

**University of Alberta**  
**Psychology 443 A2: Social Cognition**  
**Fall 2011: September 8– December 8**

**Class times:** Monday and Wednesday 9:30 am – 10:50 am @ BSB-121

**Course Website:** <https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/portal/>

**Instructor:** Takahiko Masuda, Ph. D.

**Office:** BSP-355

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**Office hours:** Wednesday 2 pm – 4 pm

(Please *always* put PSYCO 443 under the subject heading.)

**TA:** Erik Faucher

**Office:** BSP-347

**Phone:** 492 - 0136

**Email:** [efaucher@ualberta.ca](mailto:efaucher@ualberta.ca).

**Office hours:** Tuesday 11am-1pm

**Textbook & Course Pack:**

The following materials are available at the UofA Bookstore

1. Tomasello, M. (1999). Cultural Origin of Human Cognition. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
2. PSYCO 443 Social Cognition (instructor: Taka Masuda) Course Pack.

**Prerequisites:** Stats 141 & 151, and PSYCO 241

**Course Description:** How does human social cognition differ from that of primates? Do primates have a culture? What is unique to humans in terms of our cognitive abilities? This course will deal with issues regarding the socio-cultural nature of human cognition, while reading a book and many empirical research articles that highlight advancements in the field. Senior undergraduate students are the intended audience of this course. The topics include primate cognition, human cognition, language acquisition processes, and cultural learning processes.

**Class Organization:** There will be two types of classes: (1) **Lecture Day:** the Instructor will give lectures about the background of the week's topic (80 min); and (2) **Presentation & Discussion Day:** The designated students will be asked to report the theoretical framework, hypotheses, findings, and implications of the assigned paper. Students will also be required to prepare two discussion questions and a thought about future research (40min X 2 articles = 80 min).

**Course Evaluation and Final Grade:** Final grades are reported using letter grades.

Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Distribution	8%	12%	17%	16%	16%	12%	7%	5%	3%	2%	1%	1%

The final grade will be based on your class presentation performance (10%), class participation (10%), final paper (10%) and three exams (Midterm 35%, Final 35%).

**Class Presentation:** At the beginning of the semester, students will select one article from the list of readings in the course pack. Each student will be asked to partner with another student, and will have one opportunity to be a presenter in collaboration with other presenters.

**Class Participation:** Students who attend a given discussion class will be eligible to send a 100 word long thought to the course instructor via email after each discussion day (**due at midnight of the discussion day**). All emailed thoughts received by the deadline will be posted on an E-class Discussion Page so as to facilitate further discussion on the web.

**Exams:** Exams will be based on the textbook, assigned articles, and lecture materials. Students will have 70 minutes to complete the exam. Each exam will include only the readings and the lecture material covered immediately preceding that exam, which is worth 25% of the total grade. The format of the exam is open-ended questions, multiple-choice questions, and short essay questions.

**Final paper:** You will write up a single-spaced 4 page research proposal which plans to test your research interests relevant to the assigned readings. It should consist of (1) reasonable amount of review in introduction, (2) clear and meaningful research hypotheses, and (3) experimental designs that test the hypotheses, and (4) possible implications. The topic will be selected by discussing with the instructor during the semester (ideas based on your assigned reading is preferable). The deadline of the final paper is Friday, December 16 at 4pm. An electronic file should be submitted to the instructor's email account by then. Late submission will receive a deduction of 20% per day. For example, if you submitted two business days after the due, you will lose 40%.

Midterm Exam :	<b>Oct 31 (W)</b>	<b>in class</b>	35% of the grade
Final Exam:	<b>Dec 7(W)</b>	<b>in class</b>	35% of the grade
Class Presentation:	Assigned Day		10% of the grade
Class Participation:	Discussion & Video Days		10% of the grade
Final Paper:	<b>Dec 16(F) at 4pm</b>		10% of the grade
<b>Total</b>			<b>100% of the grade</b>

**Absence from exams:** If an examination is missed due to a serious medical condition verified by University Health Services or a personal physician, a make-up exam will be offered. In order to exercise this option, however, the instructor must be contacted within 48 hours of the scheduled examination time and date. If the final examination is missed, the deferred examination will be held on **January 13, 2011** (the location and time will be announced).

**SSDS Support:** If you are hampered by visual or auditory limitations, or if you have a learning disability, please contact Services for Students with Disabilities in SUB. It is possible to get help with note taking in class.

**Recording Lecture:** Recording of lectures is permitted only with the prior written consent of the professor or if recording is part of an approved accommodation plan.

**Academic Offences:** 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 Behavior (online at [www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm](http://www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm)) and avoid any behavior 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.

