

PSYC 501	Honours Topic Seminar in Psychology	Winter 2023
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Instructor:	Dr. Susan D. Boon	Lecture Location:	AD248
Phone:	403-220-5564	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 11:00-12:15
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Office:	AD231C		
Office Hours:	TBD		

Course Description

In this course, we will explore psychological understandings of forgiveness and revenge as responses to perceived injury or injustice. Discussion of theoretical accounts of and classic and current readings on forgiveness and revenge will be an integral part of this course.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Describe and critically evaluate theories and research on revenge and forgiveness	Seminar presentation, podcast, research proposal	1,2,4,5	A, C
Synthesize material from several sources (empirical articles, book chapters, review articles, lectures) to formulate appropriate debates and conclusions regarding revenge and/or forgiveness	Seminar presentation, podcast, research proposal	1,2,4,5	A,C
Deliver an effective oral presentation, guide discussion of empirical articles	Seminar presentation	4,5	A,C
Apply understanding of theories and research on forgiveness and/or revenge to analysis of current or historical events or popular culture/media	Application paper	1,2,4	A,C
Provide critical evaluation and summary of previous empirical studies in forgiveness and/or revenge, design a research study, identify the ethical issues associated with the proposed study, and outline the main empirical, theoretical, and/or applied contributions of this study	Research proposal	1,2,4,6	A,C

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Course Format

This is an in-person class held on campus.

Prerequisites

Psychology 300, 301, admission to the Psychology Honours program and consent of the Department

Required Text

No textbook is required for this course. Peer reviewed journal articles and scientific chapters will be assigned for each topic in the course. Readings are available either online through the U of C library or, if not available there, posted on D2L. The reading list will be posted on D2L prior to the first class.

Assessment Methods

Seminar presentation	30%	Throughout term
Research proposal	30%	Due Thursday February 16 on D2L by 11:59 pm
Application paper	25%	Due Thursday March 23 by 11:59 p.m. via D2LDropbox
Podcast	15%	Due April 12 by 11:59 pm via D2L Dropbox

****A note on word limits:** I will be performing word counts on each submitted assignment. If an assignment is over the word limit, it will be returned to you to cut back until it reaches the limit. You will accrue any late penalties that may apply for the duration of the time that it takes you to accomplish that task. Please respect the word limits. ***Word limits do not count title pages, headers, titles, or reference pages.***

****Sample assignments:** I will post sample application papers and research proposals on D2L to give you an idea of what such papers may look like. Please note that here is no one right or wrong way to prepare these assignments (or any other assignment in this course). I hope to be able to post a sample podcast as well.

Seminar presentation (30% of final grade) due throughout term

In pairs, students will present once during the term on a topic selected from among those printed in black on the tentative topic outline (the instructor and/or guest speaker(s) will lead discussions on topics in green). In consultation with the instructor, presenters will select 2 (two) or 3 (three) empirical journal articles (chapters or theoretical pieces may be permitted with permission and, for some topics, may be the only option). Presenters will post the U of C library links to the approved readings on D2L by 6 pm no later than 1 week in advance of their presentation. **All students are expected to read and be prepared to discuss the selected readings.**

On the day of their presentation, presenters will provide an overview of the major themes and arguments in their selected readings, as well as their limitations and contributions, and then guide class discussion of each article. Care should be taken to develop questions likely to elicit discussion (rather than those that can be answered “yes” or “no”). Presenters should use the full 75 minutes of class time (including discussion) and are free (indeed, encouraged) to use video and other resources to supplement their review and critique of the readings.

Seminar presentations will be evaluated on both content and delivery. Content should include a clear summary of the research evaluated as well as an evaluation of the contributions of the research. Sophistication of treatment (e.g., evidence of critical thinking, insight, etc.) will be assessed as well. Evaluation of quality of delivery will include whether the presenters appear practiced and prepared, how well they engage with the audience and manage discussion, good use of slides, appropriate timing, and how well questions are addressed. More detailed instructions and criteria will be posted on D2L.

Without instructor approval, missed presentations will receive a 0%. If circumstances arise such that you must miss your date, please contact the instructor as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements (e.g., swapping dates with another presenter) may be made.

