

# Syllabus: Soc 241 – B1: Social Psychology

Faculty of Arts | University of Alberta

**Time/Location:** 1:30pm – 4:20pm Tuesday & Thursday, Tory 1-90

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**Instructor:** Sonja Sapach

**Instructor Email:** [sapach@ualberta.ca](mailto:sapach@ualberta.ca) (please indicate SOC 241 in subject line)

**Office Hours:** By appointment (at least 24 hours in advance)

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**Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) section of the University [Calendar](#).**

**Course Prerequisite:** SOC 100, or PSYCO 104 or 105, or consent of instructor.

Note: SOC 241 and PSYCO 241 may not both be taken for credit.

## **Course Description:**

As the scientific study of how the real, imagined, or implied presence of others influences a person's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours, Social Psychology is a vast field that explores many of the things that we encounter in our daily lives.

In order to learn about the science behind social psychology, we will examine a wide range of well-known, classic studies that: ask big questions (for example, why do we conform and obey?); present challenging findings (including the willingness of 65% of participants to deliver a lethal electric shock to another person when asked by an experimenter); and utilize demanding (and in some cases controversial) research methods.

From a sociological perspective, the course will primarily consist of a detailed examination of the *Dramaturgical Perspective*, a microsociological approach to exploring and explaining social interactions in everyday life; most famously described by the theorist Erving Goffman. We will learn about *impression management* (how people manufacture effective social personas), and *symbolic interactionism* (how the social transmission of meaning influences a person's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours).

In addition to learning about face-to-face and 'real world' interactions, this course will explore virtual social processes through such mediums as video games, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitch.

**Course Objectives:**

- Understand historical contexts, key arguments, and uses of diverse theoretical and methodological approaches in sociology/social psychology.
- Analyze sociological research findings through explorations of key experiments in social psychology.
- Rigorously read and critically evaluate classical and contemporary sociological texts.
- Draw on diverse sociological theories, methods, and content knowledge to critically situate individual experience within broader social contexts and relationships and question assumptions about social phenomena.
- Develop core skills required to evaluate information in multiple forms – oral, written, visual, and digital.

**\*\*\*Required Textbook:** "The Presentation of Self in Contemporary Social Life" by David Shulman. Sage Publications, 2017.

**Recommended Textbook:** "Social Psychology: Revisiting the Classic Studies, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed." Edited by Joanne R. Smith & S. Alexander Haslam. Sage Publications, 2017.

**Additional Required Readings:** Any additional readings will be assigned via eClass, with the appropriate link to the journal article available through the University of Alberta Library. You will have to login to the library website using your U of A CCID and password (the ones used to access Beartracks and eClass.)

**Class Format:**

The classes will consist of lectures, in-class discussions, and small group activities.

Required readings will be assigned via eClass and in-class and made readily available as soon as they are known - at least 1 class ahead of when they need to be done. We are not going to follow a strict lecture content schedule in order to remain flexible to the needs and pace of the class, but don't worry, you will be given sufficient notice to allow you to complete required readings.

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

## eClass:

Course material, including PowerPoint Slides, required readings, and assignment information, will be made available through eClass. Students can access eClass by visiting the University of Alberta home page and clicking on eClass. A brief walkthrough will be provided on the first day of class.

## Important Dates and Deadlines:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Classes Begin</b>  | July 9 <sup>th</sup>   |
| <b>Registration Deadline (Add/Drop on Beartracks)</b>         | July 12 <sup>th</sup>  |
| ***Character Creation Assignment Due                          | July 13 <sup>th</sup>  |
| ***Character Response 1 Assignment Due                        | July 19 <sup>th</sup>  |
| <b>Course Withdrawal Deadline (50% fee refund)</b>            | July 23 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| <b>Heritage Day (University Closed)</b>                       | Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| <b>Course Withdrawal Deadline (no fee refund, grade of W)</b> | Aug 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| ***Character Response 2 Assignment Due                        | Aug 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| <b>Classes End</b>  | Aug 15 <sup>th</sup>   |
| <i>Final Exam*</i>  | TBA in class and via Beartracks<br>(exam period is Aug 16 <sup>th</sup> – Aug 17 <sup>th</sup> ) |

