

PSCY443		Interpersonal Relationships		Spring 2024	
Instructor:	Ghinwa El-Ariss	Lecture Location:	SS10		
Phone:	403-220-8229	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 13:00 – 15:45		
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Course Description

Application of social psychological theory and methodology to a variety of topics in the area of interpersonal relationships such as attraction, close relationships, interpersonal conflict, communication, and power. Course projects will be an integral part of the course.

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)
Apply theories and research findings concerning interpersonal relationships to current or historical events and/or popular culture or media	Application paper	1,2,4,7	C,C,A,C
Convey key concepts and theories of interpersonal relationships in a manner accessible to a lay audience	Podcast script	1,2,4	A,C,C
Deliver an oral presentation on a selected area of interpersonal relationships	Group presentation	1,2,4	A,C,A
Synthesize material from several sources (empirical articles, book chapters, review articles, lectures) to formulate appropriate debates and conclusions	Application paper, podcast script, group presentation, research proposal	1,2,4,5	A,C,A,C
Critically evaluate primary research papers, comparing and contrasting findings, and identifying gaps in the literature	Group presentation, research proposal	1,2,4,5	A,C,A,C
Provide critical evaluation and summary of previous empirical studies on a topic in the area of interpersonal relationships, 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	1,2,4,5,6,8	A,C,A,C,C,C

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 the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

Course Format

This is an in-person class held on campus.

Prerequisites

PSYC 300 – Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology I, PSYC 301 – Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology II, PSYC 345 – Social Psychology, and admission to the Psychology major or Honours program.

Required Text

No text. References for assigned readings will be posted on D2L.

Assessment Methods

Course Component	Weighting (i.e., % of final grade)	Due Date	Format	Materials
Podcast script	25%	Due on D2L by 11:59pm on May 23	Essay	Assigned readings, lecture materials, empirical articles selected by students
Application paper	25%	Due on D2L by 11:59pm on June 4	Essay	Assigned readings, lecture materials, empirical articles selected by students
Group presentation	20%	Tuesdays and Thursdays, in class throughout the term	Oral presentation with the use of slides	Assigned readings, lecture materials, empirical articles or other materials (more information in the assignment description below) selected by students

Research proposal	30%	Due on D2L by 11:59pm on June 17	Essay	Assigned readings, lecture materials, empirical articles selected by students
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****Note:** All written assignments in this class are to be submitted as **word documents**. To perform a word count on your assignment, please use the word count feature in Microsoft Word (offline version) as this is how the instructor and TA will determine word counts.

****A note on word limits:** Assignments that exceed the word limit will receive a penalty of 10% (i.e., 10% will be deducted from the grade on that assignment). In this course, the word count excludes the title page at the beginning of your assignment and the references list at the end of your assignment. Please respect the word limit.

Podcast script (25% of final grade)

Each student will prepare a typed podcast script on a topic of interest in the area of interpersonal relationships. This topic should be *independent* of the topics of your group presentation and application paper. Your job is to create an informative and engaging entry-level script of your selected topic accessible to the general public based on available empirical research and existing theory (i.e., understandable by someone without a university education or specialized knowledge on the topic). Assessment criteria will include quality (e.g., breadth and depth) of coverage of the topic, accessibility to a lay audience (e.g., clarity of expression, was it written at an appropriate level?, was it engaging?), and mechanics (e.g., did the script flow well?). Students should draw on lecture materials and empirical articles of their choosing as part of their podcast script. Podcast scripts must be no more than 1000 words and should be double-spaced and prepared in APA style. See D2L for more details about the podcast script. Podcast scripts are due on D2L by 11:59 PM on May 23, 2024. **Without instructor approval, late submissions will be penalized 10% per day including weekends and holidays.**

Application paper (25% of final grade)

Each student will select a topic of their choice from among topics relevant to the course material (i.e., it is okay to select a topic we are not covering in class; students are strongly encouraged to consult the instructor if they want to try that route) and write a brief paper that examines that topic as applied to analysis of current or historical events or popular culture/media (e.g., book, movie, etc.). This topic should be *independent* of the topics of your group presentation and podcast script. Students should ground their analysis in theoretical or empirical (i.e., research) work on their selected topic and must cite at least 3 (three) relevant scholarly articles in their paper. Papers must be no more than 1000 words and should be double-spaced, prepared in APA style, and submitted no later than June 4, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. via D2L. Assessment criteria will include appropriate application of theory/research to analysis of the topic, sophistication of treatment in the analysis, and clarity of expression. The emphasis should be on demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of how (or the extent to which) the theory/research applies to the particular event/media. 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.**

