



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 345 (L02) – Social Psychology**  
**Fall 2009**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Melissa Boyce	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	A142
<b>Phone:</b>	403-210-6257	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MWF 10:00 – 10:50
<b>Email:</b>	mboyce@ucalgary.ca		
<b>Office:</b>	A258		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA		

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### **Course Description and Goals**

Social psychological approaches to understanding social influence, social perception and cognition, attitudes, and group dynamics.

This course surveys a wide range of areas of study within the field of social psychology. By the end of the course you should be:

1. able to identify and understand the social psychological perspective on psychological phenomenon and how it differs from perspectives in other areas of psychology and the social sciences
2. able to identify and understand the major theoretical frameworks within social psychology (e.g., social learning theory, cognitive dissonance theory, etc.) and their real life applications (e.g., aggression, attitude formation, etc.)
3. familiar with the types of research questions and research designs common in studies in this area, and able to critique research findings on relevant topics that you encounter in the media and elsewhere.

### **Prerequisites**

Psyc 205 – Principles of Psychology

### **Required Text**

Brehm, S. S., Kassin, S., Fein, S., & Burke, T. (2008). *Social Psychology (First Canadian Ed.)*, Toronto, ON: Nelson Education Ltd.

### **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.

## Evaluation

Exams: Three exams are scheduled for this course covering text and lecture material (including films). Exams are non-cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice questions.

	Date	Chapters Covered	Worth
<b>Exam 1</b>	Oct 5 , 2008	1-5	25%
<b>Exam 2</b>	Nov 9, 2008	6-9	25%
<b>Exam 3</b>	TBA (during final exam period)	10-12	20%

Max total = 70% of your mark

In-Class Group Assignments: Two in-class group assignments (Oct 16, Nov 27) worth 5% each (max total = 10% of your mark). These assignments are intended to help you apply the concepts that you have learned in class. You will work on these assignments in groups of 3-6 and hand them in at the end of class.

Thought Paper: Two thought papers 3-4 pages double-spaced in length worth 10% each (max total = 20% of your mark) where you will apply social psychological theories or concepts that you have learned about in class to a real life event (either from your own life or from a newspaper article). These papers are intended to help you develop insight into everyday experiences using ideas learned in the course. Further details will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard. Due Oct 16 and Nov 20.

You are expected to hand in your printed assignments at the beginning of class on the due dates. If you cannot attend class on either of those days, you must 1) drop your assignment off in the box outside of A275 or 2) email me the assignment as a Word file attachment, before noon on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted without medical documentation.

### 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	Wed, Sept 9	Intro to Social Psychology	Course Outline
	Fri, Sept 11	Intro to Social Psychology	Ch 1
2	Mon, Sept 14	Research Methods in Social Psychology	Ch 2
	Wed, Sept 16	Research Methods in Social Psychology	Ch 2
	Fri, Sept 18	The Social Self	Ch 3
3	Fri, Sept 18	<i>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.</i>	
	Mon, Sept 21	The Social Self	Ch 3
	Tues, Sept 22	<i>Last day for registration/change of registration.</i>	
	Wed, Sept 23	Perceiving Persons	Ch 4
	Fri, Sept 25	Perceiving Persons	Ch 4
4	Mon, Sept 28	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Ch 5
	Wed, Sept 30	Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination	Ch 5
	Fri, Oct 2	Video – A Class Divided	
5	Mon, Oct 5	<b>Exam 1</b>	All material to date
	Wed, Oct 7	Attitudes	Ch 6
	Fri, Oct 9	Attitudes	Ch 6
6	Mon, Oct 12	Thanksgiving – University Closed	
	Wed, Oct 14	Attitudes	Ch 6
	Fri, Oct 16	<b>In-Class Assignment 1</b>	<b><i>Thought Paper 1 due at the beginning of class</i></b>
7	Mon, Oct 19	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch 7
	Wed, Oct 21	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch 7
	Fri, Oct 23	Conformity, Compliance, & Obedience	Ch 7
8	Mon, Oct 26	Video – Milgram’s Obedience	
	Wed, Oct 28	Group Processes	Ch 8
	Fri, Oct 30	Group Processes	Ch 8
9	Mon, Nov 2	Video – Quiet Rage: The Stanford Prison Experiment	
	Wed, Nov 4	Attraction and Close Relationships	Ch 9
	Fri, Nov 6	Attraction and Close Relationships	Ch 9
10	Mon, Nov 9	<b>Exam 2</b>	All material since Exam 1
	Wed, Nov 11	Reading Days – No Lecture	
	Fri, Nov 13	Reading Days – No Lecture	
11	Mon, Nov 16	Aggression	Ch 11
	Wed, Nov 18	Aggression	Ch 11
	Fri, Nov 20	Video – Little Criminals	<b><i>Thought Paper 2 due at the</i></b>

			<i>beginning of class</i>
<b>12</b>	Mon, Nov 23	Helpful Others	Ch 10
	Wed, Nov 25	Helping Others	Ch 10
	Fri, Nov 27	<b>In-Class Assignment 2</b>	
<b>13</b>	Mon, Nov 30	Video – What Jennifer Saw	
	Wed, Dec 2	Law	Ch 12
	Fri, Dec 4	Law	Ch 12
<b>14</b>	Mon, Dec 7	<b>Class cancelled</b> <i>Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits.</i>	
	Tues, Dec 8	<i>Fall Session Lectures end. Last day to withdraw.</i>	
	Dec 11 – 21	<b>Final Exam (scheduled by Registrar)</b>	
	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.

### **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 an individual's final grade. **To get 2%** added to the final grade, you have to acquire **a total of 2 bonus credits** towards the course. 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 **Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.

### **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 [suwpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suwpaca@ucalgary.ca)  
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is **Sep 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.