Department of Psychology

**Psyc 431B (A01): Social Cognition (Fall 2017)**

**Instructor:** Jessica Rourke  
**Office hours:** M 1:00pm – 2:00pm  
**Class location:** Clearihue D126  
**Class time:** M, W, TH 2:30pm – 3:30pm  
**Office location:** Cornett A213  
**Contact:** jrourke@uvic.ca

**Course Description**

In this course, we will explore how the way we think about our social world affects our social behaviour. We’ll examine theories and methods from Social Cognitive Psychology toward the goal of understanding, explaining, and predicting how we understand ourselves, others, and the social world around us. As this is a fourth-year course, a lot of it will be discussion-based and each of you will take turns acting as class leaders. I want this to be a collaborative learning environment and have tried to optimize opportunities for you to learn from each other (class leaders, in-class group activities, peer feedback, etc.). I highly encourage you to bring additional readings, knowledge, and insights from personal experiences into the course.

During this course, we will cover a wide array of topics including: stereotypes, attitudes, culture, death, and irregularities in social cognitive functioning. By the end of this course, my goal is that you will understand the cognitive structures and processes that underpin individuals’ perceptions, beliefs, judgments, decisions, and behaviour in social situations. My goals are also for you to think critically about the subject, make connections among the various course topics, and gain a broader understanding of how social cognition applies to areas of your own life.

**About Me**

I enjoy all aspects of Social Psychology, however, my main area of research is forgiveness, and I have studied it from both the victim and perpetrator perspectives. I obtained my degrees in Social-Personality Psychology and in addition to teaching at UVic, I teach at Camosun, on-line at Thompson Rivers University, and I work at Restorative Justice Victoria.

**Course Readings**

There is no textbook for this course. Instead, you will be reading selected chapters and articles, all of which are available online through the library. In the class schedule below, you will see the set of readings assigned to be completed prior to class each day.

**Course Website**

On CourseSpaces I will post the course syllabus, information about assignments, information necessary for in-class activities, and any relevant announcements (e.g., grades). CourseSpaces is where you will submit many of your assignments.
Course Policies

Contacting Me: Please come to my office hours, or contact me at: jrouke@uvic.ca
- Do not contact me through CourseSpaces
- Please include “Psyc 431B” in the subject line of your e-mail and make sure you put your name and student number at the end of your message
- Please allow 2 business days for a reply. If I have not replied within that time frame, re-send your message and let me know it is the second time you are sending it
- Please do not contact me to find out when assignments or exams will be graded. As soon as the grades are ready I will let you know

Grades: If you are disappointed with a grade, it is your responsibility to arrange to meet with me to review the marking at the time the material is graded, not at the end of the term when the final grade is awarded. **I will not review a grade/assignment if you come to see me later than 1 week after the grade was first posted.**

In determining your final letter grade in the course, anything .5 and above will be rounded up to the next percentage score; anything .4 and below will be rounded down to the previous percentage score. For example, 74.4% will be rounded to 74%, whereas 74.5% will be rounded to 75%. Letter grades and corresponding percentages are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85 – 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80 – 84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77 – 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73 – 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70 – 72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65 – 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60 – 64</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50 – 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 49</td>
</tr>
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Extensions: Should you need an extension, please feel free to come and speak to me about it **BEFORE** the due date. **Extensions will not be granted on, or following, the due date.** If you are having trouble getting started on an assignment, do not hesitate to make use of my office hours. I would love to help you! For information on Academic Concessions such as Deferred Status Due to Illness, Accident or Family Affliction please see the information beginning on page 8 of this course outline.

University Policies: Please familiarize yourself with the university’s standards of academic integrity (e.g., plagiarism and cheating). Information about these regulations can be found beginning on page 9 of this course outline.

