



**Department of Psychology
Psychology 345 (L98) – Social Psychology**

Winter Session 2008

Instructor:	Dr. Nancy J. Smith	Lecture Location:	ST 135
Phone:	239-0255 220-2242	Lecture Days/Time:	Saturdays 1-5 pm: January 19, 26; February 2, 9; March 1, 8, 15, April 5
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Office Hours:	By appointment		
Course Blackboard Site:	blackboard.ucalgary.ca		

Course Description

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.

Required Text: Aronson, Wilson, Akert, & Fehr (2007). Social Psychology (3rd. Canadian ed.), available in the University Bookstore. **Recommended: Student Study Guide, for Soc. Psych. 3rd Can. Ed.**

Evaluation

Performance in the course (grades) will be evaluated on the basis of two mid-term examinations, a final examination, and three 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 all films and videos shown in class). 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.

	Textbook Content	Weight	Date
Midterm Exam 1:	Chaps. 1- 4	20%	Feb. 2
Midterm Exam 2:	Chaps. 5 - 8	32%	March 8
Final Exam:	Chaps. 9 -12 & SPA 3, plus specified topics in SPA 1 and 2	33%	April 12

Thought Piece Assignments: Three reports--minimum 2 pages—maximum 3 pages, with an **additional** cover page including your ID (but not your name) typed, font size 12, double spaced, with page numbers beginning on cover page -- each report worth 5% of the final grade, for a total weight of 15%. Each assignment will consist of your application of social psychological theories or concepts from specified text chapters to gain increased understanding of a relevant experience or event 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 explained in class and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Late papers will lose 10% of the assignment grade per day late.

All assignments: You are expected to hand in printed assignments in class on the due date. If you cannot attend class that day, you must 1) drop off the assignment into the Green Box outside A275 before 4:30 pm on the Friday (building closed on Saturday) before the due date or 2) e-mail in your assignment, **by 1 pm on the due date** as a Word file attachment, for return to you by e-mail. Printed assignments will be returned, graded, in class to you

generally the following lecture date.

If illness or other circumstances beyond your control make it difficult to complete an assignment on time, you are expected to advise the instructor of this before the due date has passed. Faxed assignments will not be accepted.

Thought Piece #. Content	Due Dates:	Applicable Chapter
1	February 9	1-4
2	March 15	5-8
3	April 5	9-12, SPA 3

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%

Note: 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—subject to change as necessary

WEEKEND UNIVERSITY - Winter Term

DATE	Topic	Chapter
Jan. 19	Weekend University Winter Session lectures begin Introduction to Social Psychology Methodology: How Social Psychologists Do Research	 1 2
Jan. 26	Social Cognition Social Perception	3 4
Feb. 2	<u>Midterm Exam 1 Ch. 1-4</u> Self-Knowledge and Self-Evaluation: Self Understanding and the Need to Maintain Self-Esteem	 5
Feb. 9	<u>Thought Piece 1 Due (on Ch 1-4)</u> Attitudes and Attitude Change	 6

	Conformity	7
Feb. 16-24	No Classes – Reading Week	
March 1	Group Processes	8
March 8	<u>Midterm Exam 2 Ch. 5 - 8</u>	
	Interpersonal Attraction	9
March 15	<u>Thought Piece 2 due (on Ch. 5 - 8)</u>	
	Prosocial Behaviour	10
	Aggression	11
April 5	<u>Thought Piece 3 Due (on Ch 9-12, SPA 3)</u>	
	Prejudice	12
	Social Psychology and Law,	SP3
	Weekend University Winter Session lectures end. Last day to withdraw from WU full courses or Winter Session half courses.	
April 12	<u>Final Exam: Ch. 9 – 12, SPA 3, plus selected, specified topics in SPA 1 and 2</u>	
April 17	**Last day to allocate Research Credits to WU courses	

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. *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
3. *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.*
4. *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. *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.
3. *Effective oral communication*—through both small group and whole class discussion.
4. *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.

5 *Effective written communication* through preparation of three written reports.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work 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 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 fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

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.

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. Students can create an account and access the Research Participation System website at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. Last day to allocate Research Credits to WU courses is April 17, 2007.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). It is located in the Administration building, room 170 or the association may be contacted at 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 [suyvaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@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 January 25, 2008. The last day to withdraw from this course is April 5, 2008

A copy of this course outline may be viewed on the Internet at the following web address:

<http://www.psychology.ucalgary.ca/courses/w08>