\* As per University Policy, dates for exams cannot change

\*\*\* Indicates a class assignment/exam due date

## Grade Distribution/Assignment Descriptions:

### 1) Attendance/Participation (10% of final grade)

As this is a Social Psychology course, social interaction and participation is important. This course is largely lecture-based and regular attendance is required. PowerPoint slides will be provided via eclass, however the lectures and in-class exercises will provide the majority of the content. For top marks here, you will need to actively participate in class discussions and small-group activities in addition to attending all lectures.

### 2) Character Creation Worksheet: (5% of final grade)

You will be asked to develop a character using a worksheet that will be provided via eClass. A walkthrough of how to create a character, as well as what to think about while creating your character, will be given in class on the first day (July 10<sup>th</sup>). This character will be used to complete assignments and answer some exam questions. This assignment will be submitted digitally via email. Once you submit the character sheet on July 13<sup>th</sup>, you will not be able to change it, so start thinking about what kind of ‘persona’ you might be interested

in developing and performing (through your written work). If you have ever played a role-playing game (Dungeons & Dragons for example), written a piece of fiction where you developed a main character, or have daydreamed about being someone else, then you should have no problem.

### **3) Character Response 1: (20% of final grade)**

Assignment details will be provided in class on July 12<sup>th</sup>, as well as on eClass. Generally, this will be a 2-3 page written response to topics discussed in class, and found in the readings. Your response will be performed through the perspective of your character. I will provide a list of topics/experiments to choose from as well as a detailed marking rubric in class on July 12<sup>th</sup> and on eclass. This assignment will be due at the beginning of class on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **4) Character Response 2: (30% of final grade)**

Assignment details will be provided in class on July 24th, as well as on eClass, following completion of character response 1. Generally, this will be a 3-4 page written response to topics discussed in class, and found in the readings. I will provide a list of topics/experiments to choose from as well as a detailed marking rubric. As the second character response assignment, I will expect more detail and a more comprehensive knowledge of how to weave the course material into your written response, hence the higher percentage. This assignment will be due at the beginning of class on Aug 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **5) Final Exam: (35% of final grade)**

This exam will take place during the scheduled exam period (Aug 16<sup>th</sup> – Aug 17<sup>th</sup>), the exact date will be announced in class and on Beartracks. The exam will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and long answer and will take no longer than 3 hours to complete. More details will be provided in the weeks leading up to the exam, and we will have an in-class review on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> to help you prepare. Sample questions will be provided via eClass a few weeks before the end of class and will be discussed during the reviews.

#### **Policy for Late Submissions:**

A **printed** copy of all assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class on their respective due dates (with the exception of the Character Creation Sheet which will be submitted via email on July 13<sup>th</sup>). If you are not able to hand in your assignments by the due date, contact the instructor immediately. Acceptance of late submission is at the sole discretion of the instructor, who may request supporting documentation (see University Calendar) and may deduct 10% from the assignment grade per day the assignment is late.

#### **Exams:**

- Your University of Alberta Student ID card will be required at all the exams.

- Students may not enter the final exam area after the first 30 minutes has elapsed.
- Students may not leave the final exam area until the first 30 minutes has elapsed.
- Cell phones must be turned completely off during both exams.
- Bring a pencil and pen to all exams.
- The final exam IS cumulative – it will cover material from the entire course.

#### **Missed Exams:**

If you miss the final exam, you must contact your own Faculty Undergraduate Student Services office within two working days of the missed exam, or as soon as you can, in regards to the circumstance. Instructors do not have authority to grant or deny requests for deferred final exams. The exam deferral date and time will be determined by the instructor.

Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult the [Attendance](#) section of the University of Alberta Calendar.