*Please take a moment to review the above policy! For instance, did you know that distribution of course materials (e.g., lecture notes) without the professor’s permission is a breach of academic integrity?*
### Weekly Topics and Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
</tr>
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**SEP 22nd:** Last day to officially register in course *For your work to be accepted and to receive a course grade, you MUST be officially registered*

| OCT 02, 04, 05 | **Class Presentations** | NO READINGS                                                                                   |
| OCT 11, 12 | **Affect** | NO READINGS [no class on Thanksgiving Day, OCT 09]                                                                 |
| OCT 16, 18, 19 | **Class Presentations** | NO READINGS                                                                                   |

| OCT 31* : Last day to officially withdraw from course without penalty of failure |

| NOV 06, 08, 09, | **Class Presentations** | NO READINGS |
**No class on NOV 13 and NOV 15 (Reading Break)** |


| NOV 27, 29, 30 | **Exam Part 1, Part 2, Part 3** | Exam is cumulative and OPEN BOOK. Part 1: In class on NOV 27; Part 2: In class on NOV 29; Part 3 in class on NOV 30  
*To pass this course, you must write each section of the test. If you do not, you will be assigned a grade of “N”* |
## Course Evaluation and Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bonus Grade!</strong>&lt;br&gt;Due SEP 10th, 6pm (via CourseSpaces).</td>
<td>0.5 added to your final grade</td>
<td>Submit a recent picture, along with a few sentences telling me about yourself (Word or pdf document). I’d love to get to know a little bit about you and this will also help me to learn your name quickly!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class Participation</strong></td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Contribute in a way that promotes discussion and demonstrates enthusiasm and preparedness. This is an interactive class; attendance and participation in the group activities will enrich your learning environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Reflections</strong>&lt;br&gt;You choose due date - at least 1 must be submitted by OCT 21; your second by NOV 19 Via CourseSpaces, by Sunday, 6pm - 1 day before we meet to discuss those readings for the 1st time. Exception: reflection for week 1 is due SEP 10th.</td>
<td>20% (2 @ 10% each)</td>
<td>You must submit 2 personal reflections. For each reflection, please submit a question/thought/opinion that stems from one of the weekly readings. Word or pdf document please.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class Presentation</strong>&lt;br&gt;You will sign up for a date on which to present: OCT 02, 04, 05, 16, 18, 19 NOV 06, 08, 09</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>In a group of 2 or 3, you will lead the class for 40 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class Presentation Feedback</strong>&lt;br&gt;Due at the end of each class for which there is a presentation.</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>You will evaluate each presentation. If you are absent, you cannot provide feedback for that presentation. There is no substitution assignment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Paper Outline</strong>&lt;br&gt;1 week prior to your class presentation, NOON (via CourseSpaces)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Your outline must be 1 – 2 pages in length (Word or pdf). A presentation group member and I will provide you with feedback. To give your peer the full week in which to complete their review, late submissions will not be accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Paper Peer Feedback</strong>&lt;br&gt;I will email you a term paper outline 1 week before your class presentation. Feedback is due by NOON via CourseSpaces, 1 week after you receive the outline (i.e., your presentation date).</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Provide constructive feedback on a presentation group members’ term paper outline (Word or pdf). To give your peer the full week in which to implement feedback suggestions, late submissions will not be accepted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Paper</strong>&lt;br&gt;Due at the start of class (hard copy), 1 week after your class presentation.</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>From the topics provided, you will select one (the same as the topic of your presentation) and write a 6 – 8 page paper.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Test</strong>&lt;br&gt;NOV 27, 29, 30</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Your test will take place on the last 3 days of class (I’m doing this because our classes are only 50 minutes long and I don’t want you to be stressed about time). It will be cumulative and open book. We will do a test review.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**To pass this course, you must write each section of the test. If you do not, you will be assigned a grade of “N”**
Assignment Details
Writing each section of the test is a mandatory completion requirement to pass this course (if you do not, you will be assigned a grade of “N”). If you do not submit/complete an assignment, you will be given a grade of zero and that zero will be used in the calculation of your final course grade.

A table outlining each assignment, its worth, and its due date can be found above, on page 5. To reward students handing in their work on time, each day that an assignment is late (without proper documentation such as a doctor’s note) 5% will be deducted from the total mark. **See Class Presentation Feedback, Term Paper Outline, and Term Paper Feedback for exceptions.**

More detailed criteria for each assignment is posted in the “Assignments” folder on CourseSpaces.

