow students by actively participating in the discussion. Presenters should engage the audience during the presentation. More details will be discussed in class.

#### *Presentation Critiques (10%)*

In order to engage the audience during the paper presentations and to learn how to give and receive constructive feedback, students will complete short assessments of the individual class presentations (form to be posted on Blackboard). Each presentation critique will be worth 0.5 percent (and you will just be assigned 0.5% for your own presentation). These assessments will

be looked over by the instructor to ensure that the comments are constructive and the individual assessing the presentation made an attempt to provide useful critiques.

**For all assignments: Missed or late assignments/presentations without proper documentation will receive 0%. Students should contact the instructor as soon as they know they will need an accommodation. Late assignments WILL NOT be accepted. Emailed assignments will not be accepted.**

### 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-).

### Important dates

Date	
M Sep 13	Semester begins.
F Sep 24	Last day to drop a course with tuition refund.
T Sep 28	Last day for registration/change of registration.
M Oct 11	Thanksgiving Day. No lectures. University closed.
R Nov 11	Remembrance Day. No lectures.
Nov 11-14	Reading days. No lectures.
F Dec 10	Lecture ends.

### Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
<b>T Sep 14</b>	<b>Lecture begins. Organization</b>
R Sep 16	Humour and Happiness - Introduction
T Sep 21	Humour and Happiness - Introduction
R Sep 23	Humour and Happiness - Introduction
T Sep 28	Article Presentations
R Sep 30	Article Presentations
T Oct 5	Article Presentations
R Oct 7	Article Presentations
T Oct 12	Article Presentations
R Oct 14	Article Presentations
T Oct 19	Article Presentations
R Oct 21	Article Presentations
T Oct 26	Article Presentations
R Oct 28	Article Presentations
T Nov 2	Class Presentations
R Nov 4	Class Presentations

T Nov 9	Class Presentations
<b>R Nov 11</b>	<b>Remembrance Day. No lecture.</b>
T Nov 16	Class Presentations
R Nov 18	Class Presentations
T Nov 23	Class Presentations
R Nov 25	Class Presentations
T Nov 30	Class Presentations
R Dec 2	Class Presentations
T Dec 7	Class Presentations
<b>R Dec 9</b>	<b>Class Wrap-Up; Final Paper Due. Lecture ends.</b>

### **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 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.

### **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)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Sep 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is Sep 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010**.