

Syllabus: Soc 241 – B1: Social Psychology

Faculty of Arts | University of Alberta

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

Instructor: Sonja Sapach

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

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

Policy about course outlines can be found in [Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading](#) 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, social media, YouTube, and Twitch.

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

Recommended Textbook: “Social Psychology: Revisiting the Classic Studies, 2nd ed.” Edited by Joanne R. Smith & S. Alexander Haslam. Sage Publications, 2017.

Note that the recommended textbook contains detailed explanations and analyses of the various experiments that will be examined throughout the course. I recommend it to students who learn better from reading than from listening to lectures. I will be covering all relevant, testable, information during the lectures.

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.)

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.

Class Format:

The classes will consist of lectures and in-class discussions.

Required readings will be assigned via eClass and are available on this syllabus (see last page). Additional readings may be assigned and will be posted on eclass at least 1 week ahead of time. The final exam is cumulative, so stay on top of the readings and take notes as you go to aid with studying.

Audio or Video Recording

“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:

Classes Begin	July 8 th
Registration Deadline (Add/Drop on Beartracks)	July 11 th
<i>***Character Creation Assignment Due</i>	July 12 th
<i>***Character Response 1 Assignment Due</i>	July 18 th
Course Withdrawal Deadline (50% fee refund)	July 22 nd
Heritage Day (University Closed)	Aug 5 th
Course Withdrawal Deadline (no fee refund, grade of W)	Aug 6 th
<i>***Character Response 2 Assignment Due</i>	Aug 8 th
Classes End	Aug 14 th
<i>Final Exam*</i>	TBA in class and via Beartracks (exam period is Aug 15 th – Aug 16 th)

* As per University Policy, dates for exams cannot change

*** Indicates a class assignment/exam due date

Grade Distribution/Assignment Descriptions:

1) Participation (15% of final grade)

As this is a Social Psychology course, social interaction and participation is important. For top marks here you need to actively engage in class discussions (not just asking clarification questions, but contributing knowledge, opinions, and experiences). I will ask you to keep an eye out for news articles that are relevant to our course materials and to email them to me – this will also help your participation grade. If small group exercises arise, participate, and engage with your group members. Show up to class. Contribute to class. Make me remember you.

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 9th). 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 12th, 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 11th, 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 11th and on eclass. This assignment will be due at the beginning of class on July 18th.

4) Character Response 2: (25% of final grade)

Assignment details will be provided in class on July 23th, 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. 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 8th.

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

This exam will take place during the scheduled exam period (Aug 15th – Aug 16th), 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 13th 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.

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Since presence at lectures, participation in classroom discussions and projects, and the completion of assignments are important components of most courses, students will serve their interests best by regular attendance. Those who choose not to attend must assume whatever risks are involved.

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

Policy for Late Assignments:

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 12th). If you are not able to hand in your assignments by the due date, contact the instructor immediately, and no longer than two working days following the deadline (or as soon you are able, with regard to the circumstances). Acceptance of late submission is at the sole discretion of the instructor, who may request supporting documentation (see below) and may deduct 10% from the assignment grade per day the assignment is late.

- For incapacitating medical illness, students can present one of the following:
 - o “University of Alberta Medical Statement” signed by a doctor (this cannot be required, but must be accepted if provided in lieu of other documents).
 - o “Medical Declaration Form for Students”(Form can be found [HERE](#)).
 - o Statutory Declaration" (to be obtained from the Office of the Registrar).
- For all other cases, such as domestic afflictions or religious convictions, the student should submit documentation appropriate to the situation. This could include the following:

- o For a death in the family – a copy of the death certificate
- o For a religious conflict – a letter from the church or pastor
- o For a car accident – a copy of the accident report
- o For other serious afflictions – consult the Instructor or Department about appropriate documents

Final Exam:

- 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 the exam.
- Bring a pencil and pen to all exams.
- The final exam IS cumulative – it will cover material from the entire course.

Absence from Final Exam:

A student who has missed a final exam because of incapacitating mental and/or physical illness, severe domestic affliction or for circumstances as described in the University's Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy (including religious belief) may apply for a deferred exam. Where the cause is incapacitating mental and/or physical illness and most other cases including severe domestic affliction, a student must present supporting documentation pertaining to the absence to their Faculty office within two working days following the scheduled date of the exam missed, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence.

I cannot approve or deny requests for deferred final exams. Refer to the Absence from Final Exams information provided in the [Attendance](#) section of the University Calendar for full details.

A deferred exam date will be set in conjunction with the instructor for students approved for a deferred final exam.

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+	95-100	4.0
Excellent	A	90-94	4.0
	A-	85-89	3.7
	B+	80-84	3.3
Good	B	75-79	3.0
	B-	70-74	2.7
	C+	66-69	2.3
Satisfactory	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 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.
6. Due to the nature of the **Participation** grade, it is not subject to appeal.

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. 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.
- 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:

Territorial Statement: The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community."

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 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 <https://www.ualberta.ca/governance/>) 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.”

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/academic-resources/academic-integrity/) (<https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/academic-resources/academic-integrity/>). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

STUDENT RESOURCES:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources (1-80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information or to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

Assigned Required Readings:

THURSDAY JULY 11th - *The Presentation of Self in Contemporary Social Life* by David Shulman. Chapter 1, pg 1-32

TUESDAY JULY 16th - Shulman Chapter 2, pg 33-54

THURSDAY JULY 18th - Shulman Chapter 3, pg 55-74 (You don't have to read the last section from page 74-78 titled "Nine Contributions Dramaturgical Thinking Can Make to Enhance Sociological Thinking")

TUESDAY JULY 23th - Shulman Chapter 4, pg 79-109

THURSDAY JULY 25th - No Assigned Readings – optional readings may be posted on eclass.

TUESDAY JULY 30st - Shulman Chapter 5, pg 111-166

THURSDAY AUGUST 1nd - No Assigned Readings - optional readings may be posted on eclass.

TUESDAY AUGUST 6th - Shulman Chapter 6, pg 167-214

THURSDAY AUGUST 8th - Shulman Chapter 7, pg 215-257