Personal Reflections – MAX 2 pages, double-spaced (due dates vary)
Please submit (via CourseSpaces) a total of 2 personal reflections throughout the semester. If you submit more than two, only the first two that you submit will be graded. Your submission must be received by 6pm the Sunday before we meet to discuss the readings for the first time. For example, if you were to submit on the readings for “Attitudes” your submission would be due by 6pm on Sunday October 22nd. The exception is if you choose to write a reflection on the reading for the first week of class, it is due by 6pm on September 10th.

At least one personal reflection must be submitted no later than October 21st. Your second reflection must be submitted no later than November 19th. You cannot submit more than one personal reflection for the same week. There will be 2 videos on which you can submit a reflection (links will be posted to the CourseSpaces folder “Interesting Websites.” I will let you know when I’ve posted the links; videos are approximately 10minutes long).

For each of the personal reflections, you are asked to submit one question/thought/opinion that comes to mind when doing the reading. Elaborate on how you arrived at this question/thought/opinion. I may randomly choose some of the questions/thoughts to present to the class to promote discussion of the readings.

Class Group Presentation – Length: 40 minutes (presentation dates vary)
You will sign up to present on one of the following dates: October 02, 04, 05, 16, 18, 19 November 06, 08, 09. You will be presenting on the same topic on which you are writing your term paper. You will be presenting in groups of two or three.

As class leader, your group must keep the class engaged for a duration of 40 minutes by stimulating class discussion and running one or more in-class activities. You must use at least one visual (e.g., PPT, a poster board, etc.). Be creative – the options are endless, and how you construct your lesson is entirely up to you. The evaluation criteria are posted on CourseSpaces. I highly recommend that you look at them and make sure that you are covering all aspects on which you will be graded. I understand that presenting to the class can cause anxiety – if you are feeling extremely anxious about this, please come and see me so that we can discuss ways in which you can try and reduce your anxiety.
Class Presentation Feedback – (due dates vary)
For each class presentation given by your classmates (October 02, 04, 05, 16, 18, 19, November 06, 08, 09), you will be asked to complete a feedback form. Your feedback form is due at the end of the class on the day that the presentation is given. Following the presentation, you will have 10 minutes to complete your feedback form. I will type a synopsis of the class’ feedback and give it to the presenters (that way your name will not be associated with specific feedback comments). Your feedback form is due at the end of class; if you are absent from class, you cannot provide feedback for that presentation. There is no substitution assignment.

Term Paper: MAX 8 pages – hard copy, (due dates vary; 1 week following your class presentation)
You will sign up for a term paper topic (this will also be the topic on which you do your class presentation). Your paper should be double-spaced and 6 – 8 pages in length (excludes title page and references). You must use at least 3 scholarly articles (i.e., journal articles). Be sure to make links between your topic and some of the topics/theories that we have discussed in class. The grading criteria for your term paper are posted on CourseSpaces. Your paper must be in APA format (see CourseSpaces for a quick APA guide).

Your paper (hard copy; CourseSpaces and email submissions will not be accepted) is due to me at the beginning of class, one week following your class presentation (October 11, 12, 23, 25, 26, 30 November 16).

Term Paper Outline: MAX 2 pages (due dates vary; 1 week before your class presentation)
One week before you present to the class (September 25, 27, 28, October 09 (note, this is Thanksgiving), 11, 12, 31, November 01, 02), please submit (buy NOON to CourseSpaces) a 1 – 2 page outline of your term paper (criteria is posted on CourseSpaces). Your outline must include your thesis statement. The person reviewing your outline must submit their feedback one week following the due date of your outline. Because this is a small window of time, please complete this assignment on time. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Term Paper Outline Feedback: (due dates vary; 1 week after you receive the outline)
One week before you present to the class (September 25, 27, 28, October 09 (note this is Thanksgiving), 11, 12, 31, November 01, 02) I will send you, via email, an outline of a group members’ term paper. Your task is to peer-review the document (outline will be 1 – 2 pages in length). The peer-reviewing criteria are posted on CourseSpaces. You will have one week in which to perform your review and upload it to CourseSpaces (by NOON on your presentation day: October 02, 04, 05, 16, 18, 19, November 06, 08, 09). The person whose outline you are reviewing must hand in their final draft one week following the due date of your feedback. Because this is a small window of time, please complete this assignment on time. Late submissions will not be accepted.

