

# Psychology 3330A – Social Cognition - Spring 2017

## Department of Psychology

**Location:** Tuesday/Thursday, 10:50 am-12:05 pm, AH116

**Course Dropbox:** adjacent to C866

**Instructor:** Jesse Martin

email: martmj@uleth.ca

Office: C878

### Course Description:

**Social cognition** is “a sub-topic of social psychology that focuses on how people process, store, and apply information about other people and social situations. It focuses on the role that cognitive processes play in our social interactions.”

More technically, social cognition refers to how people deal with conspecifics (members of the same species) or even across species (such as pet) information, include four stages: encoding, storage, retrieval, and processing. In the area of social psychology, social cognition refers to a specific approach in which these processes are studied according to the methods of cognitive psychology and information processing theory. According to this view, social cognition is a level of analysis that aims to understand social psychological phenomena by investigating the cognitive processes that underlie them. The major concerns of the approach are the processes involved in the perception, judgment, and memory of social stimuli; the effects of social and affective factors on information processing; and the behavioral and interpersonal consequences of cognitive processes. This level of analysis may be applied to any content area within social psychology, including research on intrapersonal, interpersonal, intragroup, and intergroup processes.

### Prerequisite Courses and Background Preparation:

?

### Required Text:

There are no required texts for this class.

## Course Rules and Regulations:

You are expected to attend and arrive on time for every class. Should you have an ongoing situation that prevents you from arriving at the class on time, please speak to your instructor prior to the end of add-drop. You are encouraged to bring your laptop or tablet to class. As an adult, you are expected to show respect and consideration to your peers in this class, both in person and online.

**NB.** All students are expected to be familiar with Part 4 of the current University of Lethbridge Calendar that governs Academic Regulations, Policies, and Program Requirements. In particular, all students should be familiar with Sections 5 and 9 <http://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-calendar/2016-17>.

## Students with Special Needs:

If you have a documented condition that prevents you from fully participating in this course, including evaluation procedures, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor regarding your individual situation. Please note that no accommodations will be given without official notification from the Accommodated Learning Centre (<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/>).

## Course Information Online:

**Moodle (moodle.uleth.ca) Login is the same as email login (do not use @uleth.ca), password is the same:** All course information will be available from the Moodle LMS system and students will be able to track their standing in the course by accessing the Moodle gradebook. All students are expected to be aware of copyright regulations.

**Email:** Other than posts to Moodle and the class blog, my primary method of communicating with you for general notices and points of interest to supplement course material will be via in-class announcements or by email. Please check your U of L email account on a regular basis, or have that account forwarded to your preferred provider. Please do your best to remember to do regular housekeeping of your U of L account so that you do not miss important notices due to a full mailbox.

**NB:** Email Policy

Please note that your instructor is not required to reply to any email that is not sent from your U of L account unless it is an emergency situation.

**Blogs:** Your blogs will be hosted on WordPress, a public social media website. If you are uncomfortable with your writing being available in a public manner, you may need to find an alternative class to take.

## Assessments:

Weekly Blog Posts (100% total). Your weekly blog posts (due Friday at midnight), and the comments you make on other's blogs (due Tuesday at midnight), will

constitute 100% of your class grade. The weightings and requirements are as follows (further details will be available on Moodle):

<b>BLOG (due)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
1 (19/1)	Free	5
2 (26/1)	Free	5
3 (2/2)	Free	5
4 (9/2)	Free	10
5 (16/2)	Free	10
6 (2/3)	Free	10
7 (9/3)	Topic	10
8 (16/3)	Topic	10
9 (23/3)	Topic	15
10 (30/3)	Synthesis of Topic	15
11 (6/3)	What you have learned	5(X)

### **Grading Scheme:**

Letter grades will be assigned to each blog post (A, B, C, D, F) and the individual comments for the week (A, B, C, D, F), with an average of the weeks work calculated and posted every week. The final grade for the semester will be calculated based on your weighted weekly grades.