



Psychology 501

Social Psychology of Morality

Winter 2014

Instructor:	John Ellard	Lecture Location:	Admin 247
Phone:	403-220-4960	Lecture Days/Time:	Wednesday, 5:00 – 8:50 p.m.
Email:	ellard@ucalgary.ca	Office:	Administration 231B
		Office Hours:	Monday: 4:30 – 5:00, Friday: 2:00 – 5:00 or by appointment

Course Description and Goals

Moral psychology encompasses theory and research examining why people care about morality, do or do not behave morally, and the psychological bases of moral judgment. The course provides an overview of current issues and themes in moral psychology with a special emphasis on the contributions of social psychology. Upon completion of the course students are expected to have achieved a level of mastery of current moral psychology theory and research. Consistent with expectations for a senior seminar, students will also have the opportunity to present and discuss their ideas.

Prerequisites

PSYC 200 & 201 – Principles of Psychology I & II, or PSYC 205

PSYC 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

Reading

Required textbook:

Mikulincer, M. & Shaver, P.R. (Eds.) (2012). *The social psychology of morality: Exploring the causes of good and evil*. Washington, D.C.

In addition, students will read and present articles relevant to chapters in the book.

Evaluation

- A. *Seminar Leader (30%)*. You will be responsible for leading a seminar discussion on a textbook chapter and two research articles of your choosing related to the chapter content. You will lead the discussion of the assigned reading and present the research articles you have chosen. Your goal for the assigned reading is to not simply summarize the chapter, but to create interest and discussion. You can also integrate people's thought questions with your own ideas and questions. Your presentation of research articles will also not just be a summary but include a critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the research.
- B. *Research Proposal (30%)*. You will write a 10 page APA-formatted research proposal (references are extra to the 10-page limit) based on a topic covered in one of the articles in the course. Your goal is to come up with one or more experiments that you would like to carry out and that would make an

important and original contribution to the literature on that topic. The proposal should include the following labeled sections: literature review, proposal, method, analyses, predictions, implications, and references.

- C. *Thought Questions (20%)*. You will post a thought question prior to each class on Blackboard. Your goal is to post an issue, criticism, or stimulating thought related to that week's readings. Try to keep these to a paragraph. You must post it no later than 6 pm the night before class (Tuesday). Be sure to read everyone's thought questions before coming to class.
- E. *Seminar Participation (20%)*. You are expected to contribute to discussions during each class. This means coming to class having done the readings and having given yourself a chance to think about and synthesize the readings, so that your contributions can be as insightful as possible.

Grading rubrics for course components will be presented during the first seminar.

	Weight	Due Date
Seminar Leader	30%	Various
Thought Questions	20%	Weekly
Seminar Participation	20%	Weekly
Research Proposal	30%	April 11

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

Date	Lecture Topics and Course Component Schedule
W Jan 8	Course Overview, Introduction to moral psychology
W Jan 15	Sacred Values and Evil Adversaries: A Moral Foundations The Philosopher in the Theater
F Jan 17	<i>Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.</i>
M Jan 20	<i>Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses.</i> <i>Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i>
W Jan 22	Deontological Dissonance and the Consequentialist Crutch Moral Nativism and Moral Psychology
F Jan 24	<i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i>
W Feb 5	Bringing Character Back: How the Motivation to Evaluate Character Influences Judgments of Moral Blame Morality Takes Two: Dyadic Morality and Mind Perception
W Feb 12	Conscience: The Dos and Don'ts of Moral Regulation Honest Rationales for Dishonest Behavior
Feb 16-23	<i>Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day).</i>

Date	Lecture Topics and Course Component Schedule
M Feb 17	<i>Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</i>
W Feb 26	Moral Hypocrisy, Moral Inconsistency, and the Struggle for Moral Integrity Morality and Psychological Distance: A Construal Level Theory Perspective
W Mar 5	Humanness, Dehumanization, and Moral Psychology Morality Across Cultures: A Value Perspective
W Mar 12	Autonomous Moral Motivation: Consequences, Socializing Antecedents, and the Unique Role of Integrated Moral Principles An Attachment Perspective on Morality: Strengthening Authentic Forms of Moral Decision-Making
W Mar 19	Paradigm Assumptions About Moral Behavior: An Empirical Battle Royal When Moral Concerns Become a Psychological Disorder: The Case of Obsessive–Compulsive Disorder
W Mar 26	Moral Dimensions of Trauma Therapies Killing With a Clean Conscience: Existential Angst and the Paradox of Morality
W Apr 2	Moral Convictions and Moral Courage: Common Denominators of Good and Evil Human Evil: The Myth of Pure Evil and the True Causes of Violence
W Apr 9	Psychology and Morality in Genocide and Violent Conflict: Perpetrators, Passive Bystanders, Rescuers Good and Evil, Past and Future, Laboratory and World
M Apr 14	<i>Last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses</i>
M Apr 14	<i>Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.</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 Statement of Intellectual honesty and related

sections in the University Calendar that present 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 Seminar, Deferral of Term Work

Absence from seminar or deferral of term work will normally not be approved for reasons other than those described in the University of Calgary Calendar: religious conviction, domestic affliction, or health reasons. In the case of health, waiver of penalty will not be granted without a completed Physician/Counselor Statement. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. With respect to domestic affliction, appropriate documentation (e.g. copy of death certificate) will be required. Students who miss a seminar or are unable to meet a course deadline for health or domestic affliction reasons have 48 hours to notify the instructor. Students who do not the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to waiver of penalty for absence or late submission of course work. In the case of religious/spiritual observances as a basis for waiver of penalty for absence or deferral of term work, regulations described in Section E.4 of the University of Calgary Calendar will apply.

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 14, 2014**.

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 suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 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 (<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 17th, 2014**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 20th, 2014**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 14th, 2014**.