*Please note: Although an unlikely event, I reserve the right to modify this course outline. Any changes will be announced to you in advance (both in class and posted on CourseSpaces).
IMPORTANT UVIC COURSE POLICY INFORMATION

Prerequisites
Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Students who complete courses without prerequisites ARE NOT exempt from having to complete the prerequisite course(s) if such courses are required for the degree program.

Program Requirements
For more information see pages 308-313 of the UVic Calendar September 2017.

Registration Status
Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the deadlines set out in the current UVic Calendar.

Commitment to Inclusivity and Diversity
The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing, and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

In the Event of Illness, Accident or Family Affliction (See also UVic Calendar, Sept 2017, p. 49-51)

- What to do if you miss the final exam scheduled during the formal exam period
  - Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession,” normally within 10 working days of the date of the exam. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.
  - OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here: http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf

- What to do if you miss an exam other than one scheduled during the formal exam period
  - Do not apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession.” Instead, submit documentation of the illness, accident or family affliction directly to your course instructor (or designated teaching assistant).

- What to do if you require additional time to complete course requirements
  - Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession,” normally within 10 working days of the end of the course. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.
  - OR, you can download the Request for Academic Concession form here: http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf
Policy on Academic Integrity including Plagiarism and Cheating (p. 46-48, UVic Calendar September 2017)
The Department of Psychology fully endorses and intends to enforce rigorously the Senate Policy on Academic integrity [http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html).

It is of utmost importance that students who do their work honestly be protected from those who do not. Because this policy is in place to ensure that students carry out and benefit from the learning activities assigned in each course, it is expected that students will cooperate in its implementation.

The offences defined by the policy can be summarized briefly as follows:

1. **Plagiarism.** You must make sure that the work you submit is your work and not someone else’s. There are proper procedures for citing the works of others. The student is responsible for being aware of and using these procedures.

2. **Unauthorized Use of an Editor.** The use of an editor is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization.

3. **Multiple Submission.** Only under exceptional circumstances may a work submitted to fulfill an academic requirement be used to satisfy another similar requirement. The student is responsible for clarifying this with the instructor(s) involved.

4. **Falsifying Materials Subject to Academic Evaluation.** This includes falsification of data, use of commercially prepared essays, using information from the Internet without proper citation, citing sources from which material is not actually obtained, etc.

5. **Cheating on Assignments, Tests, and Examinations.** You may not copy the work of others in or out of class; you may not give your work to others for the purpose of copying; you may not use unauthorized material or equipment during examinations or tests; and you may not impersonate or allow yourself to be impersonated by another at an examination. The Department of Psychology has a policy of not making old examinations available for study purposes. Therefore, use of old exams without the express written permission of the instructor constitutes cheating by the user, and abetting of cheating by the person who provided the exam.

6. **Being an Accessory to Offences.** This means that helping another student to cheat (for instance, by showing or communicating to them answers to an assignment, or by allowing them to view answers on an exam) is an academic offence.

Instructors are expected to make every effort to prevent cheating and plagiarism. This may include:

- the assignment of seating for examinations,
- asking students to move during examinations,
- requests to see student identification cards,
- and other measures as appropriate.
Instructors also have available to them a variety of tools and procedures to check for Internet and electronic media-based cheating. In instances of suspected or actual plagiarism or cheating, instructors, following prescribed procedures, are authorized to take steps consistent with the degree of the offence. These measures will range from a zero on the test or assignment or a failing grade for the course, probation within a program to temporary or even permanent suspension from the University.

Rights of Appeal are described in the Policy on Academic Integrity in the University calendar (on p. 47 in September 2017).

The definitive source for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html (p. 46-48 in September 2017)

Other useful resources on Plagiarism and Cheating include:
1. The Study Solutions Office: https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/success/study/index.php

2. The Ombudsperson’s office: http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/ombudsperson/pubsguides/plagiarism.pdf

3. UVic Library Resources: http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/