



PSYC 630.01	Advanced Topics in Social and Theoretical Psych	Fall 2021
Instructor:	Dr. Susan D. Boon	Lecture Location: AD248
Phone:	403-220-5564	Lecture Days/Time: T 11:00 - 13:45
Email:	sdboon@ucalgary.ca	
Office:	AD231B	
Office Hours:	Open door — if my door is open, please stop in. Otherwise by appointment	

Course Description and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to develop students' critical thinking about theory and research in social psychology. **This is not a survey course**; we will not cover all topics in social psychology. Rather, this course will examine in detail several prominent theories/areas of research that focus on the personal, interpersonal, and intergroup influences on human thought, behaviour, and emotion. Critical analysis of relevant theory and research will form the basis of written and oral work. In addition to developing critical thinking about social psychology, students will advance their public speaking and writing skills.

This course may be repeated for credit.

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.

Course Format

This is an in-person class held on campus

Prerequisites

Admission to the Graduate Program in Psychology or by permission of the Instructor.

Graduate students who do NOT have credit in an undergraduate introductory social psychology course should prepare for class by reading an introductory-level social psychology text prior to the first class.

Required Texts and Readings

Assigned readings will be available through the library and/or D2L.

Assessment Methods

Course Component	Weight	Date
seminar participation	15%	throughout term
seminar presentations	25%	throughout term, beginning September 14; weight of individual presentations to be determined by number of presentations to be made (i.e., based on course enrollment)
thought papers ($N = 10$)	30%	due throughout term, beginning September 26; equally weighted. Submitted via the D2L dropbox by 11:59 pm.
research grant proposal	30%	Due in the D2L dropbox Dec. 14, 2021 by 11:59 pm

Seminar Participation

The primary emphasis here will be on the *quality* of contributions, not quantity, but you *must* contribute. Attendance every week will be assumed. Quality contributions will be easy to make if you've given yourself time to read *and* think about the material before class. Your contributions will be graded out of 10 each week. Here are some ideas for issues that you might comment on/raise in class depending on the topic and your response to it:

- Equity, diversity, and inclusion in the theory and/or research conducted to test it
- Open science practices (replicability/reproducibility; researcher degrees of freedom, etc.)
- Knowledge translation (sharing with other stakeholders)
- Ideas for application of the theory/research
- Issues of effect size and what might constitute an 'important' effect
- Critical views of social psychology, including the view that social psychology is best viewed as 'history'

If you miss a class and provide an acceptable excuse for your absence, I will prorate your participation grade to account for the missed class. I may require you to provide documentation to support your absence.

Seminar Presentation (N based on enrollment)

Each student will lead one or more seminar sessions (exact number to depend on final enrollment; order of presentation to be determined in the first class). You will have the whole class for the seminar. Seminar leaders will be responsible for selecting 3 (three) journal articles related to the assigned reading for that week to use, in conjunction with the assigned reading, as the basis of discussion during the seminar.

The entire class will read the selected readings in preparation for the seminar (including the assigned reading and journal articles). Seminar leaders must post the citation(s) for selected readings on D2L no less than 1 week prior to their seminar.

Seminar leaders are expected to go well beyond summarizing the key points of the assigned readings. They will also be responsible for generating/guiding discussion, ensuring that all voices are heard (that want to be heard), and keeping the discussion on track.

Provided you have an acceptable excuse, missed seminar presentations will be handled on a case-by-case basis, normally by rescheduling later in the term (where possible). I may request that you provide documentation to support your absence. [See D2L for more detail.](#)

Thought Papers (N = 10)

Throughout the term, you will be expected to write a total of 10 short thought papers that discuss your response to some aspect(s) of the previous week's readings, journal article(s), seminar, and/or class discussion (maximum 3 pages double-spaced). Your thought paper should demonstrate your conceptual, critical, and insight abilities. Thought papers will be evaluated with respect to evidence of understanding, critical thinking, insight, and/or ability to synthesize, integrate, extend and/or apply what you have learned.

I will grade a maximum of 10 thought papers per student. As we will discuss 12 topics in class, you may choose which 10 topics to write thought papers for. Each thought paper will be graded out of 10.

Thought papers are to be submitted via the D2L dropbox and are due no later than 11:59 pm on the Tuesday following the class on which the topic was discussed in class (i.e., one week after the class in which it was discussed). The first thought paper is due September 21. The last thought paper will be due December 14.

Late thought papers will not be accepted without instructor approval.

[See D2L for more detail.](#)

Grant Proposal

Submit a SSHRC-like proposal for a program of research in an area of social psychology that is of interest to you and based in/builds on one or more of the theories/topics covered in this course. You are free to choose any topic so long as it is relevant to the course content and *provided it is not directly related to*

your present (or past) thesis research. Grant proposals must not exceed 6 pp single-spaced (as per SSHRC guidelines). **Students must arrange to meet with the instructor to discuss their proposal plans no later than November 19, 2021.**

Grant proposals will be graded out of 10.

[See D2L for more detail.](#)

Late grant proposals will not be accepted without instructor approval.

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/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Faculty of Graduate Studies Grading System

A+ = Outstanding performance, A = Excellent performance, A- = Very good performance

B+ = Good performance, B = Satisfactory performance, B- = Minimum pass

C+ All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade

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%

Tentative Lecture Schedule

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-).

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
T Sep 7	First day of lectures Introduction and assignment of seminar leaders
T Sep 14	Grit and Resilience
R Sep 16	Last day to drop a class without financial penalty
F Sep 17	Last day to add or swap a course
T Sep 21	Aversive Personality Traits

F Sep 24	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
T Sep 28	Moral Foundations Theory
R Sep 30	No Classes National Truth and Reconciliation Day
T Oct 5	Threatened Egotism Theory
M Oct 11	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
T Oct 12	Social Exchange and Interdependence Theories
T Oct 19	Attachment Theory
T Oct 26	Relational Models Theory
T Nov 2	Self-Expansion Model
Nov 7-13	Term Break No Classes
W Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
T Nov 16	Risk Regulation Model in Relationships
T Nov 23	Social Categorization Theory
T Nov 30	Optimal Distinctiveness Theory
T Dec 7	Social Dominance Theory
W Dec 8	Dehumanization and Infrhumanization
R Dec 9	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
Dec 13-22	Fall Final Exam Period

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours 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 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** <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/. 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) 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, September 16, 2021**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, September 17, 2021**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Thursday, December 9, 2021**.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html#fall2017>