



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

## Department of Psychology

### Psychology 345 (L29) – Social Psychology

Spring 2006

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**Instructor:** Nancy J. Smith  
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**Office:** A257D

**Lecture Location:** SH 215  
**Lecture Days/Time:** **Saturdays 1-5 pm:**  
May 6, 13, 20, 27; June 3,  
10,  
**Saturday Noon-6 pm**  
June 17,  
**Wednesday, 6 - 8 pm**  
June 14,

**Office Hours:** by  
appointment

**Course Blackboard Site:** [blackboard.ucalgary.ca](http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca)

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#### Course Description and Goals

This course will familiarize you with social psychological approaches to understanding a variety of human experiences. To that end, we will review theoretical and empirical strategies social psychologists have developed to help us understand such things as attitude change, conformity, prejudice, aggression, altruism, and attraction.

#### Learning objectives include:

- Awareness and understanding of what scientific social psychology is and its domains of inquiry.
- Comprehension of the social psychological perspective and its significance for understanding human experience.
- Knowledge of important social psychological theories and facts and their application to understanding human experience.
- Awareness and understanding of the methods and research strategies employed in scientific social psychology including their strengths and limitations.
- Appreciation of the ethical issues involved in social psychological research.
- An enhanced ability to understand our day-to-day experiences with others.
- Awareness of the relevance of scientific social psychology for

- understanding and addressing important social problems.
- Awareness of some of the applications of social psychology

## **University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives**

Students' learning experiences in this course support the following University of Calgary Curriculum Redesign Features:

1. *Interdisciplinarity*: by means of lecture material presenting theoretical perspectives from other social science disciplines such as culture studies, sociology, discursive psychology, and women's studies.
2. *Experiential Learning*: by "thought piece" assignments providing experience with using ideas in the course to understand everyday experience.
3. *Research Integration*: by examination of students on a chapter devoted to social psychology research methods and by class discussions centering on methodological and conceptual issues in research studies
4. *Broad and Extended Faculty-Student Interaction by means of the instructor's feedback on all individual written assignments and availability outside of class and by appointment to meet with students.*
5. *An international component*: by lecture content drawing on North American, European and non-European perspectives in social psychology.

## **Core Competencies**

University of Calgary Core Competencies facilitated by successful completion of this course include:

1. *Critical and creative thinking* through application of course concepts to everyday experience.
2. *Effective written communication* through preparation of three written reports.
3. *Abstract reasoning and analysis of problems* through application of course concepts in "thought piece" reports and through careful selection of exam questions. The goal is for the student to be able to answer questions correctly by engaging a variety of theoretical ideas present in social psychological research.
4. *Effective oral communication*—through both small group and whole class discussion.

5. *Insight and intuition in generating knowledge*—through lectures allowing the student to develop a familiarity with some of the research carried out by social psychologists, as well as develop an insight into the generation of this knowledge. The goal is for the student to be able to identify and comprehend the ‘social psychological perspective,’ as well as develop a familiarity with some alternative viewpoints.

### **Required Text**

Aronson, Wilson, Akert, & Fehr (2007). Social Psychology (3rd Canadian ed.), available in the University Bookstore

**Evaluation** Performance in the course (grades) will be evaluated on the basis of two mid-term examinations, a final examination, and three, short, written thought pieces.

**Important Note: Students must complete all assignments and examinations to receive a passing grade in the course.**

**Examinations:** All three examinations are non-cumulative and multiple choice. They will cover assigned material in the textbook as well as the content of lectures (including any films and videos shown). The exam schedule that follows provides specific information regarding the textbook material to be covered by each exam. As well, lecture outlines and video guiding questions will be posted on the course blackboard page. Nonetheless, you are encouraged to obtain class notes from another student should you miss class.

If you must miss a mid-term exam due to illness or other circumstances beyond your control, a make-up test will be arranged. Documentation will be required and you should contact the instructor before the test (preferably), or as soon as possible after the test.

	<b>Textbook Content</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Date</b>
Midterm Exam 1:	Chaps. 1-4	20%	May 20
Midterm Exam 2:	Chaps. 5-8	30%	June 10
Final Exam:	Chaps. 9-12 & SP in Action 3 (Law	35%	June 24

**Thought Piece Assignments:** Three reports (500-600 words, which equals 2 to 3 text pages, with an additional cover page) typed, double spaced, each worth 5% of the final grade, for a total weight of 15%. Each will summarize your application of a social psychological theory to understanding a relevant experience in your own life. These reports are to be prepared using readings from the textbook and must not include references. The goal is for you to develop your ability at achieving insight into everyday experiences using ideas

learned in the course. Format details will be provided in class and posted on the course Blackboard site.

**Late papers will lose 10% of the assignment grade per day late.** You are expected to hand in the assignment in class on the due date. If you cannot attend class that day, you must drop off the assignment into the Green Box outside A275 before 4:30 pm on the Friday before the due date. If illness or other circumstances beyond your control make it difficult to complete the paper on time, you are expected to advise the instructor of this before the due date has passed. E-mailed or faxed assignments will not be accepted except with special permission.

Thought Piece #.	Due Dates:	Applicable Chapter Content
1	May 27	1-5
2	June 10	6-8
3	June 17	9 - 12, SPA 3 (Law)

#### 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 (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.

## Lecture Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	CHAPTER
May 6	<b>Introduction to Social Psychology Research Methodology</b>	1 2
May 8	Last day for registration and changes of registration for WU courses.	
May 13	<b>Social Cognition Social Perception</b>	3 4
May 20	<b><u>Midterm Exam 1 Ch. 1-4</u></b>  <b>Self-Knowledge and Self-Evaluation (Ch 5 &amp; 6 in old, second edition)</b>	5
May 27	<b><u>Thought Piece 1 Due (on Ch 1-5)</u></b>  <b>Attitudes and Attitude Change Begin Conformity</b>	6 7
June 3	Finish <b>Conformity</b> <b>Group Processes</b>	7 8
June 10	<b><u>Midterm Exam 2 Ch. 5 - 8</u></b>  <b><u>Thought Piece 2 due (on Ch. 6 - 8)</u></b>  <b>Interpersonal Attraction</b>	9
June 14	(6-8 pm) for afternoon Weekend U classes  <b>Prosocial Behaviour</b>	10
June 17	<b><u>Thought Piece 3 Due (on Ch 9-12, SPA 3)</u></b>  <b>Aggression Prejudice Social Psychology and Law</b>	11 12 SPA 3

## **Reappraisal of Grades**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen 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 fifteen 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 fifteen 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 a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation.* If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and **have not** registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. If you are seeking academic accommodation, please notify your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of the course. Note that the lecturer must approve any tape recordings of lectures.

## **Absence From A Test**

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

### **Bonus Course Credits for Research Participation**

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. Information about current experiments is on the Experimetrix website at <http://experimetrix.com/uc>. The read.me link at that site provides a guide to using the system and assigning your credits. The last day to participate in research and **ALLOCATE YOUR CREDITS TO YOUR COURSES** is June 23.

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is May 8, 2006. The last day to withdraw from this course is June 21, 2006 .