Research proposal (30% of final grade) due on D2L by 11:59 pm February 16

Students will prepare a 1250-word (maximum) research proposal for a study that investigates an issue of interest in the area of forgiveness and/or revenge. Proposals must include a brief introduction that provides a compelling rationale (grounded in the current literature on the selected topic) for the value and importance of the study they propose to conduct, a detailed method (documenting intended participants, recruitment procedures, materials, and study protocol i.e., the study procedure), and a discussion of the proposed study’s key contributions to our understanding of the selected topic. The rationale should cite relevant theory/research. Assessment criteria will include quality of the rationale that justifies the proposed study, appropriateness and rigour of the proposed design, sophistication of treatment in highlighting the study’s importance and anticipated contributions, and clarity of expression. Research proposals should be double-spaced, prepared in APA style, and **submitted no later than February 16 by 11:59 p.m. via D2LDropbox**. More detailed instructions and criteria will be posted on D2 **Without instructor approval, late submissions will be penalized 10% per day including weekends and holidays.**

Application paper (25% of final grade) due on D2L by 11:59 pm March 23

Students will select a topic of their choice from among topics relevant to the course material (i.e., it is okay to select a topic we are not covering in class; students are strongly encouraged to consult the instructor if they want to try that route) and write a brief paper that examines that topic as applied to analysis of current or historical events or popular culture/media (e.g., book, movie, etc.). Students should ground their analysis in theoretical or empirical (i.e., research) work on their selected topic and must cite at least 3 (three) relevant scholarly articles in their paper. Papers must be no longer than 750 words and should be double-spaced, prepared in APA style, and submitted no later than 11:59 pm on March 23 via D2LDropbox. Assessment criteria will include appropriate application of theory/research to analysis of the topic, sophistication of treatment in the analysis, and clarity of expression. The emphasis should be on demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of how (or the extent to which) the theory/research applies to the particular event/media. More detailed instructions and criteria will be posted on D2L. **Without instructor approval, late submissions will be penalized 10% per day including weekends and holidays.**

Podcast (15% of final grade) due on D2L by 11:59 April 12

Students will prepare a podcast 10 minutes in length on a topic of interest in the area of forgiveness and revenge. **This topic should be *independent* of the topic of your seminar presentation and application paper.** Working in pairs, your job is to create an interesting, informative, and engaging entry-level discussion of your selected topic accessible to the general public based on available empirical research and existing theory (i.e., understandable by someone without a university education or specialized knowledge on the topic). Assessment criteria will include quality (e.g, breadth and depth) of coverage, accessibility to a lay audience (e.g., clarity of expression, pitched at an appropriate level, was it engaging?), and mechanics (e.g., did the discussion flow well? Was time used effectively?). See D2L for more details about the assignment. **Podcasts are due on D2L by 11:59 April 12.** A reference list should be submitted as a word document to accompany the podcast. **Without instructor approval, late submissions will be penalized 10% per day including weekends and holidays.**

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf>

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors 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%

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	Topic
T Jan 10	Introduction First day of TR lectures
R Jan 12	Transgressions/betrayals/injustice
T Jan 17	Conceptualizing forgiveness: Views on what it is and what it isn't
R Jan 19	Does forgiving mean reconciling? Last day to drop a class without financial penalty
Jan 20	Last day to add or swap a course
T Jan 24	Forgiveness and culture
R Jan 26	Indigenous views of forgiveness/reconciliation Guest speaker: Elder Wanda Firstrider
Jan 27	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
T Jan 31	Forgiveness and relationships
R Feb 2	Forgiveness and personality
T Feb 7	Communicating forgiveness
R Feb 9	Is forgiveness always the best response to wrongdoing? Critiques of forgiveness
T Feb 14	Unforgiveness 1
R Feb 16	Unforgiveness 2 Research proposals due 11:59 pm on D2L
Feb 20	UNIVERSITY CLOSED Alberta Family Day
Feb 19-25	Term Break
T Feb 28	Unforgiveness 3
R Mar 2	Conceptualizing revenge
T Mar 7	Game theory/evolutionary approaches to understanding forgiveness and revenge
R Mar 9	Revenge and culture
T Mar 14	Revenge and personality
R Mar 16	Communicating revenge
T Mar 21	Entitativity and collective guilt and displaced revenge
R Mar 23	Displaced revenge Application papers due 11:59 pm on D2L
T Mar 28	Is revenge sweet?
R Mar 30	Attitudes toward revenge
T Apr 4	Is revenge moral?
R Apr 6	Logistic and ethical challenges in studying forgiveness and revenge
Apr 7	UNIVERSITY CLOSED Good Friday
Apr 10	UNIVERSITY CLOSED Easter Monday
T Apr 11	Wrapping up/TBA
Apr 12	Podcast due 11:59 pm on D2L Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
Apr 15-26	Final Exam Period

Extra Research Participation Course Credit is Not Offered for this Course.

Absence From Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-1-1.html>. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. **Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

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 by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. **If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam** [Deferred Final Exams | University of Calgary \(ucalgary.ca\)](#) Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology psyugrd@ucalgary.ca

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [University of Calgary : B.6.1 Accommodation of Students with Disabilities or Medical Conditions \(ucalgary.ca\)](#)

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Student Support and Resources

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Thursday, January 19, 2023**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, January 20, 2023**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Wednesday, April 12, 2023** [University of Calgary : Academic Schedule \(ucalgary.ca\)](https://www.ucalgary.ca/academic-schedule)