



**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 501 – Special Topics Seminar**  
**Cognition and Emotional Disorders**  
**Winter 2011 – Course Outline**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. C. R. Sears	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	Admin 051
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-2803	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	TH 2:00-3:15
<b>Email:</b>	sears@ucalgary.ca		
<b>Office:</b>	Admin 264		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By Appointment		

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### **Course Description and Goals**

Research on the interactions between cognition and emotion has grown enormously in the past two decades. This course will examine research that applies methods used in cognitive psychology to the understanding of mood and anxiety disorders. The focus will be on depression and anxiety and information processing models of these conditions.

### **Prerequisites**

Psychology 205 – Principles of Psychology

Psychology 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

### **Required Text**

There is no required text. There will be a set of readings to complete each week and these will be posted on Blackboard.

### **Evaluation**

Evaluation is based on a 60 minute in-class presentation (30% of final grade), two article reviews (12.5% of final grade each = 25%; due anytime during the course, but no later than April 14), a research paper (due April 21; 40% of final grade), and class participation (5% of final grade; 5% = Excellent, 4% = Very Good, 3% = Satisfactory, 2% = Marginal, 1% = Very little participation, 0% = No participation).

Grading criteria for the research paper will be posted on the Blackboard website and distributed in class on the first day of class. Research papers can be submitted by email to sears@ucalgary.ca. Late papers will receive a 5% penalty per day, including weekends.

The presentation will be given using PowerPoint slides. The presentation will review two journal articles you have chosen and should be from 50-60 minutes in length. The lecture on February 1 will provide more information and tips for giving your presentation. As a guideline, each presentation should include: (1) an overview of the subject of the two articles, including background information; for each article, (2) the main question the article aims to address, (3) a

detailed description of the methods and procedures used, (4) the results of the study, (5) the authors' interpretation of the results, (6) the authors' conclusions, (7) the student's observations about the study (including potential limitations); after reviewing both articles the student should provide (8) observations / comments / suggestions for future research. Students should be prepared to answer questions throughout their presentations. Each presentation will end with a question and discussion period.

The presentation dates will be randomly assigned on the first day of class. Students may trade their assigned presentation date with another student, but not after February 1, when the presentation schedule is finalized. Please notify me ASAP if you and another student wish to trade your assigned dates. You must choose the two articles you will use for your presentation by February 1. The presentation schedule, which lists presenters and the articles they will present, will be posted shortly after February 1.

Each of the two article reviews will require you to summarize an article presented in class (i.e. one of the articles on the presentation schedule). An article review can be no more than four (4) pages in length (not including the title page or Reference page). All the text must be double-spaced. You can choose to review any article that is being presented by another student, before or after it is presented. Grading criteria for the article reviews will be posted on the Blackboard website and discussed on the first day of class. Article reviews can be submitted by email to sears@ucalgary.ca.

Because this is a small class, students will be expected to be prepared for each class by having completed the readings and being prepared to participate in class discussion. Effective participation involves: (1) coming to class and arriving on time, (2) thinking carefully about the readings prior to class (3) asking questions during the presentations, and (4) being prepared to offer your perspective and opinions during class discussions.

### **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, and 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

## **Tentative Lecture Schedule (student presentation topics will be posted on Blackboard)**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC / ACTIVITIES</b>
Jan. 11/13	Depression: Basic facts, symptoms, assessment, risk factors
Jan. 18	Cognitive models of depression
Jan. 20	Emotion Regulation
Jan. 25	Post-traumatic stress disorder
Jan. 27	Anxiety disorders: Basic facts, symptoms, assessment
Feb. 1	Giving a Research Presentation / Presentation Tips
Feb. 3	Student presentation and discussion
Feb. 8/10	Student presentations and discussion
Feb. 15/17	Student presentations and discussion
<b>Feb. 22/24</b>	<b>Reading Days – No Class</b>
Mar. 1/3	Student presentations and discussion
Mar. 8/10	Student presentations and discussion
Mar. 15/17	Student presentations and discussion
Mar. 22/24	Student Presentations and discussion
Mar. 29/31	Student Presentations and discussion
Apr. 5/7	Student Presentations and discussion
Apr. 12/14	Student Presentations and discussion
<b>Research Paper Due</b>	<b>April 21</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.

### **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 275), 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 **Apr 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

### **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 Ombuds 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 **Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**