

Psychology 445	Psychology of Morality	Winter 2020
<b>Instructor:</b> John Ellard	<b>Lecture Location:</b> Online: Synchronous and Asynchronous online	
<b>Phone:</b> 403-220-4960	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> TR 9:00 – 11:45 (see lecture schedule for details)	
<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ellard@ucalgary.ca">ellard@ucalgary.ca</a>		
<b>Office:</b> Admin 231B		
<b>Office Hours:</b> Online by appointment		

### Course Description

The course is an exploration of the origins and nature of moral conduct from the perspective of psychological theory and research. We will examine why people care about morality, do or do not behave morally, and the psychological bases of moral judgment. Upon completion of the course, students will be expected to have enhanced awareness and comprehension of the role psychological of inquiry in understanding moral dimensions of human behaviour.

### 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 [psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes](http://psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes)), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Identify what the study of moral psychology is and its domains of inquiry including its relationship with moral philosophy. Comprehend the role psychology has for understanding humans as social and moral animals.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams.	1, 2, 6	C, A
Knowledge of important moral psychology theories and facts and their application to understanding human experience.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams, research proposal	1	C, A
Knowledge of methods and research strategies employed in moral psychology including their strengths and limitations.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams, research proposal	1, 2	C, A

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Knowledge and mastery of designing research to address moral psychology research questions	Research proposal	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C, A
An enhanced ability to understand day-to-day experiences with morality including moral judgment of others and our own moral conduct.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams.	2, 4, 7	C
Describe the relevance of moral psychology for understanding and addressing important social problems.	Classroom exercises and quizzes, multiple choice, short answer, and essay question exams.	7	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, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

### Prerequisites

Psychology 300 and 301- Research Methods and Data Analysis I and II OR Psychology 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods in Psychology

Admission to the Psychology major or honours program.

### Reading

There is no required textbook for the course. Reading material will be made available through the course D2L site.

### Assessment Methods

**Tests and Final Exam:** There will be two tests during the term as well as a final exam. The tests and final exam in this course are non-cumulative. Each will only cover material not covered on previous tests. The midterm tests and the final examination will be take-home exams. The midterm tests and final examination will be scheduled and weighted as follows:

- Test 1. **Thursday, May 21** and worth **25%** of the final grade. Format: Take-home. The test will cover reading and lecture material from the beginning of the course. Submission deadline: before midnight, **Thursday, May 28** via D2L Dropbox
- Test 2. **Thursday, June 4** and worth **25%** of the final grade. Format: Take-home. The test will cover reading and lecture material after Test 1. Submission deadline: before midnight **Thursday, June 11** via D2L Dropbox
- Final Exam Take-home examination worth **25%** of the final grade. The final exam will cover reading and lecture material covered after Test 2. The final exam will be made available on **Tuesday, June 16** and will be due before midnight on **June 23**.

**Research Paper:** A research proposal worth **25%** of the final grade that will be submitted through the D2L assignment system no later than **Monday, June 15** before midnight. In the paper you will develop a research proposal on a moral psychology topic. A detailed description of assignment requirements and grading criteria will be posted at the course D2L site. Without approved documentation, late

assignments will be penalized 10% per day, including weekends. Papers will not be accepted by email or in hard copy form.

### Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors 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%

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

The online lecture delivery will be done both synchronously and asynchronously. Synchronous sessions will begin at 9:00 with two 10-minute breaks at 9:50 and 10:50. The synchronous (live) lectures will be recorded and made available asynchronously after class. **It is understood that you may not be able to participate in all of the synchronous lectures, which is why they will be available asynchronously.**

Date	Lecture Topics and Course Component Schedule
R May 7	Course Overview Situating moral psychology
T May 12	Situating moral psychology Biological bases of morality: evolutionary psychology <i>Last day for registration/change of registration and last day to drop a course with tuition refund.</i>
R May 14	Biological bases of morality: evolutionary psychology, comparative psychology, Frans de Waal and primates
T May 19	Biological bases of morality: punishing free riders & cheaters Disgust as a basis for moral sentiment
R May 21	<i>Test 1 Take-home test</i> Moral judgment: overview Moral intuitionism – social intuition model
T May 26	Moral intuitionism – social intuition model
R May 28	Moral intuitionism – social intuition model
T June 2	Moral intuitionism – belief in a just world Beyond moral intuitionism
R June 4	<i>Test 2 Take-home test</i> Moral development: overview Moral development: innate tendencies Moral development: psychoanalytic approaches Moral development: social learning approaches
T June 9	Moral development: social cognitive approaches: Piaget Moral development: social cognitive approaches: Kohlberg Moral development: social cognitive approaches: post Kohlberg
R June 11	Moral conduct: overview Moral conduct: situationism & student cheating Moral conduct: moral agency & disengagement
M June 15	<i>Research proposal due</i>
T June 16	<i>Last class, Final Examination Take-home</i> Moral conduct: moral agency & disengagement Moral conduct: moral identity, integrity, personal responsibility
W June 17	<i>Last day to withdraw from the course.</i>
June 19 - 23	<i>Final Exam period</i> <i>Take-home final examination due June 23</i>

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

### Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. A student may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request for a make-up exam

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>. . Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours of the due date for the tests or final examination to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup

test/exam. It's the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up 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. Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. 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 June examination period. 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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. 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/](http://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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/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 ([www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) 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>

## 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, Region III.

## Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 403-220-3911 [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

## Important Dates

The last day for registration/change of registration or to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **May 12, 2020**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **June 17, 2020**.