

# PSYC 431B-A01 Social Cognition Fall 2021

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class meetings: Mondays & Thursdays 11:30-12:50PM in FIA 104

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office hours: Mon,Thu 1-2 PM or by appointment

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Territory Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge and respect the I §

## Course Format:

This will be a highly interactive course. Do not think of the class meetings as lectures but more as guided informed discussions. Presence and participation are essential to learning in this context. You will work in groups of 2-3 throughout the term.

Most class meetings will start with a brief presentation of the assigned reading and related core concepts in Social Cognition. Following the interactive presentation (questions and comments always welcome!), learners will work in small groups to discuss and answer questions regarding these topics. At the end, all teams will come together to share their ideas.

In the first half of the course, we will cover six broad domains of cognition and their relevance to social phenomena: (1) mental representations, (2) dual processing, (3) attention, (4) memory, (5) reasoning and inference, and finally (6) motivation and affect. I (Katia) will be presenting the material and leading the discussions. In the second half, we will revisit these topics again but in a flipped format whereby you in your assigned groups will be presenting the material and leading the discussions. (See schedule below.)

There will be no exams or quizzes. All assessments are based on your thoughtful engagement with the material and the course concepts inside and outside of class time. They are designed to give you choice in what you specifically focus on so that you can maximize your individual learning outcomes based on your own interests and strengths.

## What Is Expected of You:

- Course Preparation:

- Read the assigned material BEFORE each class meeting. This will enable you to understand the concepts more deeply, think about them, and engage in class discussion in meaningful ways.

- Course Engagement:

- Attend the scheduled class meetings.
- Complete all assessments on time. If you cannot, you must contact me (Katia) as soon as possible, preferably in advance.
- Think deeply and critically about the material. Relate it to your own experience and prior knowledge. Focus on aspects that you find interesting and relevant.

- Follow common courtesy in all your email messages, forum posts, class interactions,

- Academic Integrity:

- Honour the academic integrity policy of University of Victoria.
- You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Violations of this policy include plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and other forms of cheating. At minimum, the penalty for any instance of these behaviours will be a grade of 0% on the assessment in question. The course penalty for more extensive violations of this policy will be a failing grade for the class.

## What You Can Expect of Me:

- Statement of Intent:

- I am fully committed to enable and support your learning in any way that I can.

- Communication:

- As stated above, I find timely, thorough, and transparent communication to be essential. You will receive that from me during class time, in online announcements, and through email.
- I intend to answer any written communication (email, online discussion posts) within 24 hours on weekdays and within 36 hours on weekends.

- Availability / Approachability:

- I have two scheduled office hours per week immediately after our two class meetings. You are welcome to drop by not only if you have specific questions about the course but also if you simply wish to talk about Social Cognition or Psychology more broadly.
- If my office hours do not fit your schedule, do not hesitate to contact me. We can make alternative arrangements to meet so we can address your learning goals.

- Course Engagement:

- I see knowledge not as something we acquire but as something we create. I look forward to cooperatively creating knowledge with you. I will share my expertise, I will actively participate in class discussions, and I will seek to learn from what you share.

- Respect & Appreciation for Diversity:

- I see the diversity that students bring to this class as a resource, strength, and benefit. I intend for students from all diverse backgrounds to be well-served by this course and for everyone's learning needs to be addressed.
- I intend to present materials that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socio-economic status, ethnicity, race, and culture.

- Openness to & Active Interest in Feedback:

- I warmly encourage and appreciate your feedback and suggestions not only at the end of the semester through the Course Experience Survey, but also throughout the term.

## Assessment

### Breakdown of evaluation:

Reaction Papers (6 @ 5%)	30%
In-class Participation	15%
Class Leadership (in groups)	20%
Leadership Feedback	2%
Staggered Research Paper (15%+15%)	30%
Peer Paper Feedback	3%

### Reaction Papers (30%)

With the exception of the first and the last, all class meetings (n=21) will have an assigned reading. You need to submit 6 short reaction papers (~ 750 words, worth 5% each) on a subset of these readings of your choice, but they need to cover at least four of the six modules in the course. Reaction papers are due BEFORE the class of the corresponding assigned reading. No late submissions.

## Staggered Research Paper (30%)

You will write a research paper on a course-related topic of your choice.

Two recommended options for the paper:



## Be WELL

Take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

*Social Life, Friends, & Community at UVic:* Having a social network is an extremely important foundation for positive mental health. There are lots of benefits to joining clubs, course unions, intramurals and teams on campus.

<https://www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/undergraduate/connecting/index.php>

*Counselling Services:* Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

[www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/](http://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/)

*Health Services:* University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[www.uvic.ca/services/health/](http://www.uvic.ca/services/health/)

*Elders' Voices:* The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration 12 0 612 792 2011





