

PSYC 400.08	Applied Methods in Social Psychology	Winter 2024
Instructor:	Dr. Susan D. Boon	Lecture Location: TI 140/148
Phone:	403-220-5564	Lecture Days/Time: TR 14:00 – 15:15
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Course Description

Students will learn to apply social psychological research methods to answer research questions, to collect and analyze data, and to interpret and report research findings.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Generate research questions/hypotheses and identify appropriate methods for their investigation	Assignments; research proposal; presentation 1	1, 2,7	A
Identify methodological issues/dilemmas in social psychological research	Assignments; presentation 2; critique	1,2,4	A
Critically evaluate social psychological methods and research designs	Assignments; presentation 2; critique	1,2,4,5	A
Deliver an effective oral presentation	Group presentations	4	A

Provide critical evaluation and summary of previous empirical studies on a topic, design a research study, identify the ethical issues associated with the proposed study, and outline the main empirical, theoretical, and/or applied contributions of this study	Research proposal, group presentation 1	1,2,4,6,7	A
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Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

Course Format

This is an in-person class held on campus.

Prerequisites

PSYC 300 and 301 and 345.

Required Text

Citations for readings will be posted to D2L. Readings may be downloaded from the University of Calgary Library.

Assessment Methods

Group presentation 1 (RQs/hypotheses and preliminary study design)	10%	Feb 13 and 15
Group presentation 2 (methodological challenge/dilemma)	10%	April 4 and 9
Research proposal	20%	Due March 1 by 11:59 pm via D2L Dropbox
Methodological critique	20%	Due April 9 by 11:59 pm via D2L Dropbox

Practical assignments	40%	Throughout term via D2L Dropbox
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Once approved by the course instructor, and at their discretion, alternative arrangements for missed assessments may be considered. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-1-2.html>. Students may be asked for documentation <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.

****A note on word limits:** The TAs and I will be performing word counts on each submitted assignment. If an assignment is over the word limit, it will be returned to you to cut back until it reaches the limit. You will accrue any late penalties that may apply for the duration of the time that it takes you to accomplish that task. Please respect the word limits. It takes skill to write concisely and the assignments in this course have been designed to give you the opportunity to develop and refine that skill. Do not mistake a short assignment, however, for an easy assignment. **Word limits do not count title pages, headers at the top of pages, titles, reference pages, or any appendices.**

****There are no tests or exams in this course.**

Research Project Design (30% of final grade; includes group presentation 1 and research proposal)

In groups of 5, you will generate one or more research questions and/or hypotheses. You will then work throughout the term to design a study capable of answering your research question(s)/testing your hypothesis(es).

Group Presentation 1 (10% of final grade; February 13th or 15th)

Groups will present their research question(s)/hypothesis(es) and a preliminary study design to the class on February 13th or 15th (15-minute presentations; order of groups to be randomly assigned). More information about this assignment will be posted on D2L.

Research Proposal (20% of final grade; due March 1 by 11:59 p.m. via D2LDropbox)

Each student will prepare a 1250-word (maximum) research proposal for the study their group has designed. While the study will be designed as a group, **each student will write an independent research proposal for the study.** Proposals must include a brief introduction that (a) provides a compelling rationale (grounded in the current literature on the selected topic) for the value and importance of the study they propose to conduct and (b) articulates the hypotheses to be tested; a detailed method (documenting intended participants, recruitment procedures, materials, and study protocol i.e., the study procedure); and a discussion of the proposed study's key contributions to our understanding of the selected topic. The rationale should cite relevant theory/research. Assessment criteria will include quality of the rationale that justifies the proposed study, appropriateness and rigour of the proposed design, sophistication of treatment in highlighting the study's importance and anticipated contributions, and clarity of expression. Research proposals should be double-spaced, prepared in APA style, and **submitted no later than March 1 by 11:59 p.m. via D2LDropbox.**

More detailed instructions and evaluation criteria will be posted on D2L. **Without instructor approval, late submissions will be penalized 10% per day including weekends and holidays.**

Group Presentation 2 (10% of final grade; April 4th or 9th)

Groups will present to the class on a methodological challenge/dilemma of their choice on April 4th or 9th (15-minute presentations; groups who presented on February 13th will present on April 9th and

groups who presented on February 15th will present on April 4th). Only one group may present on a given topic. All groups must clear their topics with the instructor by March 16th. The topic of focus in this presentation must be independent of the topic in your methodological critique (see below) and be an issue not discussed in the course.

Without instructor approval, missed presentations will receive a 0. If circumstances arise such that you must miss your date, please contact the instructor as soon as possible so that alternate arrangements (e.g., swapping dates with another group) may be made.

