

PSYC 447
SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF JUSTICE
Winter 2024

Instructor:	Dr. Sasha M Reid, PhD, JD (Candidate)	Lecture Location:	Asynchronous
Phone:	N/A	Lecture Days/Time:	Asynchronous
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Office Hours:	By appointment		

Course Description

This course provides a deep exploration into the multifaceted interplay between societal influences and legal processes. This class is structured to delve further into the intricate dynamics of how social psychology impacts the legal system. We will explore how collective behaviors, such as mob mentality and groupthink, along with moral panic, shape legal outcomes. The course will scrutinize how individual and group identities influence perceptions and decisions of guilt within the legal framework. This examination will aid in appreciating the various external factors that can impact the right to a fair and impartial trial. Moreover, this course will engage in philosophical discussions about the role and function of law in society. These discussions will equip students with the tools to critically analyze the reciprocal relationship between law and social psychology, enhancing their understanding of how societal dynamics influence the outcomes of legal cases.

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)
Demonstrate an awareness of key psychological concepts by responding correctly to a series of question prompts.	Multiple choice examinations	1, 2, 5, 7	I, C
Convey an understanding of key ideas and theories by weighing and evaluating evidence and offering unique responses and examples.	Short answer examinations	1, 2, 5, 7	I, C
Judge and evaluate the information and ideas presented and contribute to classroom knowledge and problem-solving activities.	Class Skill Building	1, 2	C, A
Think critically about course material and communicate those thoughts respectfully and appropriately in a co-learning environment.	Class Skill-Building	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	C, A
Transfer learning and psychological knowledge to novel contexts and situations.	Class Skill Building	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C, A

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 asynchronous class held online and will be taught through a series of weekly podcasts that delve into course topics, offering an engaging and interactive learning experience.

Prerequisites

[Psychology 300](#), [301](#) and admission to the Psychology major or Honours program.

Required Text

Relevant Readings and Materials will be posted to D2L.

Assessment Methods

Assessment	Due Date	Weight	Format
TEST 1	Week 6: February 12 - 16 <i>Material to be covered includes all lectures from January 8 – February 9th.</i>	35%	Online, Multiple Choice and Short Answer, Closed Book.
TEST 2	Week 11: March 18 – 22 <i>Material to be covered includes all lectures from February 16 – March 15nd.</i>	35%	Online, Multiple Choice and Short Answer, Closed Book.
SKILL BUILDING	5 times throughout the semester. <u>Due</u> <u>Week 1</u> <u>Week 5</u> <u>Week 10</u> <u>Week 12</u> <u>Week 13</u>	6% each x 5 = 30%	Online, Multiple Choice and Short Answer.

TEST 1 (35%) will include all material from January 8th – February 9th. Examinations will contain multiple choice questions and short answer questions (ranging from one sentence to one paragraph). This test will be written online. Exams in this course are closed books. The use of resources, including class notes, the textbook, online resources, and calculators is prohibited during the exams in this course. Students may not communicate with others about course material or the exam either in person or electronically during exams.

TEST 2 (35%) will include all material from February 16th – March 15th. Examinations will contain multiple choice questions and short answer questions (ranging from one sentence to one paragraph).

This test will be written online. Exams in this course are closed books. The use of resources, including class notes, the textbook, online resources, and calculators is prohibited during the exams in this course. Students may not communicate with others about course material or the exam either in person or electronically during exams.

SKILL BUILDING (30%) will take place 5 times throughout the semester. These activities, embedded into the asynchronous lecture and completed through D2L, will engage students in thought-provoking questions and hypotheticals regarding the course content. The format of these activities is varied. There may be a combination of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, or case studies which students will work through. Questions will be graded based on a combination of completeness, correctness, and depth. Students who miss a skill-building activity without an approved excuse will receive a 0% for that activity. Each week's skill-building activity is worth 5% of the final grade.

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>.

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 (revise and add columns & rows as necessary)
Week 1 January 8 - 12	<i>Topic:</i> Introduction to the Course + Analyzing the Social Climate of the Late 1980s and Early 1990s <i>Activities:</i> Overview of Course Themes, Discussion on Societal and Psychological Context of the Era <i>Important Date:</i> Start of classes
Week 2 January 15 - 19	<i>Topic:</i> Continued Analysis of the Social Climate + The West Memphis Three Case: Initial Developments <i>Activities:</i> Lecture on the Early Stages of the Case <i>Important Date:</i> January 19 - Last day to add or swap a course
Week 3 January 22 - 26	<i>Topic:</i> The Investigative Process: Psychological Barriers to Justice <i>Activities:</i> Examination of Cognitive Biases and Group Dynamics in
Week 4 Jan 29 – Feb 2	<i>Topic:</i> Social Perceptions and the Identification of a Suspect <i>Activities:</i> Case Study Analysis, Focus on Public and Police Perceptions
Week 5 February 5 - 9	<i>Topic:</i> Interview Techniques: A Social Psychological Perspective <i>Activities:</i> Analysis of Interrogation Tactics and Suspect Psychology
Week 6 February 12 - 16	TEST 1 Students will be provided with a window this week in which they can access and complete a time online assessment.
Week 7 February 19 - 23	TERM BREAK – NO CLASSES
Week 8 Feb 16 – March 1	<i>Topic:</i> Exploring Confirmation Bias and Group Influence in Investigating Suspects <i>Activities:</i> Discussion on Cognitive Biases in Criminal Investigations
Week 9 March	<i>Topic:</i> Confessions and Coercion: A Social Psychological Analysis <i>Activities:</i> Exploration of the Interrogation Process and its Psychological Impact

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Week 10 March 11 - 15	<i>Topic:</i> Jury Decision Making: The Role of Social Influences and Group Dynamics <i>Activities:</i> Discussions on Jury Behavior, Influence of Group Psychology
Week 11 March 18 - 22	TEST 2 Students will be provided with a window this week in which they can access and complete a time online assessment.
Week 12 March 25 - 29	<i>Topic:</i> Ethical and Psychological Debates on the Death Penalty <i>Activities:</i> Discussions on Moral, Ethical, and Psychological Aspects of Capital Punishment
Week 13 April 1 - 5	<i>Topic:</i> Media's Influence on Public Perception and Criminal Trials <i>Activities:</i> Analysis of Social Movements, Public Advocacy, and Psychological Impacts <i>Important Date:</i> March 29 – Good Friday Monday, April 1 – Easter Monday
Week 14 April 8-9	<i>Topic:</i> Closing Remarks: Advocating for Justice and Reflecting on Legal Learnings <i>Activities:</i> Recap of Course, Discussion on Future Legal Challenges <i>Important Date:</i> April 9 - Last day to withdraw from a course

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 <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

(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 **Tuesday, May 9th, 2023**. Last day add/swap a course is **Tuesday, May 9th, 2023**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Thursday, June 15, 2023**.