

Psychology 431B (A01)
Social Cognition
CRN 31275 Summer 2016

Class Time and Location: July 4th to August 19th on Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30 to 4:30, Fridays 2:30 to 3:30 in Cornett B145 and breakout room Cornett A132.

Professor: Dr. Jim Gibson **Office:** Cornett A214 **Phone:** 250-882-9224 **Email:** jemgibso@UVic.ca
Office Hours: TBA and by appointment. It is best to book an appointment by phone or email before coming to my office. I give priority to students who have booked a time to meet with me, even during office hours. This saves students from having to wait. Please knock to inform me when it is time for our meeting.

Contacting the Professor: You can contact me by calling/texting 250-882-9224. Email: My address is jemgibso@UVic.ca. Please use this address and include **431** in the subject line so my spam blocker does not delete your email. I prefer to discuss complicated issues in person or on the phone, so please reserve emails or texts for mundane matters such as reminders about commitments I have made, requests to see me during office hours, and so forth.

Readings: A reading list can be found on CourseSpaces.

Helpful Websites: www.socialpsychology.org [how to read a social psychology article](http://www.understandingprejudice.org/)
<http://www.understandingprejudice.org/>

Course Description: This course is an exploration of social cognition. As a fourth year course it will be discussion based. That is, I will not be lecturing. Rather, we will collectively discuss the various readings, with students taking turns acting as class leaders. Students are encouraged to bring additional readings and knowledge into the fold. The discussions and readings are designed to assist you in writing and presenting your own research project.

Pre-requisites: The pre-requisites for this course are Psych 100A and 100B and 231. Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Those who complete courses without pre-requisites are not exempt from having to complete the pre-requisite course(s) at some later date if such courses are required for the degree program. Given the demand for this course, **should a waitlist develop**, students who do not attend the first 2 classes (and do not provide prompt notification to the instructor if valid circumstances prevent attendance) will be deregistered. Please check your registration status before the end of the add-period to ensure your enrolment.

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.

Grades: Students will be given both a percentile grade and a corresponding letter grade (See the UVic Calendar for details). The final letter grade in the course will be based on your total score (rounded up to a whole number). I will not increase your grade at the end of the term just because it is close to a cut-off, nor will I help you mine for marks in previously graded material. All deadlines and the grades submitted for exams, papers and assignments are final. Please strive to do your best for each scheduled “event”. 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 and you discover you missed a cut-off. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the Important Course Policy Information (see attached).

A+ 90 & up	B+ 77 & up	C+ 65 & up	F < 50.0
A 85 & up	B 73 & up	C 60 & up	N = incomplete
A- 80 & up	B- 70 & up	D 50 & up	

Evaluation

Attendance: Students will receive a grade for attendance. Attendance is defined as class attendance, with no exceptions. I will take attendance at the beginning of class. You will receive 10 marks for attendance. I will excuse one missed class if you have an acceptable reason, beyond that, each hour of missed class will reduce your attendance grade by one mark. If you are late for, or leave early from class (e.g., miss less than an hour), your attendance grade will drop by 0.5 of a mark. I will only excuse one such instance, but you must speak with me before I will do so. If you attend all classes, are never late and never leave early you will receive 11 marks (the 10 marks for attendance and 1 bonus mark for never being late and never missing a class).

Sub Total = 10 marks

Running Total = 10 marks

Class leadership: Students will take turns leading class discussions. Approximately 2 to 3 students per group will be assigned the role of leader for each topic (this number is contingent on the final number who enrol in the course). All leaders will help facilitate discussions. A reading list is posted on CourseSpaces that everyone will use as the basis for discussions. Please read the document posted on CourseSpaces, “Guidelines for Leaders”. Leadership gives you an opportunity to help facilitate discussions. Other group members are encouraged to assist their leaders with this responsibility. The goal is to get everyone in the class to think, talk, and explore the ideas related to the literature, which ultimately should help students generate or build on ideas for their term papers, as well as create an informed discussion on the relevant topics. Everyone will have two opportunities to be leaders. Leadership roles are worth a total of 2.5 marks each for a total of 5 marks.

