introduction to social psychology

Winter 2022 Term

**Instructor:** Dr. Erica Speakman

**Email:** hiltze@mcmaster.ca

**Lecture:** Thursdays 7pm-9pm

**Office:** KTH 213

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

# Course Description

At its core, social psychology explores the relationship between the individual and society, and systematically studies the nature and causes of human social behaviour. This course is designed to introduce you to the theory and empirical research of social psychology. We will begin by laying the groundwork and discussing the different theoretical and methodological tools that social psychologists utilize to understand a plethora of phenomena. This will provide the foundation for our exploration of topics that are of particular interest to social psychologists, such as: socialization, the development of self and identity, behaviour and attitudes, and group processes, ultimately just scratching the surface of the amazing field of social psychology!

# Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

* Understand the dominant theoretical and methodological perspectives that are utilized to study social psychology, as well as appreciate the strengths and limitations of these approaches
* Gain a critical understanding of the impact that the individual and society has on the development of the self and identity
* Be able to apply concepts and ideas learned in this course to current situations and events in the community and around the world.
* Be able to apply social psychological principles and concepts to students’ own experiences and everyday life
* Enhance students’ critical thinking, writing, and organizational skills through course assignments, as well as enhance students’ communication skills through class discussions.

# Required Materials and Texts

* DeLamater, John and Jessica Collett (2018) *Social Psychology* 9th Ed.
  + This book is available through McMaster’s Campus Store
  + You may also access the e-book online to purchase or rent

# Class Format

This class will consist of a 2-hour, in-person lecture that will take place on Thursday evenings on a weekly basis. You have also been assigned to a 1-hour tutorial slot. Within reason, students are expected to attend both lectures and tutorials. If a student cannot attend, they are encouraged to reach out to their peers to acquire lecture notes. While attendance is not mandatory, it is *strongly* encouraged

The format of this class may change due to the ever-changing nature of the pandemic. If the university closes, the lectures will be moved to a virtual format until it is safe to return to campus.

# Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Quizzes - 15% (3 quizzes at 5% each)
2. Mid-Term Exam – 25%,
3. Final Assignment – 35%,
4. Final Exam – 25%

# Course Evaluation – Details

## Quizzes (5% Each = 15%), Due: Feb. 2, March 10, and March 31, 2022

Throughout the term, you will complete THREE quizzes that will be based on both lecture and reading material. The questions will consist of multiple choice and true or false, and will be administered through Avenue to Learn.

## Midterm Exam (25%), Due: Feb. 17, 2022

The exam will be based on both the lectures and the readings. It will consist of multiple choice and true or false questions. The exam will be administered through Avenue to Learn. The exam will be held during lecture time.

## Final Assignment (35%), Due: March 17, 2022

For this course, you will carry out a film analysis, where you will take ideas from the course, and ground them within the film assigned. Note, this is not a film review, but rather an opportunity to develop your analytical and critical thinking skills. Further instructions will be provided on Avenue to Learn

## Final Exam (25%), TBD

The exam will be based on both the lectures and the readings. It will consist of multiple choice and true or false questions. Please note that the exam is **not cumulative.** The date of the exam will be scheduled by the office of the registrar

# Weekly Course Schedule

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | TOPIC | READINGS | DUE |
| Week 1 (Jan. 10-14) | Introduction to the Course | No Readings! |  |
| Week 2 (Jan 17 -21) | What is Social Psychology?  How do we study social phenomena? | Chapter 1 |  |
| Week 3 (Jan 24 -28) | Socialization | Chapter 3 |  |
| Week 4 (Jan 31 – Feb. 4) | Self, Identity, and Impression Management | Chapters 4 & 5 | **QUIZ 1 DUE Feb. 3**  **Quiz covers chapters 1 & 3** |
| Week 5 (Feb. 7 – Feb. 11) | Emotions | Chapter 6 |  |
| Week 6 (Feb. 14 – Feb. 18) | **MIDTERM EXAM** | **No Readings** | **EXAM IS DUE ON FEB 17**  **WILL BE HELD DURING LECTURE TIME** |
| Week 7 (Feb 21 – 25) | **Reading Week!** | **No Readings!** | **Time to Relax** |
| Week 8 (Feb 28 – March 4) | Social Perception and Cognition | Chapter 7 |  |
| Week 9 (March 7 – March 11) | Attitudes | Chapter 8 | **QUIZ 2 DUE MAR. 10**  **Quiz covers chapter 8** |
| Week 10 (March 14 – March 18) | Social Influence and Persuasion | Chapter 10 | **FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE MARCH. 17 BY 11:59pm** |
| Week 11 (March 21 – March 25) | Altruistic, Prosocial, and Aggressive Behaviour | Chapters 11 & 12 |  |
| Week 12 (March 28 – Apr. 1) | Deviant Behaviour and Societal Reaction | Chapter 13 | **QUIZ 3 DUE MAR. 31**  **Quiz covers chapters 10, 11, & 12** |
| Week 13 (Apr. 4 – Apr. 8) | Understanding Groups  Review | Chapter 15 |  |

# Course Policies

## Submission of Assignments

Please submit assignments to the appropriate assignment folder on Avenue to Learn. Faxed or e-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Your assignments should be double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font.

## Late Assignments

The due dates for assignments are fixed and non-negotiable. There will be a deduction of 5% per day for all late assignments, unless you submit a McMaster Student Absence Form (http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf).The MSAF is a self- reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences for medical or other reasons that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work worth less than 25% of your overall. In these cases, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Please note these regulations have changed beginning Fall 2015.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence. If you are absent for more than 3 days, or exceed one request per term, you MUST visit your Associate Dean’s Office. You may be required to submit supporting documentation.

**No Assignments Will Be Accepted 2 Weeks Past the Due Date**

**Review of Marks**

We will be diligent in marking all assignments fairly and accurately. Nonetheless, occasionally students disagree with the marks they receive. When this occurs, we will be happy to review the mark of any assignment or exam, if the procedure outlined below is followed. ***Please note that when a mark is reviewed, the new mark may be lower than the original.***

To request a review of a mark, write a 1-page memo (on paper, not email) describing in detail the nature of the perceived marking error. Submit this memo, with the original marked assignment to your Teaching Assistant. You may submit requests for review no sooner than one week and no later than three weeks after assignments/exams are handed back to the class.

If, after this review of your mark, you continue to dispute the mark, you may submit an appeal to Professor Speakman. Write a 1-page memo describing the dispute with the reviewed mark and submit it along with the original assignment and all written feedback from the Teaching Assistant. Professor Speakman will not review any marks not already reviewed by the respective Teaching Assistant.

## Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

## Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

## Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more information please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](about:blank).

# University Policies

## Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academiccredentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academiccredit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](about:blank)**.**

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty

* Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
* Improper collaboration in group work.
* Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](about:blank) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](about:blank) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [*Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities*](about:blank)policy.

## Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a [RISO](about:blank) accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](about:blank) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

## Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

## Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

## Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

| **MARK** | **GRADE** |
| --- | --- |
| 90-100 | A+ |
| 85-90 | A |
| 80-84 | A- |
| 77-79 | B+ |
| 73-76 | B |
| 70-72 | B- |
| 67-69 | C+ |
| 63-66 | C |
| 60-62 | C- |
| 57-59 | D+ |
| 53-56 | D |
| 50-52 | D- |
| 0-49 | F |