#### **Grading Scheme:**

Final grades are not scaled or curved. Grades will be calculated based on raw scores for exams and assignments and will not be rounded up. The cumulative percentage score will be converted into a letter grade as described in the table below:

| Descriptor   | Letter Grade | Raw Grade | Grade Point Value |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Excellent    | A+           | 95-100    | 4.0               |
|              | A            | 90-94     | 4.0               |
|              | A-           | 85-89     | 3.7               |
| Good         | B+           | 80-84     | 3.3               |
|              | B            | 75-79     | 3.0               |
|              | B-           | 70-74     | 2.7               |
| Satisfactory | C+           | 66-69     | 2.3               |
|              | C            | 62-65     | 2.0               |
|              | C-           | 58-61     | 1.7               |
| Minimal Pass | D+           | 54-57     | 1.3               |
|              | D            | 50-53     | 1.0               |
| Failure      | F            | 0-49      | 0.0               |

#### **Appealing grades:**

Changing a grade for an assignment is at the instructor's discretion. If you believe that you deserve a higher grade than you received, you can appeal the grade using the following steps:

1. Read the instructor's feedback. Wait 24 hours.
2. Reread the instructor's feedback.
3. Write a  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 1 page single spaced constructive letter stating the grade you feel you deserve and the criteria on which you are basing your arguments (use the materials suggested in this syllabus and the written assignment instruction handout).

4. Send the letter by e-mail. Also submit the letter in hard copy with your paper or presentation attached to the instructor's mailbox in the Department of Sociology office.
5. The instructor will respond within 3 business days and set up an appointment to meet with you in person to further discuss, if necessary.

#### **Classroom Policies:**

- Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course and will assist you in succeeding in this course.
- Students are expected to be in class on time and stay until the end of the lecture. If you are unable to do so, please discuss with instructor before class.
- Mutual respect between student and instructor and between students is expected at all times (also see Learning and Work Environment section below).
- Students are encouraged to be engaged during lectures, discussions, and activities by asking questions and offering comments. However, students are discouraged from having side conversations while the instructor is lecturing or a student is speaking because it is disrespectful and it detracts from everyone's learning experience.
- Students are expected to review the required readings and other materials prior to class so that we can have informed and relevant discussions.
- Taking lecture notes is the student's responsibility. The instructor will provide some PowerPoint slides but not lecture notes to students. If a student misses a lecture, they could ask their classmates for notes.
- The links to audio/visual material presented in class will be made available on eClass, they may be examined on tests and are relevant for written assignments.
- Electronics are to be turned on silent during lectures and off during exams (except under exceptional circumstances in which approval has been granted by the instructor).

#### **Other Notes:**

**E-mail:** Students are required to check and use their University of Alberta email accounts for all U of A communication. Emails sent from accounts other than the U of A will not be opened or responded to. Please use formal language and proper grammar in your e-mail. Allow 2 business days for instructor to respond and if you do not hear back by then, check to see if it is the correct e-mail address and try again.

**Academic Integrity:** The University of Alberta considers plagiarism and cheating to be serious academic offences. You can receive a grade of F, lose scholarships or admission, be suspended, as well as be resented by your peers.

"The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behavior (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University."

**Learning and Working Environment:** The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty, and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to: • Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or • If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the Student Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at <https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110>.

**Student Accessibility Services:** If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Accessibility Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Phone 780-492-3381; Web [www.ssds.ualberta.ca](http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca)).

**Academic Success:**

U of A Libraries:

<http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/research-writing>

Student Success Centre:

<http://www.studentsuccess.ualberta.ca/>

Centre for Writers:

<http://c4w.ualberta.ca/>

**Health and Well-being Services:**

University Health Centre:

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/services/health-centre> 780-492-2612

Sexual Assault Centre:

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/current-students/sexual-assault-centre> 780-492-9771

Peer Support Centre:

<https://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/psc/> 780-492-4268

Counselling and Clinical Services:

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/current-students/counselling> 780-492-5205

Unwind Your Mind Mental Health Initiative:

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/current-students/healthy-campus-unit/>

Edmonton Distress Line: to talk to someone right away, 24 hours a day 780-482-4357