Sub Total = 5 marks (2.5 marks for each of the two leadership roles)

Running Total = 15 marks

Reaction papers: Readings are required and should be completed by everyone before the first class on each topic. Useful discussions follow only when everyone has completed the readings thoroughly and thoughtfully. Hence you are required to write 10 reaction papers (600 to 900 words in length) on any one of the two readings assigned for each topic. For more details about reaction papers please read and follow the instructions on CourseSpaces in the document “Guidelines for Reaction Papers.” Reaction papers must be submitted onto CourseSpaces’s assignment before the beginning of the class in which the topic was assigned in order to receive credit. **Late, emailed or improperly saved reaction papers will receive a 0 grade.** You will not need any identifying information within the document because it will only eat up your word count. Each properly submitted paper is worth 2.5 marks for a total of 25 marks. I will only write comments or make suggestions for 3/10 of your reactions papers. Please indicate the reaction paper you wish to receive feedback for by put “FB” in the file name (e.g., “reaction paper1 FB.doc”). If there is no FB or you have already received feedback on three reaction papers, then you will just receive a grade out of 100. The follow rubric will be applied to your reaction papers; “perfect” (100%), “exceptional” (95%), “outstanding” (90%), “impressive” (85%), “well done” (80%), “good” (75%), “acceptable” (70%), “barely acceptable (65%), disappointing (60%), unacceptable (40%), nothing submitted (0).

Sub Total = 25 marks (2.5 for each of the ten reaction papers)

Running Total = 40 marks

Position paper: The term paper will be a position piece. You will select a thesis statement concerning any one of the 10 topics we will cover in the course. I would like you to select your topic as soon as possible. If I do not receive your topic choice within the first few class, then I will assign you a topic. Your term paper must include a minimum of 8 peer reviewed primary journal articles to substantiate or refute your

position/thesis. You can only use a maximum of 4 articles from my assigned reading list. I expect papers to be between 3000 to 6000 words (the equivalent of 10 to 20 pages in length, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 font, in APA format). All papers must be posted on CourseSpaces in the assignment “Papers 1” by the deadline listed below. Please use the last five digits of your student number to name your paper (e.g., 12345.doc). Do not put any identifying information in your paper, that is, no personal names. A revised edition of each paper (see below) must be submitted on CourseSpaces as a Word or Rich-text file attachment via the assignment function before the last class. The paper will be worth 25 marks (this mark will be based on both submissions, see below). I will penalize improperly saved, formatted or late papers by 2 marks a day (this penalty applies to both deadlines). That is, if your work is not properly saved or posted, which means I am unable to send it out for review or review it, and you are required to re-post it, you will receive a late penalty. More details about the paper are posted on CourseSpaces.

Sub Total = 25 marks (12.5 marks for each submission)

Running Total = 65 marks

Providing Feedback: As noted above, students will post their papers on CourseSpaces, which I then will randomly post to another student in the class, which is why I do not want students to put their names on their papers. Students should use “Track Changes” to give feedback for the paper’s author or write comments in [square brackets]. Everyone is expected to provide feedback, based on the rubric I have given you for your paper assignment. Please do not put any identifiers in the paper you review because I want the reviews to remain anonymous. A way to review a document using track changes in Word, while remaining anonymous, is by going into the options and finding where you put your name in for the software and changing it, i.e., Go File -> Options -> General -> Name and initials. If that is changed to either a random name or characters or even left empty it should keep your track changes comments anonymous. If this is done after changes have been made, only new comments and changes will reflect the different name, not previous comments. Reviewers must append the word “reviewed” to the file name of the paper they reviewed before posting it back on CourseSpaces. I will review the feedback offered and provide a mark out of 10. I will then reattach your reviewed work back to your CourseSpaces website. As noted above, failure to post your paper before the due date will result in a 2-mark penalty per day from your final grade in the course. Feedback must be posted on CourseSpaces by the deadlines listed below). Failure to do so will result in a 2-mark penalty per day, which will be subtracted from your feedback grade. See the rubric for the paper to help you focus your feedback (e.g., focus more on I.C.E., than on grammar since the former is worth considerably more marks).

Sub Total = 10 marks

Running Total = 75 marks

Paper Presentations: Following the topic discussions, class meetings will be devoted to students presenting their position papers (see below). Each presentation will be worth 15 marks. Class time will be split in half for presentations, such that students will only present to their group, not the entire class. Presenters must be prepared to start on time. This means having your audio/visual equipment and/or visual aids ready. Students will be randomly assigned to dates. Students are expected to present for 20 minutes, and a few minutes will be reserved for questions and a general discussion. I will randomly assign students to presentation dates. I will need to be notified if students plan to change dates with one another.

Sub Total = 15 marks

Running Total = 90 marks

Oral Exam: During the last week of classes, students and I will meet one-on-one for 30 minutes for an oral exam. The timing of these meetings must be arranged before the last week of classes. Please contact me via phone (250-882-9224) or email to book a meeting time for your oral exam.