Practical Assignments (40% of final grade; due throughout term)

There will be 8 small lab assignments, each worth 5% of your final grade. Each of these assignments will be associated with an in-class activity that you will complete during class time. Practical assignments are due by 11:59 pm via D2L Dropbox on the due dates specified below.

The assignments will include:

Topic	Due
1 Generating research questions and hypotheses	January 15
2 Pre-registration	January 29
3 Power and effect size	February 5
4 Psychological impact, mundane realism, and psychological realism	February 12
5 Control groups and pilot studies	March 4
6 Survey/correlational designs	March 15
7 Ethical considerations	March 22
8 Debriefing	March 28

More detailed instructions and criteria will be posted on D2L. **Without instructor approval, late submissions will be penalized 10% per day including weekends and holidays.**

Methodological critique (20% of final grade) due on D2L by 11:59 pm April 9)

Students will select a topic of their choice from among those covered in this course and write a brief paper that examines that topic as applied to analysis of an experimental study published in a reputable social psychology journal within the last 5 (five) years. Students are strongly encouraged to consult the instructor if they want to write about a topic not covered in the course. The topic under discussion in this critique must be independent of the topic you covered in group presentation 2. Students must cite at least 3 (three) relevant scholarly sources in their paper beyond the article in which the experiment they are critiquing appears (i.e., these must be articles about a methodological issue, dilemma, or challenge in social psychology). Papers must be no longer than 750 words and should be double-spaced, prepared in APA style, and submitted no later than 11:59 pm on April 9th via D2L Dropbox. Assessment criteria will include appropriate application of course material/topic to analysis of the article they are critiquing, sophistication of treatment in the analysis/critique, and clarity of expression. The emphasis should be on demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of the

methodological issue, dilemma, or challenge as it applies to the particular experiment under evaluation. More detailed instructions and criteria will be posted on D2L. **Without instructor approval, late submissions will be penalized 10% per day including weekends and holidays.**

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf>.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

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%

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

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
T Jan 9	Introduction and assignment to groups First day of lectures
R Jan 11	Generating research questions and hypotheses Practical assignment 1 due January 15
T Jan 16	Transparency in research 1 (replication/reproducibility)
R Jan 18	Transparency in research 2 (researcher degrees of freedom, p-hacking) Last day to drop a class without financial penalty
F Jan 19	Last day to add or swap a course
T Jan 23	Pre-registration 1
R Jan 25	Pre-registration 2 Practical assignment 2 due January 29
F Jan 26	Fee payment deadline for Winter Term full and half courses.
T Jan 30	Choosing a sample and recruiting participants (WEIRD samples, faking)
R Feb 1	Power, sample size, and effect size (big and small effects) Practical assignment 3 due February 5
T Feb 6	Internal validity vs external validity
R Feb 8	Psychological impact, mundane realism, and experimental realism Practical assignment 4 due February 12
T Feb 13	Group presentation #1
R Feb 15	Group presentation #1
Feb 18-24	Term Break, no classes

T Feb 27	Manipulations and manipulation checks
R Feb 29	Control groups and pilot studies Research proposal due March 1 Practical assignment 5 due March 4
T Mar 5	Types of outcome/dependent variables
R Mar 7	Experimenter bias and demand characteristics
T Mar 12	Survey/correlational designs Practical assignment 6 due March 15
R Mar 14	Quasi-experimental designs
T Mar 19	Ethical considerations Practical assignment 7 due March 22
R Mar 21	Informed consent
T Mar 26	Deception and debriefings Practical assignment 8 due March 28
R Mar 28	Mini meta-analyses
T Apr 2	Writing your journal article
R Apr 4	Group presentation #1
T Apr 9	Group presentation #2 Methodological critique due April 9 Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Winter Term half courses.
Apr 12-23	Winter Final Exam Period

Extra Research Participation Course Credit is Not Offered for this Course.

Seating During Exams

Instructors and exam invigilators are free to ask students to move seats before an exam begins or even during an exam. Students must comply with this request and refusal to do so may warrant a charge of academic misconduct

Absence From Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-1-1.html> At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed

test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam [Deferred Final Exams | University of Calgary \(ucalgary.ca\)](#) Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology psyugrd@ucalgary.ca

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf>.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright

https://library.ucalgary.ca/services/copyright?_gl=1*bcjlpn*_ga*OTY1ODc0Njg0LjE2NjkxNTA1NTM.*_g

[a_X4GN9Y4W7D*MTY3Nzc5MjM3Ni4xNy4xLjE2Nzc3OTI4MDYuMC4wLjA](#)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Student Support and Resources

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Thursday, January 18th, 2024**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, January 19th, 2024**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Tuesday, April 9th, 2024**.