

Syllabus: Soc 241 – B1: Social Psychology

Faculty of Arts | University of Alberta

Time/Location: 1:30pm - 4:20pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, BUS 1 6.

Instructor: Sonja Sapach

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

Instructor Office and Phone: To be announced on or before the first day of class.

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

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 and Objectives:

This course is an introduction to the study of how factors in the social world influence people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours. The field of social psychology uses scientific methods to study: how we think about ourselves, how we think, feel, and act in the social world, and how our attitudes and behaviours shape the social world (both imagined and real). This course will introduce research methods, and theories, that can help us understand key topics including: The Self, Attitudes and Persuasion, Social Influence, Group Processes, and Interpersonal Attraction. The material covered in the course is directly related to everyday life and can therefore include material that students may find uncomfortable (for example, religion, prejudice, sexuality) – I suggest reading the textbook chapter(s) that you may find problematic and if you feel that the material is not suitable for you, consider not taking this course. That being said, one of the main objectives of this course is to encourage open, respectful, critical discussion in the classroom, therefore, participation in class discussions and activities will be important for enhancing individual and collective learning. The course objectives are as follows:

- 1) Develop critical thinking skills and apply them to thinking about social issues and personal experiences in daily life.
- 2) Describe the field of social psychology in terms of its history, influential theories, and research methods.

- 3) Define and utilize key terms and concepts in social psychology.
- 4) Draw connections between topics discussed in class and current events, culture, and media.
- 5) Provide an open, respectful, interactive classroom that encourages critical discussion and collective learning.

Required Textbook: Social Psychology (Canadian Edition) by C. Saunderson & S. Safdar, 2012.

Additional Course Resources: WileyPLUS is an online resource that provides an interactive e-book and additional audio and video resources, as well as practice tests and activities.

www.wileyplus.com

An in-class introduction to WileyPLUS will be provided on the first day of class.

Students have the following options for purchasing the textbook with WileyPLUS:

- 1) The hard copy of the text bundled with access to WileyPLUS is available in the Bookstore – ISBN 9781118364581
- 2) WileyPLUS eCommerce, which includes a copy of the e-book version of the textbook and access to WileyPLUS, is available in the campus bookstore – ISBN 9780008280782
- 3) If students do not want access to WileyPLUS, they are encouraged to find a used copy of the hardcover textbook. Any graded take-home quizzes using WileyPLUS will be made available for free, however they can only be accessed from on-campus computers in one of the computer labs.

Class Format:

The classes will consist of lectures, in-class discussions and activities, and critical analysis of current events/media/cultural examples as gathered by the students through their weekly blog entries. Given the time constraints associated with a 6-week course, not all material in the textbook will be covered in class. It is the responsibility of the student to read the required textbook pages, complete assignments, attend classes, and take notes.

Note: Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material 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 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:

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Classes Begin | July 10th |
| Registration Deadline (Add/Drop on Beartracks) | July 13 th |
| Course Withdrawal Deadline (50% fee refund) | July 24 |
| Midterm Exam* | July 27 |
| Course Withdrawal Deadline (no fee refund, grade of W) | August 9 |
| Classes End | August 16 |
| Final Exam* | August 18 at 11:30am (tentative) |

* As per University Policy, dates for exams cannot change

Grade Distribution:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Take-Home Quizzes | 15% |
| Blog Entries | 20% |
| Midterm Exam | 30% |
| Final Exam | 35% |

Take-Home Quizzes:

Three online – take-home quizzes will be assigned throughout the course. Each quiz will make up 5% of your final grade. Quizzes will be assigned at the end of class Thursday and must be completed before the start of class on the following Tuesday on the following days:

Quiz 1: Assigned – Thursday July 20th. Due – Tuesday July 25th before class begins.

Quiz 2: Assigned – Thursday August 3rd. Due – Tuesday August 8th before class begins.

Quiz 3: Assigned – Thursday August 10th. Due – Tuesday August 15th before class begins.

Each quiz will consist of multiple choice questions covering topics discussed in class. These quizzes will be open-book, and for those students with WileyPLUS, a link to the correct section of the e-book will be provided if the question is answered incorrectly. For those students without WileyPLUS, the quizzes will be available on campus computers (please email me or see me before JULY 18th if you are unable to access the online quizzes and I will assist you, or make alternative arrangements). The quizzes are non-cumulative and will only cover material from the two classes prior to the quiz.