Sub Total = 10 marks

Running Total = 100 marks

Tentative schedule Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30 to 4:30, Fridays 2:30 to 3:30 in Cornett B145 and breakout room Cornett A132.

July 5 We will introduce ourselves, discuss the course syllabus, select paper topics and leadership dates.

Topics to be covered:

July 7 The Self (Photos due for bonus marks on the 15th before class)
July 8 & 12 Attributions (first hour on July 12th)
July 12 & 14 Behaviour & Attitudes (second hour on July 12th & first hour on July 14).
July 14 & 15 Persuasion (second hour on July 14th) and Friday
July 19 Conformity
July 21 Culture
July 22 & 26 Helping (first hour on July 26)
July 26 & 28 Aggression (second hour on July 26 and first hour on July 28)
July 28 & 29 Attraction & Intimacy (second hour of 28)
August 2 Prejudice
August 4 to 19 Individual presentations of final papers (within class in Cornett B145) 13 hours
August 3 Papers due by Midnight on CourseSpaces
August 7 Feedback due by Midnight on CourseSpaces
August 19 Revised papers due by Midnight on CourseSpaces
August 11 - 19 Individual Oral Exams (30 minutes; suitable meeting times will be arranged).

Bonus Marks

Photograph. You will receive ½ a bonus mark if you upload onto CourseSpaces’s drop-box “Photo” a recent digital or scanned photograph of yourself (head and shoulders – with glasses if you wear them, but no sunglasses or hat – I would like to be able to see your eyes). Please **do not** embed your photo in a document. This is due *before the last class of the first week*. This process will help me learn your names. **You will lose part or all of your bonus mark if you do not follow these instructions.**

Evaluation Criteria

I use the I.C.E. as a method of grading all material. Specifically, “I” stands for information, “C” stands for connections, and “E” stands for expansions. I evaluate the quality of the information, that is, whether the facts are relevant, accurately defined, clear, and comprehensive. This will require you to consider, explain, and justify points you raise and why. In doing so, you may document that Point A and Point B are premises to Conclusion C. These connections must be explicitly defined. You should not be making assumptions about my knowledge. The material should stand on its’ own. Finally, and as noted above, the information and connections you make must have some relevance. That is, you must substantiate why you are discussing C or connecting Point A with Point B. Expansions may be theses, ramifications, conclusions, justifications, rationalizations, explanations, etc. They are all about the “why?” or “so what?” In relation to ICE, I typically dock marks rather than give marks. That is, I look forward to an insightful experience when I commence reading your work. Anything that interferes with that experience I see as a flaw. I typically deduct 2.5 marks on a 100-point scale for minor flaws (e.g., typos, disorganized thought, etc.), 5 marks for more severe flaws (e.g., sentence fragments, weak definitions, unnecessary quotation, etc.), and 10 marks or more for egregious flaws (e.g., key points are confused or misunderstood, missing definitions, etc.). Finally, a piece of writing may have all the necessary components, that is, it takes me from point A to point B, but because it was difficult to read or flawed will not be considered first class work. This can often be a matter of style, organization, grammar or a combination of a number of issues. “A” work is engaging, insightful, and flawless. The more creative, engaging and insightful the work is, the more likely it will receive an “A+” (such work would be worthy of publication), while the less creative, insightful and engaging, but still relatively flawless the work is, the more likely it will receive an “A -.” As

flaws start to define the work, the letter grade drops (e.g., to a B, C, and hopefully never, to a D or F). If you are unhappy with any evaluation, then please come talk to me as soon as possible (do not wait until the end of the term or use email for such matters). I will happily review your work with you pointing out concerns or explaining issues I may have had. You will also find feedback regarding your work on the same CourseSpaces page where the assignment was originally posted, typically with my first name added to the file name. I will not give detailed feedback on 7 of the 10 reaction papers, just a grade posted on CourseSpaces.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
Department of Psychology

Important Course Policy Information
Summer 2016

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 378-382 of the UVic Calendar 2015-2016.

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 UVic Calendar, 2015-16, p. 59)

• ***What to do if you miss the final exam scheduled on the last day of classes***

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 on the last day of classes***

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. 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

The Department of Psychology fully endorses and intends to enforce rigorously the Senate Policy on Academic integrity (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>), p. 54-57, UVic Calendar 2015-16). 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. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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. 54-57 in 2015-2016).

The definitive source for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar (p. 54-57 in 2015-2016) (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>)

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. The English Department: <http://web.uvic.ca/wguide/Pages/CitPlagiarism.html>