



Department of Psychology
Psychology 203 (L01) – Psychology of Everyday Life
Fall 2009

Instructor:	Dr. Melissa Boyce	Lecture Location:	ST 140
Phone:	403-210-6257	Lecture Days/Time:	Tues/Thurs 5:00 – 6:15 pm
Email:	mboyce@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	A258		
Office Hours:	TBA		

Course Description and Goals

This course has been designed especially for non-Psychology majors. Its purpose is to provide students with an understanding of the key theories, research methods, and discoveries of psychology, with an emphasis on developing the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective consumers of psychological theory and research. Through a focus on issues that arise in everyday life, this course will demonstrate some of the ways in which psychology can be of use to students in their personal and professional lives.

Areas of focus in this course include:

- Psychology as a biological and social science
- the areas where psychology can be applied to an understanding of everyday life
- current theories and approaches for understanding human behaviour and mental health
- the research tools and methods used in psychology and the critical thinking skills they support

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites required to take this course.

Required Text

Nevid, J. S. & Rathmus, S. A. (2007). *Psychology and the challenges of life: Adjusting to the new millennium (10th Ed.)*, Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. (available in the University bookstore)

NOTE: We will be using Turning point clickers in this class. They have been bundled with the textbook to save you money; however, if you have purchased a used textbook, extra clickers are available for purchase in the bookstore.

Course Website

The course website is located on blackboard: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>.

Notes for each week's classes will be posted at the beginning of the week. In addition, announcements and grades will be posted on this site. **You will also be able to access practice quizzes and review material from the textbook directly through the course blackboard page.**

Evaluation

There are three tests (Sept 29, Oct 20, Nov 10) and a final test (to be written during the final exam period) scheduled for this course. Each test is worth 24% of your mark and will cover text and lecture material (including films and other demonstrations). Tests are non-cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice questions (max total = 96% of your mark). Please see the lecture schedule to determine what topics will be covered on each test.

Experiential-Learning/Article-Evaluation Course Component (4% of final grade)

This experiential-learning/article-evaluation component provides enriched learning opportunities in this introductory course. You can complete this component by participating in research studies (Option 1: Research Participation), by completing 1-page article evaluations from a designated list (Option 2: Article Evaluations), or by a combination of the two options. Thus, you will learn more about psychology by taking part in research studies and/or by reading and evaluating articles from a psychological perspective.

Option 1: Research Participation. Students can complete this course component by creating an account and participating in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. Each study will be followed by an educational debriefing experience. 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. **The last day to participate in research and allocate credits is Dec 7th, 2009.**

Option 2: Article Evaluations. Students can complete this course component by reading and evaluating articles. Students earn 1% (1 credit) for each acceptable evaluation. Students can submit only one evaluation per due date (**September 26, October 17, November 7, November 28, 2009**). Please consult the Blackboard for this course for more information about this option.

Option 3: Combinations of Options 1 and 2. Students can complete this course component through any combination of Options 1 and 2 (e.g., 3% through Option 1 and 1% through Option 2, or vice versa). Given that each article evaluation counts for 1%, students who complete, for example, 2.5% through Option 1 would need to complete two evaluations to successfully complete all 4% of this course component. As mentioned under Option 2, students can only submit one article evaluation per due date. Thus, students who opt to combine Options 1 and 2 must plan ahead carefully.

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-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
1	Tues, Sept 8	Introduction to Psychology	Course Outline
	Thurs, Sept 10	Introduction to Psychology	Ch 1
2	Tues, Sept 15	Personality	Ch 2
	Thurs, Sept 17	Personality	Ch 2
3	Fri, Sept 18	<i>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.</i>	
	Tues, Sept 22	<i>Last day for registration/change of registration.</i>	
	Tues, Sept 22	Stress	Ch 3
	Thurs, Sept 24	Stress	Ch 3
4	Tues, Sept 29	Exam 1	All material to date
	Thurs, Oct 1	Coping: Psychological and Physical Health	Ch 4
5	Tues, Oct 6	Coping: Psychological and Physical Health	Ch 5
	Thurs, Oct 8	Self and Identity	Ch 6
6	Tues, Oct 13	Social Influence	Ch 7
	Thurs, Oct 15	Social Influence	Ch 7
7	Tues, Oct 20	Exam 2	All material since Exam 1
	Thurs, Oct 22	Psychological Disorders	Ch 8
8	Tues, Oct 27	Psychological Disorders	Ch 8
	Thurs, Oct 29	Therapy	Ch 9
9	Tues, Nov 3	Therapy	Ch 9
	Thurs, Nov 5	Gender Roles and Gender Differences	Ch 10
10	Tues, Nov 10	Exam 3	All material since exam 2
	Thurs, Nov 12	<i>Reading Day. No lectures.</i>	
11	Tues, Nov 17	Interpersonal Attraction	Ch 11
	Thurs, Nov 19	Interpersonal Attraction	Ch 11
12	Tues, Nov 24	Relationships and Communication	Ch 12
	Thurs, Nov 26	Relationships and Communication	Ch 12
13	Tues, Dec 1	Development in Adolescence	Ch 14

		and Adulthood	
	Thurs, Dec 3	Development in Adolescence and Adulthood	Ch 14
14	Mon, Dec 7	<i>Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits.</i>	
	Tues, Dec 8	Challenges of the Workplace <i>Last day to withdraw.</i>	Ch 15
	Dec 11-21	Final Exam (scheduled by registrar)	All material since Exam 3
	Dec 25 - 31	<i>Holiday Observance. Session Break. University closed.</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. 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 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.

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 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is **Sep 18th, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is August **Dec 8th, 2009**.