Blog/Journal Entry:

The purpose of these assignments is to encourage the students to apply concepts encountered in class and/or in the textbook, to current events, and/or cultural products (such as music, movies, TV shows, and video games). Students will be asked to find a news article, YouTube video, summary of a movie or tv show/series they have seen (for example, an IMDB entry), description or video of a videogame that they play – any current event or cultural product that the student can provide a URL for, allowing the instructor to understand the subject of the blog – we will discuss this in greater detail on during the first class. Students will write a 250 – 500-word summary of how the content they have chosen illustrates one or more of the key themes/terms/topics covered in the readings/in class. I will provide a few examples in class to demonstrate what the blogs should look like and how to go about writing one. Students will be expected to submit their blogs (a URL with the 250-500-word summary) on eClass before midnight on the following dates:

Entry 1: Due Monday July 17th

Entry 2: Due Monday July 24th

Entry 3: Due Monday July 31st

Entry 4: Due Monday August 7th

Each blog entry is worth 5% and will be marked based on clarity of writing, strength of the connection drawn between the course material and the example provided, creativity, and completion.

Policy for Late Submissions:

Blogs and quizzes are to be submitted on eClass on the due dates provided above. Quizzes are due before 1:30pm and Blogs are due before 11:59pm.

Late quizzes and blogs will automatically be assigned a grade of 0% unless you have an excused absence (provided at the discretion of the instructor who may request supporting documentation, see [University Calendar](#)).

Exams:

- Exams will be in a multiple-choice and short answer format.
- The exams are not cumulative.
- Your University of Alberta Student ID card will be required at all the exams.
- Students may not enter the exam area after the first 30 minutes has elapsed. Students may not leave the exam area until the first 30 minutes has elapsed.
- Cell phones must be turned completely off during exams.
- Bring a pencil and pen to all exams.

Sample exam questions are available through WileyPLUS. The take-home quizzes will provide representative exam questions.

Missed Exams:

Please note that if you miss the midterm exam, you must inform me within two days of the originally scheduled exam, or as soon as you can with due regard to the circumstance. Students with an excused absence from the midterm exam will have their midterm rescheduled. Approval for an excused absence is at the sole discretion of the instructor, who may request supporting documentation.

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.

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 |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | A+ | 95.1 - 100 | 4.0 |
| Excellent | A | 86.0 - 95.0 | 4.0 |
| | A- | 80.0 - 85.9 | 3.7 |
| | B+ | 77.0 - 79.9 | 3.3 |
| Good | B | 74.0 - 76.9 | 3.0 |
| | B- | 70.0 - 73.9 | 2.7 |
| | C+ | 67.0 - 69.9 | 2.3 |
| Satisfactory | C | 64.0 - 66.9 | 2.0 |
| | C- | 60.0 - 63.9 | 1.7 |
| Minimal Pass | D+ | 55.0 - 59.9 | 1.3 |
| | D | 50.0 - 54.9 | 1.0 |
| Failure | F | <50.0 | 0.0 |

Lecture Schedule:

This lecture schedule is flexible and may change in response to the interests of students, pace and needs of the course, availability of guest speakers, etc. Changes will be announced in class and in eClass throughout the term and it is the student's responsibility to make themselves aware of these changes.

| Lecture | Date | Topic | Readings |
|---------|-------------|---|------------|
| 1 | July 11 | Syllabus Discussion/Introduction | Chapter 1 |
| 2 | July 13 | Research Methods | Chapter 2 |
| 3 | July 18 | The Self | Chapter 3 |
| 4 | July 20 | Social Perception | Chapter 4 |
| 5 | July 25 | Social Cognition | Chapter 5 |
| 6 | July 27 | Midterm Exam Altruism and Prosocial Behaviour | Chapter 13 |
| 7 | August 1 | Attitude Formation and Change | Chapter 6 |
| 8 | August 3 | Persuasion | Chapter 7 |
| 9 | August 8 | Social Influence | Chapter 8 |
| 10 | August 10 | Stereotype, Prejudice, Discrimination | Chapter 11 |
| 11 | August 15 | Interpersonal Attraction/Close Relationships | Chapter 14 |
| | August 18th | Final Exam (11:30am, check Bear Tracks) | |

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 ½ - 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. Use eClass to ask questions that are also applicable to peers for discussion.

Course Outlines: "Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar."

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 Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour that 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.”

“Don’t Cheat” sheet at www.governance.ualberta.ca/StudentAppeals/DontCheatsheet.aspx

For further information about Academic Integrity and to access the Academic Integrity Handbook for students, visit the Student Conduct and Accountability website at <http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students.aspx>

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; Phone 780-492-3381; Web www.sds.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