Group presentation (20% of final grade)

Students will present in groups no larger than 5. Each group will select/be assigned a topic from the list of group presentations in the tentative topic outline and prepare a 50-minute presentation based on this topic. Presentations should allow time for class discussion but other than that you should feel free to use any format you desire (i.e., dramatic presentations/role plays, debates, infomercials, group-produced videos, etc.) and approach the topic from any angle that interests you. You may use the assigned readings as a **starting point** for your presentation, but you are expected to add other sources (e.g., journal articles, books, films, plays, music, the internet, etc.). Your goal should be to prepare an interesting and lively presentation that approaches your topic in an intelligent, scholarly, and creative manner. Assessment criteria will include creativity/innovation in approach, appropriate use of sources, the quality/sophistication of your treatment of the topic, presentation structure and clarity of expression, and your ability to generate class discussion.

The first group presentation (group #1) will be on May 21, 2024. Note that groups who present early may be graded more leniently than those presenting later to compensate for having less time to prepare (and fewer “models” of what can be done and what “works” for this assignment).

Should one or more of the group members be ill on the date of the presentation, thus compromising the group’s ability to present, arrangements (e.g., rescheduling or other possibilities) will be determined on a case by case basis via consultation between group members and the instructor. See D2L for more details about the group presentation assignment. **Without instructor approval, missed presentations will receive a 0%.**

Research proposal (30% of final grade)

Students will prepare a 1250-word (maximum) research proposal for a study that investigates an issue of interest in the area of interpersonal relationships. Proposals must include a brief introduction that 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, 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 (e.g., scientific, scholarly, and societal contributions) to our understanding of the selected topic. Proposals should also include a brief (2 to 3 sentences) consideration of key ethical issues surrounding the study. 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 (including the analysis of ethical considerations), sophistication of treatment in highlighting the study’s anticipated contributions, and clarity of expression. Research proposals should be double-spaced, prepared in APA style, and submitted no later than June 17, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. via D2L. 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
M May 6	Spring term lectures begin
T May 7	Week 1 Introduction and the Building Blocks of Relationships We will form groups and assign presentation topics for the group presentations.
R May 9	Last day to drop classes without penalty and last day to add or swap classes. Week 1 Need to Belong and Research Methods in Relationship Research
T May 14	Week 2 Attraction and Social Cognition
R May 16	Week 2 Attachment and Love
T May 21	Week 3 Communication and Interdependence Group 1 presents (attraction on social media)
R May 23	Week 3 Stresses and Strains Group 2 presents (attachment during the COVID pandemic) Podcast script due on D2L by 11:59pm
T May 28	Week 4 Conflict Group 3 presents (the Michaelangelo effect)
R May 30	Week 4 Dissolution and loss Group 4 presents (infidelity)
T June 4	Week 5 Power and Violence Group 5 presents (revenge in romantic relationships) Application paper due on D2L by 11:59pm
R June 6	Week 5 Relational Maintenance and Repair Group 6 presents (loneliness)
T June 11	Week 6 Singlehood and Friendship Group 7 presents (intimate partner violence in online dating)
R June 13	Week 6 Overlooked and neglected relationships Group 8 presents (gratitude and romantic relationship maintenance)
M Jun 17	End of Spring Lectures and last day to withdraw from a course. Research proposal due on D2L by 11:59pm
W Jun 19	Start of Final Exams
S Jun 22	End of Final Exams

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://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/6fcc1fb40bb54524809685d7096c8b76>. 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://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/c53034e7579d4455815e37ce1c1f80da>.

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

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/e31a7115dca740ec83579e946d4a4193>

Reappraisal of Final Grade

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/030b5a67a21048c7b4e6a5d167c628d8>

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 <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/university-regulations/integrity-conduct>

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.*_ga_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, May 9th, 2024**. Last day add/swap a course is **Thursday, May 9th, 2024**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Monday, June 17th, 2024**.